Sonja HARM

since 2000:German Bundestag Language Service, Berlin. Head interpreter since 2007.
1998-1999: German Federal Ministry of Defence, Interpretation Service, Bonn
1994-1997: University Mainz/Germersheim, degree: *Diplom-Dolmetscherin*, German A, French B, Dutch C.
1992-1994: *Institut supérieur de traducteurs et interprètes* (ISTI), Brussels

The German Bundestag's Language Service has an internal staff of 16, including eight staff translators and revisers and five staff interpreters. The bulk of the interpreting assignments are for English (50%), French (25%) Russian, Polish and Spanish in combination with German. There is also a growing demand for languages such as Arabic and Chinese. Furthermore, the Language Service frequently has to deal with requests for less common languages. In total, the Language Service provides some 4300 interpretation days per year, a large proportion of which are freelancer days. Generally, assignments at the Bundestag require interpreters to work bi-actively and to have excellent consecutive skills, since around fifty per cent of requests are for consecutive interpretation.