

CEATL – European Council of Literary Translators' Associations

Hexalogue or Code of Good Practice

The six commandments of “fair-play” in literary translation

1. Licensing of rights

The licensing of rights for the use of the translation shall be limited in time to a maximum of five years. It shall be subject to the restrictions and duration of the licensed rights of the original work. Each licensed right shall be mentioned in the contract.

2. Fees

The fee for the commissioned work shall be equitable, enabling the translator to live decently and to produce a translation of good literary quality.

3. Payment terms

On signature of the contract, the translator shall receive an advance payment of at least one third of the fee. The remainder shall be paid on delivery of the translation at the latest.

4. Obligation to publish

The publisher shall publish the translation within the period stipulated in the contract, and no later than two years after the delivery of the manuscript.

5. Share in profit

The translator shall receive a fair share in the profits for all use of his/her work, in whatsoever form it may take.

6. Translator's name

The name of the translator shall be systematically mentioned in connection with the translated title.