



## 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

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**Turkish** A / Native language

**English** B / Near-native (Cambridge Proficiency Certified)

**French** B / Excellent

#### CERTIFICATIONS

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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

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**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**

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### **INTERPRETATION**

Modes: Simultaneous, Consecutive, Liaison, Remote

RI platforms: Zoom, Kudo

<b>Subject area</b>	<b>Language combination</b>
<u>Politics, Economics, Social Security, Justice</u> 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
<u>Energy</u> World Petroleum Congress, Coaltrans Conference, European Energy Forum Conferences, Civil society-led meetings on energy, study visit on bio-fuels production	EN<>TR
<u>Medical, Pharmaceutical</u> GMT inspections Conferences on Type 2 Diabetes , Cystinosis, Cancer&Homeopathy	TR<>FR 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
<b>Marketing</b> <b>Michelin</b> , 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
<b>Chanel</b> : brochures, product information, comprehensive in-house training packages	EN, FR>TR
<b>Bulgari</b> perfume catalogue	EN>TR
<b>Tourbillon</b> Boutique (Swatch Group) website	EN, FR>TR
<b>Filorga</b> beauty care leaflets	EN>TR
<b>Elie Saab, Narciso Rodriguez</b> questionnaires, apps	EN>TR
<b>Transitions Opticals</b> : website, press releases, brochures	EN>TR
<b>Alstom, Areva, Dalkia</b> : in-house communication, surveys	EN>TR
<b>Décathlon</b> : press releases, questionnaires, product information, posters, slogans	FR>TR
<b>Merlin Leroy, Tétris</b> turnkey office solutions: websites	FR>TR
<b>Daikin</b> : 50 <sup>th</sup> year commemorative book	EN>TR

<b>Transcreation</b>	FR, EN>TR
Rolex, Transitions Opticals, Michelin, Turkish Airlines, Ford, Maison&Objet	
<b>Legal &amp; Judicial</b>	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)	
<b>Art History, Art, Archaeology, History, Literature</b>	FR, EN>TR
<b>Louvre Exhibition</b> on <i>Ottoman textiles, Smyrna, Istanbul Jazari Museum</i>	
<b>Exhibitions:</b> catalogues, website, labels, speeches	
Contemporary performance art (Biennale d'Art Contemporain, Lyon)	FR>TR
<b>Websites</b> on music, dance and painting	FR>EN
12k-word <b>booklet</b> for art show: <i>The Motive</i> , a philosophical short story	TR>FR
<b>Poetry</b> (in the framework of the Transpoésies Festival, Belgium)	TR>FR, EN
<b>Short stories</b> (for <i>Passa Porta</i> Cultural Centre)	TR>EN
<b>14 Assyrian Folk Tales</b> , published in book format	TR>FR
<b>15+ academic articles</b> on Ottoman history, literature, and social sciences	TR>EN
Academic articles on book culture in the Ottoman Empire, some published in <a href="https://www.sharpweb.org/linguafranca/issue-5-2019-ottoman-print-culture">https://www.sharpweb.org/linguafranca/issue-5-2019-ottoman-print-culture</a>	FR>EN
<b>150+ 19th-century letters</b> for research on Ottoman book diplomacy	FR>EN
<b>Technical</b>	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...	
<b>Medical</b>	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