

----- PTSC ----- TELEGRAM ----- PTSC ----- TELEGRAM ----- PTSC -----

To : all PTSTAs and TSTAs

From : PTSC

N° 22 – September 2005

The Professional Training and Standards Committee (PTSC) of EATA addresses all TSTAs and PTSTAs who are members of EATA. With the PTSC Telegram we want to inform you about new developments and decisions concerning training, exams, standards, regulations, etc.

The PTSC Telegram will appear at irregular dates, whenever important decisions have been made by the EATA Council or ITAA committees. You may choose to collect the Telegrams for your personal memory. On top of the first page you will find the number and date of publication.

Please be aware that the PTSC Telegram is not an alternative to the EATA Newsletter or ITAA Script, but offers specific information which you sometimes may also find in the other papers.

Address requests or comments to: Charlotte Sills, PTSC Chair, EATA c/o Marianne Rauter, Silvanerweg 8, 78464 Konstanz D-78464 Konstanz. Telephone: 0049-7531-955 190. Fax 0049-7531-95271

This Telegram comes from the outgoing and incoming Chairs of PTSC. Charlotte has now finished her term as Chair (her last duties were in Edinburgh at the world conference) and Maria Teresa Tosi – known as Resi Tosi – is now the new Chair. If you need to contact her about PTSC matters, her e-mail address is: mt.tosi@fastwebnet.it

Together, we are bringing you news and feedback from the PTSC and COC meetings in Edinburgh. We enjoyed seeing you at the international trainers meeting on Wednesday July 6th and hope that lots of you will be at the next trainers meeting in Santiago de Compostela next year (see attached flier for details).

News and decisions:

Re the CTA examination

- Candidates for CTA exam should sign their contract at least 12 months before the date of their oral examination. Their Principal Supervisor then shares the overall responsibility for making sure all requirements have been met, as well as being able to whole-heartedly endorse them for examination.
- Clarification of the group tape requirement for CTA exam. The group tape must be of a group which is being led by the candidate (in other words not of a piece of work done in a group that is being facilitated by someone else).
- Decision: if the candidate explicitly identifies his/her training institute or trainer in his/her written exam, the exam will automatically be returned to the candidate.
- CTA written exams may be written in any language for which there is a language co-ordinator.

• **TEW Coordinator.** We regret that Annika Bjork is resigning from the post of TEW Co-ordinator. Annika has been responsible for making the TEW into a very happy and enriching experience. We thank her deeply for all she has done.

Annika had already established a small team of co-ordinators to cover the job. We therefore continue to have the services of Mathias Sell in this role, with other 'in the pipe-line'. If anyone would like to be on the co-ordination team, please contact Maria Teresa Tosi, Chair of PTSC

- **A New Route to TSTA Qualification.** At the trainers meeting in Edinburgh, first Nicole Pierre and Dorte Landmann - representatives of the TACC working group (Chaired by Jan Coleman) and Ute Hagehulsmann and Werner Vogelauer of the German speaking group presented ideas relating to innovative ways of obtaining first and second level qualification as a trainer and supervisor. All the trainers were very interested in these creative suggestions. The TACC's plans, which include the possibility of creating a qualification simply as supervisor at CTA level, are still under discussion and the team is urged to continue their work. The German speaking group whose scheme relies on the award of credit points for activities at different levels relating to the training and development of TA practitioners, are keen to launch a pilot project. PTSC wishes to support this initiative and will do so after certain important details have been addressed – for example exactly how will credits be awarded and for what; who will be given the task of evaluating the candidates' work and who will monitor these monitors? More news soon.

- **COC Observer.** Increasingly, particularly in countries with large membership, exams are being held at national events and therefore with largely national flavour (i.e. candidates and examiners from the same country). While this is a positive and sensible move which simplifies organisational matters and also allows candidates to take an exam without having to pay travel expenses etc., it has led to some concerns. The chief of these is that the COC exams might eventually lose their European flavour, their multicultural atmosphere and their cross-national standards and ideas. After much discussion COC has agreed to appoint a COC Observer at all EATA exam sites (exceptions may be made at international exam sites such as at the European or World Conferences). This person's role would simply be:

To sit in on a selection of exams and to observe and give feedback to the national organisation which is organising the exams (plus exam supervisors), to the board (after the marking process is complete), and COC. This feedback may relate to different processes and ideas for the smooth running of exams, the general standard across Europe etc.

Observers were appointed for upcoming exams:

Lille, November 05 – Marco Mazzetti

Hoffgeismer, No. 05 – Dave Spencelely

Exeter, April 2006 – Marco Mazzetti

- **Language Coordinator for exams.** Mary Cox has resigned after many years as the written exam Language Co-ordinator for those countries that do not have one particular to their language. Mary has carried out this job efficiently for many years – typical of all the many services that she has shown to EATA. We thank her very much.

Following Mary's resignation, we are delighted that Cathy McQuaid, already the English Language Co-ordinator, has agreed to take on this job.

As above clarified, people from countries which do not have a language coordinator may now write their written exam in any language for which there is a language coordinator.

- **Examination fees** have not been reviewed for some time. They are now revised as follows:

CTA written exam (to the marker) Euros 110

CTA exam (written+oral) Euros 300

Retake fee (written+oral) Euros 150

Eastern Eur fee (written+oral) Euros 80

E.E. retake fee (written or oral) Euros 40

Special exam fee (e.g. Italy) Euros 80

TSTA exam fee Euros 370

Retake fee (sup.or teach. part) Euros 185

Eastern Eur. Fee Euros 100

EE retake fee(sup.or teach.part) Euros 50

- **European Standards.** There is a situation regarding written exams in the UK which has identified a high level of deferrals (much higher than in other European countries). COC is committed to helping understand and resolve this issue. It also is important to monitor exam standards across countries now that so many exam processes are being kept within the language group. One process is decided to address specifically the UK situation:

A group of three markers from Italy, three from Germany and three from France who know English language will be asked to take part in some research of the situation. Over the course of a year, Cathy McQuaid (the English Language Exam Coordinator) will be asked to send written exams for marking, alternately to an English examiner and then one of the other European examiners. The results will be reviewed.

A second process is under discussion in order to conduct a pan-Europe review of standards and content. One average case study would be chosen by the Lang. Coordinators in the UK, Germany Italy and France and would be sent to two different countries for marking. The results would be put in relation to standards and discussed at trainers meetings You will have more information about this project in the future.

- **Non official training**

In cases where an individual has received significant hours of training in TA offered by someone who is not qualified, the individual may apply to the Chair of PTSC for guidance in applying to have some of his training recognised as official training for the purposes of examination requirement

- **Finally:-**

International Trainers meeting in Santiago de Compostela

6th and 7th July 2006

We had a wonderful international trainers meeting in Edinburgh with about 100 trainers from many countries. The next EATA trainers meeting will be in Santiago next year – trainers from ITAA are also welcome. We plan to have presentations and discussion groups (see the attached flier and also EATA News and Script in the autumn for more details)

Translation will be provided in 4 languages – Italian, German, French and Spanish.

The trainers meeting will be followed by exams on the 8th (Saturday) as well as Council meetings and TEW on the 9-11th.

We wish you a very good year.

**Charlotte Sills
Maria Teresa Tosi**