

Between 2001 and 2010 I held the position of General Secretary of the Institute of Translation & Interpreting (ITI). During this period I had the great pleasure of becoming acquainted with Mr. Yilmaz Duzen.

Yilmaz was very well known as an active member of the Institute, he was also a well respected knowledgebase of all things Turkish, having been assessed as a Turkish/English/Turkish interpreter in all its many guises and also as a translator.

My specific knowledge of Yilmaz relates to his many activities supporting and campaigning for his interpreter colleagues. Key to this was the 4 years that Yilmaz spent as a member of the ITI Council; its governing body. Much of that time Yilmaz was the only interpreter member of the Council and his voice carried a lot of weight with his Council colleagues. Yilmaz advised Council on many projects and campaigns, he played the key role in persuading ITI to create, and then designing, a new and specific category of membership for UK Public Service Interpreters. He advised Council on issues relating to the creation of the UK Chartered Linguist status.

Yilmaz also worked with many ITI Council committees, acting as the interpreter representative.

Yilmaz is an international linguist, with his commitment to a number of non UK based linguist associations his campaigning and support spread across Europe and globally.

Yilmaz set himself high standards and he expected others to follow his example. His support for his fellow interpreters was boundless, his enthusiasm for his profession was admirable and his commitment to his profession, almost always in a voluntary capacity, was to be admired.

I am happy to say that Yilmaz still remains a good friend, even though I am no longer working with ITI and he now lives in Turkey; he is a good friend to have and I offer him my utmost support and respect.

Alan Wheatley