

# BLUE STARS

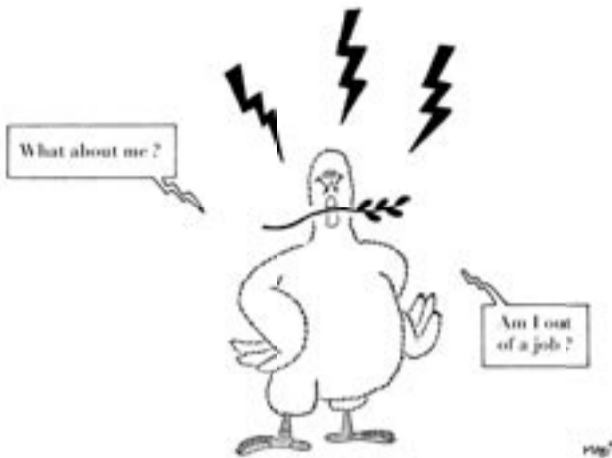
The aim of the workshop is to learn how to put political, economical and social issues into a creative, deep, critical and humorous caricature. Humour often helps to cross intercultural borders, because everybody can be portrayed in a sophisticated way.



## Peace and Harmony?

This cartoon is a humorous take on the fact that the EU has been such a success in bringing peace and harmony to the region. Normally it is the dove that brings peace but after the EU has stepped into that role he has been put out of a job. Though the dove has served us well over the centuries, this cartoon acknowledges the fact that the only way to maintain real and lasting co-operation and peace is through the modern institutions of the EU. After many centuries interspersed with war and regional conflicts the EU has helped bring about a sense of common purpose between member states. Though we certainly don't agree on everything we all understand that it is much more preferable to work together to bring about prosperity and harmony to our countries. This cartoon also highlights how several interpretations can be applied to an image. Could the cartoon also mean that although the EU has succeeded in bringing about peace and co-operation between states, some countries are still struggling to bring

Europe give us peace ...



tangible benefits to European citizens in terms of jobs and prosperity?



## Tongue Tied?

Language has the capability to both unite and divide us. Now that the number of official languages of the European Union has increased to 23, the challenge of communication has become even greater. Despite only being spoken in two member states, English has become the "de facto" common tongue with many representatives deciding to conduct most of their business through that language. This has left the other languages in a precarious position. Has their status

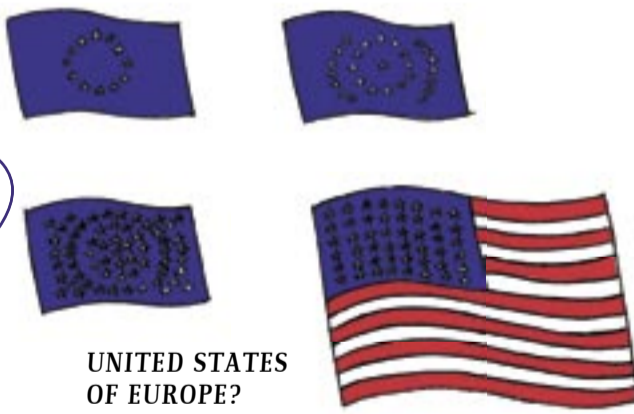
declined with the increased use of English? How does this affect the rights of member states to conduct their dealings within EU institutions through one of the official language? Does it mean that those individuals who speak better English are placed at an unfair advantage within the EU? Even during the EYMD most of our business has been conducted through the medium of English. Was this an unfair decision to make or simply a practical way of ensuring the conference ran smoothly?



what's that?  
a bird?  
a plane?  
a UFO?  
No a UPO (\*)



(\*): Unidentified Political Object.



## Two Faced?

Even without the text, it is possible to guess at the meaning of this cartoon. It explores the idea that some people working in the EU are doing it out of a love for its ideals and some are in it for their own gain. It reflects the selfishness that some people have in their daily dealings. By using the potent symbols of the gold stars and

euro sign it effectively shows how, quite literally, some people can become "starstruck" when they come to Brussels to work. They bring with them their idealism and belief in the "European Dream" but are perhaps out of touch with the daily reality of European citizens. Their idealism may be forgiven however when one

contrasts it with the notion that some workers are here only for the perks, big salaries and prestige. There is also another possible interpretation of this image. The similarity of the two men suggests that they are one and the same and that over time, even the most idealistic of us can be corrupted.



All cartoons and articles made during the European Youth Media Days, on 29th June 2007 in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Speaker: Florian «Défé» Delobelle (18) is a young cartoonist and a secondary student at the Baudimont Saint Charles School, at Arras (North of France).  
Cartoonists : Sébastien «Mabi» Delaunoy (26) is a semi-professional cartoonist in Brussels (Belgium) ; Jean Massiet (18) is a student of Laws in the University of Nanterre (Paris, France) ; Matthias Rüby (19) is at the secondary school in Bavaria (Germany).  
Writers: Eric Keogm (27) is a freelance radio newsreader in Dublin (Ireland) ; Maxime Coudour (19) is a student of Geography at the Sorbonne University (Paris, France). He is president of Jets d'encre, the first national youth press network ; Rui Mendonça (25) is just graduated in Social and Cultural Communication in Lisbon at the Portuguese Catholic University. He is collaborating with a public radio, RDP Africa.  
Facilitator: Emmanuel Lemoine (23) is an ex-journalism student. He is a member of a European newspaper : Journal EUROPA (www.journaleuropa.info) in Nantes (West of France).  
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