WRITTEN QUESTION E-0835/02 by Colette Flesch (ELDR) to the Commission

Subject: Increase in the size of the Commission's translation service

According to the 7-13 March 2002 edition of European Voice, the Commission is soon to announce that 110 extra translators will be needed on account of EU enlargement. Of those 110, 60 will be employed at the Commission in Brussels and 50 will work as freelancers in the Member States.

Can the Commission confirm the accuracy of this information?

Can it say how many extra translators will be employed by the Commission in Luxembourg?

Will it also say whether or not the employment of a substantial number of freelancers working in places other than the EU institutions' places of work is in accordance with the Treaties and with the agreements relating to the seats of those institutions?