

Ireland

Final word: Brussels sprouts

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If you are a member of a European reflection group, here is an urgent message: before planificating your comitology, please visa this with your hierarchical superior. If you are not a member of a reflection group and didn't understand a word of that, you are in good company.

There are 23 official languages in the [European Union \(javascript:void\(0\);\)](#), but staff must above all be fluent in the commission's colloquial tongue: Euro-gibberish (and gibberish is the polite word). In this language, think tanks are reflection groups; planning is planification; comitology means "committee procedure"; and visaing with a hierarchical superior just means clearing it with the boss.

Now a British translator, Jeremy Gardner, has drawn up a dictionary of Euro-jargon, reckless to the risk that the rest of us might finally understand what is going on. Despite his efforts, however, one English phrase is still baffling the finest minds in Brussels even though it is so frequently used. That phrase is "budget cut". The Greeks have a word for it, but this is a family newspaper.

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