



Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires  
European Council of Literary Translators' Associations

BRUSSELS, 12 December 2008

Press release

PRECARIOUS WORKING CONDITIONS JEOPARDISE QUALITY OF LITERATURE  
IN TRANSLATION

The European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) announces the publication of its comparative study of European literary translators' social and economic conditions, carried out in 2007–2008, the first survey of its kind. The main conclusion: nowhere in Europe can literary translators make a living under the conditions imposed on them by “the market”; in many countries (including some of the wealthiest), their situation can only be described as catastrophic. This is a serious social problem on a continent that prides itself in being developed, multicultural and multilingual, but it is also, and above all, a major artistic and cultural problem. What are the implications for the quality of literary exchanges between our societies if literary translators have to dash off their work in haste in order to keep body and soul together?

To download the study, click on: [www.ceatl.eu/docs/surveyuk.pdf](http://www.ceatl.eu/docs/surveyuk.pdf) (English) or [www.ceatl.eu/docs/surveyfr.pdf](http://www.ceatl.eu/docs/surveyfr.pdf) (French). The publication of this study coincides with the launch of CEATL's revamped website, which is now at [www.ceatl.eu](http://www.ceatl.eu).

– “*An impressive pool of comparative data*” (Budapest Observer)

For further information, please contact: [info@ceatl.eu](mailto:info@ceatl.eu)