Transcription focus group 11/05/2015

Mod: what is your opinion on language’s/s’ role in an organization like CAN network

All: @@@

S1: in the network itself? I think… (1) English is . I mean if, if you know English that’s fine I think that’s the, the (.) the way

S2: that’s the way @

S1: @ yeah, the way we communicate, it’s not (.) at least from my experience it hasn’t been a need where I I need to speak my ahm language

Mod: yhm

S1: probably (.) , it it’s more about if you’re from a country and you call som a colleague from your country it’s more because you know the situation, rather because you speak the same language, and then there is the understanding of what you’re talking about and you can go deeper in the discussion and the details rather than on anything else, I think

Mod: yhm

S1: other than that, at least in the network, it’s it’s good, English is only, if you know English it’s fine

Mod; yhm

S1: outside the network and, and doing the advocacy group errr work in like,

Mod: yhm

S1: going to meetings with Commission, or, then language is is more of an issue, language is much more important, I think.  
Mod; What do you mean that you should … ?

S1: Well if you go, if you go to a French guy and he speaks better French then you communicate in French that’s much, much open with you or if you speak Polish,

S3: yhm

S1: or if you speak then a language is an important matter

Mod; yhm

S1: but within the network, I don’t I don’t think it is

S2: well for me and Turkish work I would say it is slightly different because we also work a lot with organizations that are not formerly CAN members but yeah they are often considered either partner organizations or we treat them as they are members because our work is specific that in 99% I would communicate with them in in the local language which is, which is Serbian, but for me, for them their native language would be Montenegro or Bosnian or whatever it’s called but it’s essentially the same language and we can understand each other so, and also for the media work over there we need to translate our press releases into local language also (name of the person from the secretariat) does the same with Turkey and the Turkish members

Mod: yhm

S2: and yeah I think it helps a lot because also the NGOs there are not so used to working in English

Others: yeah (agree)

S2: and then it makes it a lot easier for them to just say what they want and what they need in their local language, although within the network yeah I agree that the English is…

S3: hmm

S1: yeah that’s what

S2 is the dominant one, I mean there’s no

S1: I think that’s what I’m I’m thinking that if as soon as you join the network (.)

Mod: yhm

S1: it’s kind of an imperative that you communicate in English

S2: yeah yeah if you communicate with the network English yeah

S1: if you want (.) if the network wants to reach someone outside even if it’s an NGO then it’s better if someone from from they speak the language or something like that

S3: yhhm

S1: at work

S3: yeah (.) yeah I would totally agree that it matters a lot for the outside world like in the media work. Of course there’s a big difference if you speak the same language as a journalist so we would even divide the work among us. Like different communicators according to the languages we speak

Mod: yhm

S3: so, for instance a French girl would talk to the French and the Belgian journalist and the native speaker would talk to native speaker. I would talk to the Polish journalist like obviously you know there’s gonna be a better connection. And umm yeah we do quite a lot of that so the more languages you have in your like internal capacities

Mod: yhm

S3: the better uhm your reach to the outside world? But with the network I think it also matters like at least I know. I can remember one example. Umm I am not sure if this was a well member organization or an NGO we cooperate with strongly within one of the policy files that we cover? I am not exactly sure, but I know that umm it was a group from Italy who umm had well a probably a lower level of English and then if it turns out that if somebody from the office can actually speak the same language then well they did, well people expressed the fact that’s gonna be a totally different cooperation.

S1: (breathed the air in to say something)

S3: Like they will

S1: yhmm

S3: you know be more

S1: But

S3: communicative and they will show more and

S1: but that’s

S3: it’s just gonna be easier and I don’t know how that works for me being Polish if like you say like you say, you know I can have a better cooperation with them there just because I know the language or just because of the fact that rather the fact that I used to work there so, I know them and I know the issue and all that

S2: (unintelligible word) I guess the other

S3: but I, but I think it is like there is an issue like for instance the fact that I can translate the information that is in Polish

Others: yhm

S3: to English and they don’t need to do this

S1: yeah, but that’s what I am saying is that(.) if the work within the network when you communicate for things that you want in a more systematic way, I don’t know how, if you wanna put the focus on a country

S3: yhm

S1: or even reach the local level or like the audience at the national level I went to a workshop in in Portugal and it was in Portugese and I was the only English speaking. If I speak spoke Portuguese then that would be but I was not communicating to my member I was communicating to the outside world

S3: yeah, OK

S1: Tha that is what I am saying. Of course it is very important if you can communicate in in the national language but that’s also done by the member itself I guess and

S3: yhm

S1: that that

S3: But you know for instance

S2: But it’s helpful

S1: yeah yeah I know I agree

S2: like the pledge example when we had this Serbian Parliament pledge

S1: yeah  
S2: for instance we

S3: when was that?

S2: that was eehmm(.)

S1: last year

S2: last year before the parliamentary elections in the European Parliament

S3; yhm

S2; we made

S3: yhm

S2; like a pledge for the MEPs that

S1: translated into other languages

S2: that you know they commit to climate action and it was translated to all 28 (turned to D) aaa was it ?

S1: unintelligible

S2: /maybe not/ in 28 languages but yeah whatever the capacity we have in the office for people who actually translated and give to to our members as as (.)

Mod: ready product

S2: something that is done whether they use yeah instead of doing the all translations themselves

Mod: yhm

S2: of course they can do it themselves but I think it is like a step that makes it so easier when we have time to actually do it of course

S3: yeah

S2: this was like, I don’t know 1 page max

S1: yeah

S2: few paragraphs so it doesn’t take much time to translate

S1: so

S2: but if we were to translate other products then it would be massive workload (?)

S1: the same goes for the action we get we did on the the 22nd of January when the (\_) the proposal of the Commission was coming out about the climate energy package 2020

S3: yhm

S1: we had all the signs in different languages

Others: yhm

S1: as well it could help but yeah you can relate more to the message if it’s only in your own country just that ahm I never had a problem calling a member and saying ‘hello this is D and I want to ask you something

S3: yeah

S2: yeah

S1: it was never a barrier for me to communicate with my mem with our members

S3: yeah

S2: @@ with my members @@

S1: MY OWN MEMBERS like mine like my face

S2 @@

Others @@@

S3: yeah I would definitely not call it a ‘BARRIER’ like you know

S1: yeah

S3: something like a huge difficulty but I think e we it’s just important to (\_) recognize the fact that it’s a different amount of work for instance so (\_) yeah it can be a question of a priority for members like for instance say that there is a member that speaks English like on a regular basis it’s from a native country

S1: yhm

S3: and they then need to share information with us and then the member from Poland for instance needs to share this information too but then they need to translate so (\_)

S1: no this is

S3: you know they will probably share a bit less

S1: yes that’s what I was going to say that’s, maybe that’s also one of the maybe issues that I would say that (.) although members have all the information that we’d probably need

Mod; yhm

S1: sometimes they don’t feel comfortable in sharing because of the language issue

S3:yhm

S1: they speak English but but they don’t

S2: they need to write it and

S1: yeah

S3: yhm

S1: it’s not even I mean sometimes we see that they have information but they limit themselves in few sentences or they don’t want to speak more on the issue

S3: yhm

S1: that problably is (unintelligible) I’d agree

Mod: M, what do you think?

S4: I agree

Others: @@@

S3: *coughs* sorry

S1: your experience with ETS work, would you have any

S4: well, with ETS it was all in English

S1: yhm

S4: I think the only times I didn’t spoke English was when I had contact with umm local members that I have personal connection with or personal relation with and that I can speak their own language with and then I would speak (.) their own language also in emails. For instance, with (*name of person)* from (*name of organization)* from Germany

S1: yeah

S4: I will speak in, I will try to write in French and speak in French

Others: yhm

S4: just because we find it too stupid that we speak English to each other

Otehrs: @@@

S4: if we can speak French

S3: yeah

S4: um (.) but a lot of times, even if you talk to Dutch person or a Dutch speaking person or French speaking person that out of habit you start talking English and after a while

S1: yeah?

S4: and after a while you realise ‘oh yeah we speak the same language’

S2: really? @

S1: I have, I have seen that all the time with a colleague with have the same problem. We start speaking in ehm English and he’s Greek so

S3: @

S2:@

S1: sorry (*mimicking what would happen in the conversation – that they’d say sorry to one another)*

S4: but that’s strange, you’re just, you’re used to speaking English or you speak English to everyone

S1: yeah

S4: and then you forget that sometimes it’s just easier to just speak your language

S3: @

Mod: it’s not the case in the office though.

S4: true

Mod: it’s not always the case

S4; that’s true (\_) (thinking)

Mod: for instance, you and (mane of person) would speak French

S4: yeah because she’s the only person that speaks French in the office so I

Mod: well (name of the person) the one who speaks French and you speak to him in English

S3: aaaaaa (/?) (smiles)

Others: @@@@

S2: there you go

All: @@@

Mod: (name of the person) is another example you’d speak Dutch to him

S4: well that’s true

Mod; and (name of person)

S4: I will try to speak English to (name of person) actually

Mod: yhm

S4: as a French sort (\_) and he will try to speak Dutch to me

Mod: yhm

S4: but it is true that with (name of person) it’s more regular than with (name of person)

Mod: yhm

S4: (.) I have no idea why

S1: intervention interference

S2 maybe (name of person) @ played the (unintelligible)

All: @@

S1: (name of person)

S2: well, (name of person) buys (name of the person) (unintelligible)

All: @@@

Mod; OK so you’ve mentioned barrier, or your um your work and then what would you say, or who normally influences your choice of language when you communicate with members? What are the factors that would influence your choice? So, M. mentioned

S4: just the the type, which which language you speak? Or which

Mod: yhm,

S4: or what word you chose,

Mod: How do you chose, OK ‘I’m contacting this person, how do I chose which language’ … what do you … do you ever think about that? Or (.)

S4: *hesitant* no always in English

S2: I only have

S1: I don’t have one I only have two so @

S2: @

S1: that I I feel comfortable in speaking so yeah that’s my choice @

S3 yhm

S1: um unless there’s it, it’s not a member unless there is someone on the phone asking for (name of person) then I am trying to

S2: @@@

S1: get the French out @ but it’s a bit difficult @

All: @

S1: but I would still try and say she’s not here and then, she’s working from home and you can call on Monday yeah, very simple stuff but still, I guess it’s

S2: @

S3: yeah I think the rule for me would be that I always just you know just speak English and then (.) yeah and then if there’s a native speaker from Poland like from you know my my language then we chose our native language

Mod; yhm

S3: that’s it. I guess it’s more complicated for people who speak a couple of languages then the story is different

S1: yeah

Mod; yhm

S4; for instance, do you then, do you hear in someone’s English if he’s Polish and then you switch automatically?

S1: I hear it, I got switched automatically

S3; I mean (\_) (.)

S1: No I’m just, I sometimes I feel uncomfortable asking people if they’re Greek or not.

S4: Oh yeah

S1; some people get offended because you understand their accent

S4: oh yeah

S3: ah (\_)

S2: but isn’t this obvious by name, no?

S1: well if you don’t know the name, you just hear someone on the phone

S2: oh OK I thought that would be people you know

S1: it happens many times (.) you just yeah happen to meet them

S3: yhm

S2: but yea that

S3: but then it’s a it hardly ever happens to me because normally I know the people already so I don’t have that confusion, but that’s true that there was one guy during your workshop on Energy Efficiency who was actually based in Poland but his name is totally not Polish so there was a little bit of confusion and I started in English and continued for like three sentences and only then I asked (.) and actually (name of a person form the office) was also with us

S2: yhm

S3: so that was an obvious choice then I asked if he speaks Polish and then (name of the person from the office) left   
S2: @

S3: and we could speak Polish @

All: @@@ (15.40.697)

S1: the director of that organization

S3: yeah

S1: he’s a very yeah (unintelligible) but yeah I mean. I (\_) usually I’m not making choice on the languages since I can’t, but I do (\_) try to think of the member I am calling or I’m talking to

Mod: yhm

S1: if if I have the experience of how much they use English and how much they understand and can communicate um um if they don’t then I’m trying to use simple um words and it’s probably easier for me because I am not a native sk speaker and I can understand(16.18.147)

Mod: In English?

S1: yes

Mod: simple words in English?

S1 :yeah

Mod; yhm

S1: simple and shorter and clear like ehm I guess that’s what I am saying for me not being a native speaker that probably is easier than a native speaker

Mod: yhm

Others: @

S3: yeah

S1: @ because I can understand a point, I mean, so

S2: @ I have a bit more complicated situation @  
Others: @ @@

S2: @ so yeah I also kind of as within the network especially use English as (.) without really thinking but when it comes to the region

Mod: yhm

S2: like with people that I that I know and that I know they are either like Serbian, Montenegro Bosnian, Croatian, I automatically use Serbian.

Mod: yhm

S2: but then there are also several cases when I am not sure like Macedonian and Slovenian because these languages are very similar to Serbian, but also not identical, so in in some situations like people would really understand you if you write everything in Serbian they would read it normally

Mod: yhm

S2: but I got responses in Slovenian sometimes and and@ I have no idea what they are saying to me, so and then I really need to switch to English

Mod: yhm

S2: @ because it’s not really the same language @

S1: it isn’t working

S2: yeah @

S3: yhm

S2: so, but it’s it’s difficult that it’s all (unintelligible) when I think what are the factors I guess when I am not sure I would go with English or yeah test when it’s like a sentence or two or just ask like ‘o you understand whatever Serbo-Croatian?’

Mod: yhm

S2: and things like that. But then I also have a colleague that’s British

Mod: yhm

S2: but who who works in Croatia and speaks Croatian so with her I have a complete mess and we we keep switching between the two languages

Others: yhm

S2: and like I feel that kind of out of respect to her I should speak in English but then she feels the same that she should speak ehm

Others @@

S2: like Croatian and practice

S1 practice

S2: her Croatian more and more

Others: @@

DS2: and then it’s like (unintelligible) it’s best at the meetings that we just kind of we find ourselves speaking in English and we’re like ‘why are we speaking in English and we stwitch to @

Others: @

S2: to Serbian-Croatian and then the conversation goes and then we back in English and that’s that’s @

S3: yeah @

S2: that’s communicated

S3: (unintelligible – 18.29.105) @

S2: @ well that’s always the case with her with everyone around. And (unintelligible) at some point ‘Why are we speaking in English? Because she’s really fluent it’s not perfect but she can really fully work in (.)

S1: Croatian

S3: yhm

S2: basically yeah

S3: yeah

S2: but everyone can understand her, so so yeah it’s fun @

S3: yeah I have the same with like Slovak, for instance, it’s very similar to my language but I would speak English

S2: (unintelligible 18.54.678)

S3: but it’s like from the habit

Mod: yhm

S3: and then I just wanna say one more thing that it’s nice it’s very nice that even if you have like hmm native speakers of one language for instance Dutch or like French

Mod: yhm

S3: And there’s this one person who

S1: ahh yeah

S3: does not understand they always change

S3: yeah I, I also

S3: into English there’s this like a

S1: I really don’t like hmm with Greeks we do it all the time (.)

S3: you don’t? (.)

S2: you would use? (.)

S1: nee sorry

S2: Greek?

S1: we only speak Eng, Greek

S2: (unintelligible) yeah in Balkans we do it all the time

S3: yeah?

S2: yeah

S1: even if there’s one person that

S3: argh

S2: yeah

S1: it’s really bad

S3: @

S1: and I agree I try

S2: (unintelligible) (*the two speakers A and DR speak in the background when speaker D tries to explain her point*)

S1: It usually happens (.) when people (.) live abroad (.) then they

Mod: yhm

S3: yeah

S1: feel

S3: very true

S1: more compelled to talk to speak in English

S3: yhm

S1: if you have a lot of people in that are Greek

S2: yeah

S1: and they don’t they never change it’s

S3: yhm

S1: it’s a nightmare

S2 I I felt often that during the GA because this new Serbian member came

Mod; yhm

S2: and she would like (name of the person from the office) was there and they were sorting out the like receipts and she would then come to me and say things in Serbian just like you know helping and figuring out things, but I like she’s just (turns to D) (.)

S1: yeah but that’s yeah that’s like

S2: just weird @ like she was there

S3: yhm

S2: room of people

S2: arranging things in English so (.) speak in English why do you /change/(unintelligible)

Mod: yhm

S3: but do you think it’s the habit or it’s like, because maybe they don’t feel comfortable

S1: aaa

S2: I think it’s more more that but

S3: yhm

1: if you if you don’t understand then it’s probably (.) it’s a group of people that usually don’t speak their own language also in a in a they speak aaa in a daily basis another language then meet together and it’s kind of a making sure that you haven’t forgotten what you have @ your language @ you know

Others: @@

S1: like you speak it’s easier like makes it more like

S3: yeah

S1: flows better

S3: yeah

S1: (unintelligible) and then (.) you just yeah don’t think of the other person

S3: yhm

S1: the French have the same thing

S3, S2 and S1: /look at the male participant who is Belgian Dutch but speaks French as well and laugh/ @@@

S4: I agree

All @@@

S2: (unintelligible)

S1: but (.)

S4: French speaking people don’t like

S1: yeah

S4: speaking other languages

S3: yes!

Mod: yhm

S4: just like Spanish or (.)

S1: yeah

S4: most British

S3: breathes the air in as if to say something but doesn’t

Mod; with British it’s a different case though

S3: @

S1: oh yeah

Mod: because English is

S3: because they don’t have to @@

S1: because they don’t know any other language

S4: true

S2: yeah

S3: OK but like I know that for my umm I mean for Polish people it’s the case of hm of not feeling good enough

Others: yhm

S3: at the language (Eng) like very very often it’s just this

Others: yhm

S3: not some general arrogance @

S1: yeah it’s very funny because that (murmurs) and that ends up being one person @ trying to be make a conversation @

Others: @@

S3: that’s true

Mod: isn’t that /stops for other participant to say something as both start at the same time)

S3:but I would (stops)

Mod: yhm /gives a way to speak to participant A)

S3: I just I wanted to say that in the office and in the network there’s this general like rather you know this willingness to try

S1: yeah

S3: I have very positive experience

Mod; to try other languages?

S3: to (.) no to include other people like if there are like you know three Dutch people

Mod: yhm

S3: then they would just change so that’s really cool

S1: Dutch people are not an example

Others: @

S1: Dutch speaking

S3: Dutch speaking people

S1: yeah I Ok Dutch people is like speaking English even between them/selves/

S3: yeah

S1: so

Others: @

S3: that’s very true

S1: they normally speak English @

S3: they lost their

Others: @@

S4: (unintelligible 22.28.591)

All @@

S1: you say I don’t know @ (unintelligible)

S3: oyy I mean Flemish speaking people

S1: @@

S3: and that you can feel that (unintelligible) @

S3 @

S1@

S2@

S3: confusing, but that’s another topic

S4: true

S3: @

Mod: so that that you mentioned about (.) you talked about English and other languages, how do you feel about English being the dominant language (.) in ?

S2: those (unintelligible) /pointing at M/

All @@@

Mod: now that you mentioned that!

S2: I’m just kidding of course

S4: it would be useful if everyone spoke Esperanto

S3: @

Mod: @ why Esperanto?

S4: cause it’s

S2: it’s the universal

S4: universal language that no one speaks

All: @@

Mod: so how would that be useful then@@

S3: oh (unintelligible) @@

S4 It was completely built to help

Others: @@

M: @ globally spoken so

S3: oy yeah

S2: Or Greek you know (unintelligible) @

S1: yeah, no

S2: Alexander the Great @

S3: @@

S1: yeah if if that goes through Congress was different that’s what we say in and English eehm Greek didn’t become the language of the United States for one vote (.)

S3@@

S2: @@

S1: so that’s a

S3: wow! @  
Others @@

S2: is this true or?

S1: no! aagh it’s a myth that (unintelligible) @@@

All: @@@

S2: it was yeah,

S2: that’s /why/ I don’t believe that@

S1: but um I don’t know I um (.)

S3: yhm

S1: I think it’s good that we have one dominant language you can act, communicate with people more

Mod: yhm

S1: that’s for sure (.) I I think the connotation it’s also that one dominant language only umm has to do also with one dominant state or which is the US or less than UK

Mod; yhm

S1: then it gives you a different kind of (.) feelings but that doesn’t have to do with language

Mod: yhm

S1: I think um At the end of the day it is an easy language @ I guess

S2: @

S1: because otherwise (.)

S3: imagine it was like yeah

S1: what we have

S3: Finnish

S1: in Europe, yeah, exactly

S3: @

S2: Chinese, maybe? @

S1: yeah

S3:@

S2: @

S1: so

Mod: so would you say it makes your work easier?

S2: yeah for sure

Mod: yhm

S2: for sure

(.)

S1: but, I would say yes and (.) and it gives you also the possibility to work abroad or, that I mean, imagine if you had to, you DO need to learn the language of each country but at the same time you can always find a job if you look hard enough

Mod: yhm

S1: in English

Mod: yhm

1: even if in a country outside the UK or the US so that is important I guess.

Mod: yhm. And how do the members, you mentioned the members earlier on, normally when they become in like they become part of the network they just sort of communicate in English. Do you think it’s because they feel that this is the only language that exists [in the network] or (.) ?

S1: yhm

Mod; and that’s to all of you

S2: I mean this is

Mod; how would you

S2: the way that kind of guarantees them that they will be in

Mod: in?

S2: Understood and someone can actually respond to them because yeah

Mod: yhm

S2: if they write to in whatever

S3: yhm

S2: French or Polish or Greek I mean they’re (.) automatically they’re targeting very (.) limited audience, so

S3: but also all the documents we produce are in English everything is in English

S2: that’s true

S3: and ONLY in English actually

S1: yeah

S3: all the communications channels like

S1: yeah

S3: the website, all the internal documents, the lists

S1: the general (unintelligible)

S3: sometimes we do like tweet, retweets

Mod: yhm

S3: Tweets form other countries but it’s very, very rarely

Mod: yhm

S3: normally

Mod; and that would be in different language?

S3: yeah, yeah like if there’s um I don’t know our Portuguese member tweeting about something that is very much related to our work like

Mod: yhm

S3: the report on Energy Efficiency then I would retweet this with this idea that maybe there’s somebody Portuguese following our tweeter account that can matter for them, but this is just on very rare basis

Mod: yhm

S3: and um I don’t think it’s gonna be you know. I mean we’re gonna do more communication activities with members

Mod: yhm

S3: yeah there’s no rule behind this but that’s just

Mod; maybe you created the rules by setting everything in English?

S2: well that was already said

S3: yeah

S2: I would say I mean @

S3 @

S2:@@

S3: yeah

S2: OK

S3: I don’t know how (unintelligible) for instance French if this has ever been considered, you know like being second (.)

S1: no, but (unintelligible) @

S2; official language @

S3: @

S1: no everything is in English. I don’t even know how it started. Maybe there was a discussion or maybe (.

S3: yhmm no idea

S4 : I suppose it eehm (.) it was the only way that the French and the Germans could communicate when (.)

S3: yeah

S4: they started

S3: yeah

S4: or the others that could speak the other two languages /beginning of CAN Europe/

S3: yhm (.) (27.49.192) yeah so probably

S2: and CAN is also a

S1: very international (.) and started as

S3: aaa

S4: true

S1: and

S2; people from Scandinavia and UK or around so,

S1: yeah

S3: yhm

S2: I think it was kind of

S1: which is kind of strange because if you think about it I mean UNFCCC started as a it’s an international process

S3: yhm

S1: a diplomatic process as well were diplomats are kind of (unintelligible) as a language

S4: yhm

S1: now, yeah, but I guess not so important @

All: @@ (28.25.782)

S2: in Europe, yeah, but

S3: no, but it’s interesting how it started and if there was ever any consideration of (.

Mod: yhm

S3: not that I know of

S4: or maybe (.) one of the demands of England to

All: @@

S4: coming in to the to the EU (unintelligible)

S1: ‘we have a questions’

S3:@

S2: @

S3: of joining the network @

All @@

S4: not the network, the European Union @

S1: yeah

S4: Thatcher with her hand (fist on the table) ‘and we will speak English!’

All: @

S4: non, on veut parle (makes a gesture)

All: @@

Mod; and is there anything else, is there anything that you’d change about the practice? Um the existing language policy or the existing language practice within the network? And if so what and why? (.) If not why?

S4: I don’t think it’s formal enough to change anything. (.)

Mod yhm

S4: it just happens (.)

All: @

S1: yeah I don’t think it’s formal, I’m not, I mean I wouldn’t change, I mean there’s nothing in emails and communication

Mod: what do you think of the members that are quite silent in the network?

S1: I think it would yeah, it’s not, yeah language as we said is important but at the end of the day it’s not (.) the main issue

Mod: yhm

S1: I think

Mod; yhm

S1: before being silent, they just don’t participate @

Mod: yhm

S2: @

S1: yeah @ I I mean if someone wants to participate they will if they don’t they won’t eehhm@ as I said before when they join the network they know they want to speak in English maybe they won’t say everything they want

S3: yeah

S1: but if they want to say something they will say it. It’s not, I don’t think that anybody feels excluded (said in a hesitant way) say, it’s just maybe they don’t, it’s the processes that that take longer or it’s not always at the national national focus but I don’t think that

S2: yeah

S1: as I said if they have something to say they will (30.29.638)

(a short fragment omitted due to long pauses and laughter)

S2: I wouldn’t change English definitely as a

Mod: yhm

S2: base language because then we would have

S3: yhm

S2: much more problems @

S1; yeah

S2: so, that that kind of needs to stay, um but otherwise yeah I think yeah English doesn’t exclude our members to participation, but I definitely think if we would have an opportunity to translate our materials to more languages it would be helpful, I mean, I know for my work it is. And whenever I can translate a press release or something that members can directly use that, that just

S1: yeah

S2: because simply because it saves time for them as well

S1: for them they, yeah, but that’s the thing I mean (.)

S2: but it’s yeah I know it’s difficult and just um

S1: and and it’s difficult I agree and at the end of the day for ME what I (.) it’s part of their task I have to admit because even if I translate something then they would have to change it anyway because half of the things that ends, we put in the briefing or the information you were very specifically about their region

S3: yeah

S2: yeah yeah, in case the message you copy and paste yeah

S1: your messages are already targeted. For me it’s a European message that needs to be translated at the national level. They need to do it and if they do the message thing they need to do the briefing as well. That is usually my, well the way I communicate I sent them something a template and say to them you take it over and you translate it and they know it’s their task to do it. If they do it or not, that’s different discussion. But yeah, they usually prefer it like this.

Mod; but would you consider the ones that are smaller and have less financial resources?

S1: No because it doesn’t go one one to two pages they they, even the smaller ones prefer if they take it and and take the messages and do their own thing even if it’s a paragraph or (.) They, they (.) I think they find it very useful even the English part they did briefing and they go on and do their own thing. I have to admit I have never I, I I am sure if it was translated even in that sense it would be probably a good thing but yeah (.) then it would be

S2: (unintelligible) not our intention

S1: double work

S4: and also I think we have too diverse members (.) because we have we have grass roots organizations to the very big ones

S1: yeah

S4: they will all have different messages, different kinds of formulating their messages so I think we could translate but indeed they would still need to work on it from how they would

S1: it’s also I mean, not a matter of language but a matter of approach is when you do the template they have in English go to say, this is a template for all of the organizations that are members of CAN at the national level I mean it’s not, you’re not ehm talking to one member in one country. You’re talking to 5, 4 or 3 so they need to work out how they’re going to cooperate if, if they do at all. So yeah (.) it’s about deciding among themselves what they want to write in briefing as well

Mod: yhm

S1: and at the end of the say it’s easier for me as well

S3; yeah

S1: first of all I can’t translate to all language but even if I could translate it it would be a nightmare I think (34:08.235) @

S3: yhm

S1: sorry @

All: @

S3: and the other way round, because it’s not always the information from us you know translated to their languages but also this another way, no? So I think that here, for instance the fact that you know we speak their languages and we can bring the information

S2: yeah

S3: I think this is something that

S1: yeah

S3: is valuable, right?

S1: yhm

S3: Like the fact that your work with Turkey and Serbia, I think this is very very clear, like you know that, we know what is happening there because you speak the language and can check

S2: and if we if we don’t, we

S3: I know what’s happening in Poland

S2: wouldn’t’ probably know (UNINTELLIGIBLE) that’s the other thing @

S3: yeah

S1: it’s also , it’s an interesting disc, I mean it doesn’t have it it in regards to the information. I mean now I am doing the national energy efficiency plans and how to a lot of members didn’t have time to work with me or do the work beforehand, so I had to go through

S3: yhm

S1: with google translate and the national the specific

S3: yeah

S1: points that I was interested in for, for I learnt I think ‘article 7’ in all the languages more or less @

All: @@@

S1: um (.) (unintelligible A coughs) translating the national energy efficiency action plan and going back to them and say (unint) needs again ‘this is what I read’ and they keep coming back to me like ‘yes this is what it says’ this paragraph there and bla bla bla

S1; yhm

S1: so, so that is easy as well

Mod: yhm

S1: well it was good as well the interaction there. Umm I mean if you have a document in the national language trying to understand it there is also some interaction.

S3: yhm, yeah, and I think for the media work it’s also crucial like that if you know the language then you can read what’s the medi what’s the reporting

Mod; yhm

S3: there, so you know more or less what’s happening and how to, you know, structure your messages, what’s the narrative on all that, so that’s extremely helpful

Mod; so it’s not only the langauge but the knowledge of the

S3: yeah

S1: I have to admit, google translate has helped a lot with work I guess @

All : @

S1: not in all countries because it’s not effective in all languages

S3: that’s true, yeah

S2: @

S3: yeah, yeah, but even I remember there was a case that we were communicating about this EU’s INDCs that was submitted to UNFCCC in March and then um the Swedish MEP I think tweeted something in Swedish like before the document was actually published so we would know more or less what is important that I had to google translate the Swedish

S2: @

S3: and we knew that you know, it had some, it gave some indication

MOD: yhm

S3: so, yeah @

MOD: that’s really clever @

S3: I can send it to you actually because it was something that was something about us like CAN Europe is, you know doing great job in influencing these INDCs and because of us (CAN E.) something happened

Mod: that’d be very useful, thank you.

S3: yeah

S2: so it was tweeted in Swedish?

S3: yeah

S2: about us?

S3: yeah

S3:@

S2:@

S3: yeah so I think this helps if you know the languages @

MOD: is there anything else you’d like to add about the languages in CAN E network? Or have you said everything?

S1: but they they do provide, they DO give the network, how can I say, not the flavour, like kind of (.) interest, or (.) it gives you the feeling of, of multinational network, and I think it’s very important, even if our common language is English

MOD: yhm

S1: like trying to get what the other people say, or understanding that there is also their own language, that’s I think is very important very useful for us.

S2: yeah

S3: yhm, yeah I agree

All: @@

MOD: thank you, anyone else? NO? Thank you very much

S1: thank you

S2: thank you

Mod: that was very interesting.