Support for language flexibility

Effective and inclusive communication is central to SULF’s internal and external work. Current and potential members of SULF tend to work in multilingual environments in which Swedish and English serve variously as lingua franca, even for those who do not have native fluency in either. SULF’s members and potential members have different backgrounds, types of work experience and language competencies. Various language needs can arise in various groups and contexts.

Greater support for language flexibility is therefore an important tool for reaching, informing and actively involving current and potential members of SULF. Inclusive and innovative language solutions can help create a welcoming environment in which individuals can engage in discussions of key issues and actively participate in SULF’s work.

SULF/Uppsala therefore proposes:

• that the Congress decide that SULF should centrally provide increased support to local organizations for greater flexibility in the use of English and Swedish in order to facilitate optimal and inclusive communication within all areas of SULF’s activities. Examples of such support may include (but are not limited to): resources for simultaneous interpretation at live events, subtitles for informational films, more extensive translation of web pages and documents, including those for elected representatives (förtroendemanna sidorna), the organization of bilingual events, and language consultancy for specialized vocabulary related to Swedish labor law, work environment issues, equal opportunity issues.
• that the Congress instruct the national executive board (förbundsstyrelse) to make the necessary preparations for making the 2024 Congress accessible to representatives who speak Swedish or English but not both languages.

För SULF/Uppsala
Cajsa Bartusch, Chairperson