



CURRICULUM VITAE


BAŞAK BALKAN
TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER

TURKISH – ENGLISH – FRENCH

 Belgium

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Former journalist and EU political adviser turned expert interpreter. I bring clarity, synthesis, and emotional emphasis to every interpretation, clarifying complex or convoluted messages into clear and engaging communication for government agencies, civil society, and international organizations.

Translating professionally since 2007, I provide precise, culturally attuned translations across Turkish, English, and French. From poetry to politics, perfume to publications, I deliver clear, accurate translations, ensuring your message is as powerful as the original.

LANGUAGES

Turkish A / Native language
English B / Near-native (Cambridge Proficiency Certified)
French B / Excellent

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Court Translator & Interpreter (Belgian Courts)
Cambridge Proficiency in English
Member of the Belgian Chamber of Translators & Interpreters
Certification in Law for Court Translators and Interpreters (Université Catholique de Louvain)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Politics: International relations, Defence, EU
Academic & Research: Social Sciences, Middle Eastern & Ottoman History
Legal & Judicial: Court Rulings, Contracts, Official Documents
Marketing & Transcreation: Luxury, Automotive, Cosmetics, Fashion
Technical & Industry-Specific: Medical, Automotive, Energy

PORTFOLIO

INTERPRETATION

Modes: Simultaneous, Consecutive, Liaison, Remote

RI platforms: Zoom, Kudo

Subject area

Language combination

Politics, Economics, Social Security, Justice

NATO Military Committee & Ministers of Defence Meetings (regularly since May 2022)

EN>TR

NATO bilateral meetings

EN, FR <>TR

Turkish President's meeting with Belgian Prime Minister

FR>TR

High-level Belgo-Turkish Ministerial Meetings

TR<>FR

Visits of Turkish government officials, Members of Parliament, Union of Turkish Municipalities, and members of civil society to European and Belgian institutions, think-tanks, etc.

EN, FR <> TR

Live on Euronews: Interviews, debates

EN>TR

TAIEX seminars, workshops, conferences (decentralisation, corruption, judiciary, appellations of origin, cybercrime...)

EN<>TR

Conferences organized by different think tanks (CEPS, Centre Brueghel, European Journalism Centre, European Policy Centre, Peterson Institute of Economics, ECA Watch, UNITEE....)

EN<>TR

Belgo-Turkish Social Security Negotiations

FR<>TR

European and Turkish chambers of commerce conferences

EN<>TR

Via Campesina meetings (food sovereignty, UN Rights of the Peasant...)

EN<>TR, FR

Energy

World Petroleum Congress, Coaltrans Conference, European Energy Forum Conferences, Civil society-led meetings on energy, study visit on bio-fuels production

EN<>TR

Medical, Pharmaceutical

GMT inspections

TR<>FR

Conferences on Type 2 Diabetes , Cystinosis, Cancer&Homeopathy

EN<>TR

Arts

Series of literary and musical conferences at the Yunus Emre Foundation and Bozar TR<>FR

5-day conference on lace (Brussels Museum of Costume and Lace) EN<>FR

Automotive

Annual dealership events & Launching of new products: SEAT, Renault, Toyota, Skoda, Koenigsegg EN<>TR

Technical and other

Factory audits, multi-day technical training in **automotive, pharmaceuticals, engineering** EN<>FR
TR<>EN, FR

TRANSLATIONS

Subject Area Languages

Marketing

Michelin, Michelin Solutions, Michelin Tyres: video subtitles, website, bi-weekly articles on technology&innovation, mobile apps, surveys, product information, in-house training, and more EN, FR>TR

Chanel: brochures, product information, comprehensive in-house training packages EN, FR>TR

Bulgari perfume catalogue EN>TR

Tourbillon Boutique (Swatch Group) website EN, FR>TR

Filorga beauty care leaflets EN>TR

Elie Saab, Narciso Rodriguez questionnaires, apps EN>TR

Transitions Opticals: website, press releases, brochures EN>TR

Alstom, Areva, Dalkia: in-house communication, surveys EN>TR

Décathlon: press releases, questionnaires, product information, posters, slogans FR>TR

Merlin Leroy, Tétris turnkey office solutions: websites FR>TR

Daikin: 50th year commemorative book EN>TR

Transcreation

FR, EN>TR

Rolex, Transitions Opticals, Michelin, Turkish Airlines, Ford, Maison&Objet

Legal & Judicial

FR>TR

Legal correspondence (Turkish and Belgian Ministries of Justice)

EN>TR

Company statutes, franchise agreements

EN, FR>TR

Website disclaimers, legal provisions, contracts

TR<>EN, FR

Judicial documents (sworn)

Art History, Art, Archaeology, History, Literature

FR, EN>TR

Louvre Exhibition on *Ottoman textiles, Smyrna, Istanbul Jazari Museum*

Exhibitions: catalogues, website, labels, speeches

FR>TR

Contemporary performance art (Biennale d'Art Contemporain, Lyon)

FR>EN

Websites on music, dance and painting

TR>FR

12k-word **booklet** for art show: *The Motive*, a philosophical short story

TR>FR, EN

Poetry (in the framework of the Transpoésies Festival, Belgium)

TR>EN

Short stories (for *Passa Porta* Cultural Centre)

TR>FR

14 Assyrian Folk Tales, published in book format

TR>EN

15+ academic articles on Ottoman history, literature, and social sciences

FR>EN

Academic articles on book culture in the Ottoman Empire, some published in <https://www.sharpweb.org/linguafranca/issue-5-2019-ottoman-print-culture>)

FR>EN

150+ 19th-century letters for research on Ottoman book diplomacy

Technical

TR>EN

Manuals and product information: smart thermostats, cranes, personal safety equipment, work clothes, smart watches, printers, baby strollers, anti-snoring device, hazardous energy control devices...

Medical

EN, FR>TR

Case Reports, Test Results, Observational Studies, Medical instrument instructions, Clinical Trials, Medical articles

WORK EXPERIENCE

2007– present *Freelance, sworn translator and interpreter*

2004 – 2007 **Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Turkey to the EU, Brussels**

Liaison officer, Turkish Delegation – European Parliament

Followed and reported on EP meetings pertaining to Turkey; conducted research; acted as guide to various politicians and visitors; provided daily translation services between English, French and Turkish as well as occasional simultaneous and consecutive interpretation services.

2002 – 2004 **Richard Balfe, MEP – European Parliament, Brussels**

Parliamentary Assistant

Followed and reported on EP meetings of interest to the Member; briefed him on proceedings; wrote speeches and articles; provided translation and interpretation services.

2001 – 2002 **Turkish Radio and Television, Brussels**

Reporter and Production Assistant

Reported on events, especially as regards Turkey – EU relations; helped in the preparation of a daily TV programme on European press articles; translated selected articles from French to Turkish.

1998 – 1999 **Milliyet daily newspaper, Ankara**

Reporter

EDUCATION

Certification in Law for Court Translators and Interpreters - Université Catholique de Louvain

B.A. in International Relations and History - Vesalius College, Brussels

French – Turkish Translation and Interpretation - Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

TOOLS & SOFTWARE

CAT Tools: Trados 2021, Memsource, SmartCat

MS Office, Adobe Acrobat

Remote Interpretation Platforms: Zoom, Kudo