

Dutch Translation Industry *Convenant* – FAQ

Q: What is the *Convenant*?

A: The *Convenant Vertaalsector Nederland* (Dutch Translation Industry memorandum of understanding) sets out the best practices for cooperation between translation agencies and freelance translators.

Q: Why was this *Convenant* created?

A: The four signatory associations (VViN, NGTV, VZV and SENSE) recognize that there is a desire among translation agencies and freelance translators to have healthy professional cooperation in which the parties respect each other's independence, regard each other as equals, and strive for the highest ethical behaviour.

Q: Who is the *Convenant* meant for?

A: Although the *Convenant* was drawn up by the VViN, NGTV, VZV and SENSE, the *Convenant* is meant for anyone working in the translation industry in the Netherlands, i.e. all freelance translators who work for translation agencies and all translation agencies that work with freelance translators. (It is not intended for use by interpreters.)

Q: Is the *Convenant* compulsory?

A: The *Convenant* is not legally enforceable, but instead acts as a code of conduct, a set of recommendations or guidelines that agencies and translators can agree to. Agencies and translators remain free to accept or reject individual sections of the *Convenant*. We hope that the *Convenant* and its future versions will become widely accepted in this industry.

Q: How should agencies and translators use the *Convenant*?

A: If you represent a translation agency or if you are a freelance translator, and you subscribe to the *Convenant*, please state this fact on your website, in the footer of your emails, and in other communications. If you disagree with any section of the *Convenant*, please mention this and briefly explain your reasons for deviating from the *Convenant*. If you claim to support the *Convenant* and do not mention any objections to it, other agencies and translators will assume that you support the *Convenant* as a whole.

Q: What should I do if the *Convenant* is contravened?

A: If either the translation agency or freelance translator suspects or discovers that the other party is not adhering to *Convenant* despite having claimed to subscribe to it, the parties should raise the matter with each other and do their best to find a resolution between them privately. This applies regardless of whether either of the parties is a member of a signatory association.

There are no set rules for dealing with contraventions of the *Convenant*. Different associations have different protocols for assisting their members. If you are not yourself a member of any of these associations, but the contravening party is, please inform the relevant association of this fact.

Q: Will the *Convenant* be revised?

A: This version of the *Convenant* is intended to be used for three years, i.e. until 31 October 2025, after which it will be revised during subsequent rounds of talks by representatives from signatory associations, based on comments from their members or the public. The *Convenant* may also be revised at any other time that the associations prefer.

Q: Where can I send comments about the *Convenant*?

A: If you have any comments about the *Convenant* or wish to propose any corrections or updates, please contact any of the four signatory associations. If you are a member of one of the associations, please contact the association that you are a member of.

Q: Is there a translation of the *Convenant* available?

A: For the moment, there will be no official translation of the *Convenant* jointly issued by the four signatory associations.

Q: Is there a version for interpreters?

A: For the moment, there are no plans by the current four signatories of the *Convenant* to create a version specifically for interpreters. If you are an interpreter and you believe that a *convenant* will benefit your industry, please propose this to your professional association.

Q: Will the *Convenant* be promoted internationally?

A: For the moment, the four signatory associations will not jointly promote the *Convenant* internationally.