



The OEP Newsletter N°102 – (May-June 2025)

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Editorial: It's culture that gives Europe meaning!

Between 2004 and 2007, ten countries that had previously belonged to the Warsaw Pact, Yugoslavia and the USSR, joined the European Union, politically, but militarily, they joined the Atlantic Pact and its integrated military component under American command and armament, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Negotiations, in accordance with the unwritten language rules of these two organisations, were conducted in English, ensuring the supremacy of this language in the workings and external manifestations of the European institutions, even though it is a minority language in the population as a whole.

Despite the European Cultural Charter of 1954, European cultures and languages were no longer a priority for Europeans.

We all remember 1971, proclaimed by Henry Kissinger to be the "Year of Europe", with a new Atlantic Charter, of which none of the European leaders had been informed. Europe's response, launched by the very European British Prime Minister Edward Heath and drawn up with Georges Pompidou and his foreign minister, Michel Jobert, was the *declaration on European identity*, known as the "Copenhagen Declaration", approved at the European summit on 14 and 15 December 1973.

This text, which was immediately forgotten, deserves to be recalled through a few extracts:

Wishing to ensure respect for the legal, political and moral values to which they are committed, anxious to preserve the rich variety of their national cultures, sharing a common conception of life based on the desire to build a society conceived and realised in the service of mankind, they intend to safeguard the principles of representative democracy, the rule of law, social justice - the ultimate aim of economic progress - and respect for human rights, which are fundamental elements of European identity...

This variety of cultures within the framework of a single European civilisation, this attachment to common values and principles, this rapprochement of conceptions of life, this awareness of having specific interests in common and this determination to ...- >

Direction and writing : Christian Tremblay, Anne Bui.

The EOP Newsletter is presently translated by volunteers in [German](#), [Arabian](#), [Spanish](#) and [Italian](#). The texts can be read on-line. Thanks to the translators. You can add other languages. [Contact us](#).

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-> participate in the construction of Europe give the European identity its original character and its own dynamism.

The changes which have taken place in the world and the increasing concentration of power and responsibility in the hands of a very small number of major powers mean that Europe must unite and, increasingly, speak with a single voice if it is to be heard and play its rightful role on the world stage...

The Nine, whose essential aim is the maintenance of peace, will never achieve this by neglecting their own security. Those who are members of the Atlantic Alliance consider that there is at present no alternative to the security provided by the nuclear weapons of the United States and the presence of North American forces in Europe; and they agree that, in view of its.....- >

-> relative military vulnerability, Europe must, if it wishes to preserve its independence, keep its commitments and ensure, in a constant effort, that it has an adequate defence.

There can be no real peace if the developed countries do not pay more attention to the less-favoured peoples. Bolstered by this certainty and aware of their particular responsibilities and obligations, the Nine attach paramount importance to the fight against underdevelopment in the world. They are therefore determined to intensify their efforts in the fields of trade and development aid, and to strengthen international cooperation to this end.

In 1992, the Maastricht Treaty ruled out any cultural dimension, and this reappeared timidly in 2000 with the Charter of Fundamental Rights published on 18 December 2000 ("The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity", Article 22 entitled "Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity").

This little cultural firefly was taken up again by the Treaty of Lisbon in 2010, but without religion:

"The Union shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced. (Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty)

It is inconceivable that a political concept could exist without cultural and therefore linguistic substrates. It is only through languages and cultures that Europe can be aware of itself. It has to be said that, historically, the countries of Europe have, from the outset, directed their forces against each other before extending their confrontations to the whole world. This was a good breeding ground for getting to know each other and, having risked the apocalypse, beginning to aspire to a certain form of political wisdom. This is their new and true cultural background.

The new state of the world is leading to this new awareness.

The current period is witnessing an acceleration of trends that could have been anticipated a long time ago.

We have known for decades that the United States has strategic and economic interests that distance it from Europe. General de Gaulle's France was the first to doubt the reliability of the American shield, and chose, not without hesitation, prevarication and renunciation, the path of sovereignty, while most Europeans preferred to maintain the illusion of a protectorate that is proving less and less protective. Rallying to the Star-Spangled Banner and following the cultural oscillations of the United States is a substitute cultural background.

Strategic decoupling is rooted in physical and economic geography. When the United States wages war - and it is almost always at war somewhere in the world - it always wages it away from home.

And that's not all.

All European countries are secular, in the sense that they respect all religions but make a clear separation between religious practice and public life. This is not the case in the United States, where the President takes an oath on the Bible and a cabinet meeting is opened with a prayer.

Religiosity, which is not religion but permeates everyday life, is a widely shared characteristic. But why is it that our relationship with truth and science is becoming increasingly blurred? This issue is on the rise again with the development of social networks, and no society is immune. However, it is taking a completely unbalanced turn in the United States, where it is affecting the very heart of institutions.

After stigmatising the so-called restrictions on freedom of expression in Europe, launching digital autodafés in laboratories and at scientific publishers, giving instructions on which concepts should be banned and which should be promoted, sending little red guards into bookshops and public and school libraries to sort out which books should be banned and which should be recommended, is a harbinger of a different society. The novlanguage of Orwell's *1984* is not far off. European countries must take a firm stand against these deleterious trends, which are a real threat to the civilisation they represent. Are they on the right track? It's a real question.

All European countries have established a separation between the world of money and political responsibility, a separation that is difficult to enforce, but which does exist and is reflected in legislation, ...->

-> always imperfect, but sufficient to give meaning to the concepts of corruption, conflict of interest and transparency.

There is nothing equivalent to this in the United States, where, according to Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz, democracy takes on a singular form, to the point of caricature, where 1 dollar equals 1 vote, where a president manipulates the stock market and speculates on social networks when he is not directly advertising the brand of car whose closest collaborator is himself the boss. The ancient Greeks called this political regime plutocracy.

Our social systems have diverged considerably. They are no longer variants of the same model. Even if some people in Europe imagine selling off our social protection systems, no serious person would dare to model themselves on a country with one of the most expensive and least protective health systems in existence, where infant mortality (6.3) is twice that of the European Union and 30% higher than in Russia or Canada (4.89), and where life expectancy (76.4) is 5 years lower than in the European Union (81.2).

President Trump has decided to make English the only official language of the United States and has eliminated Spanish from the White House website, which has prompted a reaction from the Spanish embassy.

The purpose of official languages, as the tradition has been since the Justinian Code (529-534) and the Villers-Cotterêts Order (1536), is to facilitate relations between the political and administrative authorities and citizens. This is why some countries have several official languages. This is particularly true of the European Union, which has 24 official languages. The United States, a country of immigrants if ever there was one, has not until now had an official language at federal level. By seeking to impose English alone, it tends to exclude American citizens whose mother tongue is the second language spoken in the United States. This is exclusionary legislation. The Linguistics Society of America has expressed its concern and issued a strong statement on the subject, which we have reproduced on the OEP website .¹

Is this a bad time? Some people who have not yet broken free from the Atlanticist mould believe so and hope so. Many Americans think and hope so too. Is this a profound and lasting change in the nature of American society and democracy? Many analysts think so.

We are talking here mainly about the United States, because it is with the United States that a global, geostrategic and cultural paradigm shift is taking place. With China, there is no mystery. It is no longer a developing or even an emerging country. The roles have been reversed. In many areas, it has taken the technological and industrial lead. Despite the war in Ukraine, Russia is a second-rate geostrategic rival, and in terms of values it is part of the "reactionary international" that brings together the American, European and Russian extreme right, divided only by their nationalism and historical antagonisms. But alongside the United States, China and Russia, there is the rest of the world, i.e. 5.6 billion people, including 1.4 billion in Africa, our closest neighbours.

This accumulation of facts should precipitate a European awareness that is currently in its infancy and fragile.

In any case, this is a crucial time for us Europeans, in our relationship with the United States and of course with the world as a whole. Together, we must take responsibility for ourselves and realise that in the new state of the world, either we assert ourselves in order to exist in our fundamental cultural unity and diversity, or we will be torn apart and subjugated in a serious and lasting way.

During a debate organised on 26 November 2011 by the newspaper Libération with Umberto Eco on the theme "Can culture give Europe meaning?", the latter came to the central question: "The cultural unity I'm talking about is something impalpable that I don't feel when I'm in Europe....Everything changes at a party, at a reception in New York... at a conference after midnight... you start talking among Europeans and you discover that there are more similarities between my way of thinking and that of a Swede than there are between my way of thinking and that of an American, you are European and then you discover this ...->

¹ <https://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu/les-fondamentaux/politiques-linguistiques/17948-lsa-statement-against-designating-english-as-the-official-language;>
<https://www.observatoireplurilinguisme.eu/les-fondamentaux/politiques-linguistiques/17931-l-anglais-va-devenir-la-langue-officielle-des-%C3%A9tats-unis>

-> impalpable unity...", a unity that expresses itself admirably in philosophy, the arts, film and literature...

Only the awareness of a plural cultural unity based on an assumed plurilingualism and linguistic diversity can lead to the reinforcement of this intangible with all its political and geopolitical consequences.

This is a real existential question for Europeans.

End... ->/

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Articles not to be missed

LSA Statement Against Designating English as the Official Language



Four Reasons Why English Should Not be the Official Language of the United States: Statement Against White House Executive Order "Designating English as the Official Language of The United States" The Linguistic Society of America (LSA) strongly opposes the White House Executive Order of March 1, 2025 "Designating English as the Official Language of The United States." Below we...

[Lire la suite...](#)

L'anglais va devenir la langue officielle des États-Unis



Le président américain va signer un décret établissant l'anglais comme langue officielle des États-Unis. (photo AFP) Le président américain Donald Trump va signer vendredi un décret établissant l'anglais comme langue officielle des États-Unis, avec pour objectif de «promouvoir l'unité» du pays, selon un document obtenu auprès d'un responsable de la Maison-Blanche. «Il était plus...

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Google Calendar removed events like Pride and BHM because its holiday list wasn't 'sustainable'



Some Google Calendar users are angrily calling the company out after noticing that certain events like Pride month are no longer highlighted by default. Black History Month, Indigenous People Month, Jewish Heritage, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and Hispanic Heritage have also been removed, according to [a Google product expert](#).

[Read more](#)

Langues scientifiques (Petite encyclopédie de la science ouverte)



Les langues scientifiques sont des langues véhiculaires utilisées par une ou plusieurs communautés scientifiques en vue de communiquer à l'international. Selon Michael Gordin, il s'agit « soit de formes spécifiques d'une langue employées pour exercer la science, soit de l'ensemble des langues dans lesquelles la science est pratiquée ». Jusqu'au XIXe siècle, les...

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Cédric Villani : "Mathématiques et poésie sont cousines" (france inter 25 avril 2025)



Le mathématicien Cédric Villani, lauréat de la médaille Fields en 2010 et auteur du livre "Les Mathématiques sont la poésie des sciences", observe que "poésie et mathématiques sont deux formes très élaborées de représentation du monde", avec chacune leurs règles, mais beaucoup de points communs. La créativité dans un carcan de contraintes Selon lui, mathématiques et poésie sont...

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La destruction des données scientifiques aux États-Unis : un non-sens intellectuel, éthique mais aussi économique (The conversation France, 2 avril 2025)



Dans un monde où l'information est devenue à la fois omniprésente et suspecte, la destruction délibérée de bases de données scientifiques évoque de sombres souvenirs historiques. Elle représente une menace sérieuse pour l'avenir de la connaissance partagée, le progrès scientifique global et, plus fondamentalement, la richesse des nations. Depuis le 20 janvier 2025,...

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La recherche française touchée par l'onde de choc de la politique antiscience de Donald Trump (Le Monde 14 avril 2025)



Par Laure Belot, Jean-Baptiste Jacquin, David Larousserie, Hervé Morin, Florence Rosier, Léa Sanchez et Pascale Santi. Illustration Antoine Moreau Dusault L'administration Trump a lancé contre la science et la recherche américaine une telle offensive qu'il est presque difficile d'en recenser les conséquences. Alors que les projets de recherche sont internationalisés, la crise...

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Trump va-t-il tuer la pensée? Haro sur le langage (Le UN hebdo n°538)



Ce 1 n'est pas comme les autres. C'est un tract, un manifeste, une feuille qu'en déployant dans sa hauteur vous pourrez afficher comme on affiche une conviction, chez vous, au bureau ou carrément dans la rue, car il arrive que certains gestes, quand ils sont dictés par l'urgence, relèvent de l'intervention sur la place publique. Cette semaine, le 1 hebdo se penche sur l'offensive...

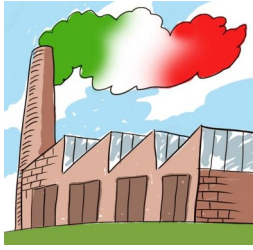
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Le confusionnisme, que devient le statut de la vérité ? (Franceinter, 9 février 2025)



Ce numéro d'« En quête de politique » s'intéresse au confusionnisme, un terme qui qualifie un discours voire une stratégie politique qui produit un brouillard issu d'une ambiguïté autour des valeurs et des objectifs. Avec Mathias Girel, Maître de conférences au département de philosophie à l'ENS-PSL, Directeur du Centre Cavallès, USR République des Savoirs...

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La langue : porte-parole du Made in Italy

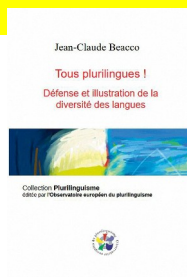
Illustration de Fabio Sironi L'intérêt pour la langue italienne continue d'augmenter à travers le monde. Pour y répondre de la manière la plus adaptée et complète qui soit, il faut s'engager davantage sur le plan politique et financier. En 2021, les commémorations pour les 700 ans de la mort de Dante ont donné lieu à des conventions, des conférences et des publications...

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Announcements and publications



L'OEP publie le 30e ouvrage de sa collection "Plurilinguisme" : "Tous plurilingues" de Jean-Claude Beacco

Tous plurilingues ! Défense et illustration de la diversité des langues Mais où sont donc passées les langues ? Le devenir écologique de notre planète est au centre des préoccupations, mais la diversité des langues y est oubliée. Celle-ci est pourtant le socle de toutes les diversités nécessaires à l'équilibre du monde de demain et à la créativité collective. Les...

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L'OEP publie dans la collection "Plurilinguisme", "Le plurilinguisme entre diversité et universalité" (dir. José Carlos Herreras et Christian Tremblay)

Le binôme universalité-diversité, qui est plus une tension qu'une opposition, est au cœur même du plurilinguisme. En remontant aux origines de la philosophie, on comprend bien que la notion d'universalité est elle-même le produit de cette tension.

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Traduzionetradizione N°23 (quaderno internazionale di traduzione poetica)

La pubblicazione plurilingue Traduzionetradizione, dal 2007, si segnala per il discorso sulla specificità dell'atto del tradurre e per le problematiche che si affrontano a trasferire la parola originaria in altra lingua, poiché tradurre comporta finezze linguistiche, culturali, anche irrimaginabili. Il traduttore ha in mano un tesoro di complessità e di competenza che assume in sé tutte le...

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Quels sont les bienfaits du bilinguisme ? (franceinter, Grand bien vous fasse ! mercredi 14 mai 2025)

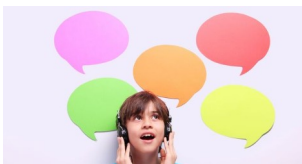


Photo : Concept d'apprentissage des langues étrangères dès l'enfance ©Getty - Sadeugra Quels sont les avantages du bilinguisme chez l'enfant et l'adolescent ? Développement cérébral, réussite scolaire, perception du monde : nos invités, spécialistes et parents, partagent leurs expériences. Quelles sont les vertus du bilinguisme, notamment chez les enfants et les...

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1ères Assises culturelles de l'IA en francophonie (Québec, 22 mai 2025)

CULTUR'A

Un événement en prélude à la 5ème Conférence des Ministres de la culture de la Francophonie, organisé par la Chaire de recherche du Québec sur l'IA et le numérique francophones (IANF). 22 Mai 2025 | Ville de Québec. Les technologies numériques se développent à une vitesse fulgurante, comme l'illustrent les avancées dans le domaine de l'Intelligence artificielle (IA)....

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"Ma langue maternelle n'est pas la langue de ma mère" (4e épisode par Alice Magdelaine)

« Rico, virtuose du créole guyanais », le 4e épisode de « Ma langue maternelle n'est pas la langue de ma mère » est en ligne depuis le 21 avril ! Ce podcast mensuel célèbre la diversité linguistique et les histoires langagières à travers une collection de récits intimes mettant à chaque épisode une langue en lumière. Spotify...

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Les univers du livre
ACTUALITÉ

L'Europe de la traduction : "Traduire, c'est passer sur l'autre rive"

Source : Actualité, 15 avril 2025 En octobre 2024, les premières Rencontres européennes de la traduction littéraire se sont tenues au Parlement européen à Strasbourg. Organisé par le CEATL (Conseil européen des associations de traducteurs littéraires), cet événement d'envergure a rassemblé 80 intervenants de 28 pays et 350 participants sur place – rejoints par 1500 spectateurs...

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Internationalisation et francophonies universitaires - Entre enjeux géopolitiques et parcours singuliers : diversité des réceptions et circulation des idées - 13-14 novembre 2025, Université de Tours

Dans les dynamiques d'internationalisation de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (ESR) français, la langue française constitue un élément central des politiques d'influence et de rayonnement culturel, notamment via les dispositifs structurants de la diplomatie universitaire et scientifique[1] et la politique d'attractivité en direction des étudiants internationaux...

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Un rêve culturel : l'Europe au pluriel - Mieke Bal (2022)

Leçon inaugurale de Mieke Bal prononcée le 18 octobre 2022. Mieke Bal est professeure invitée sur la chaire annuelle L'invention de l'Europe par les langues et les cultures (2022-2023). Partager, échanger, interagir : ce que nous partageons n'est pas ce qui nous distingue. La variété de langues et de cultures européennes requiert le respect pour la diversité sans transformer les...

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L'étranger dans les littératures, arts et sciences humaines et sociales contemporains : figures, représentations et enjeux (colloques Abidjan, 24, 25 & 26 juin 2025)

Le Laboratoire des Littératures et Écritures des Civilisations (LLITEC) de l'Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), en collaboration avec le DAAD, organise un colloque international pluridisciplinaire sur le thème : « L'étranger dans les littératures, arts et sciences humaines et sociales contemporains : figures, représentations et enjeux » Equipe de...

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