

The European Union is EXPANDING



by Don Stanton

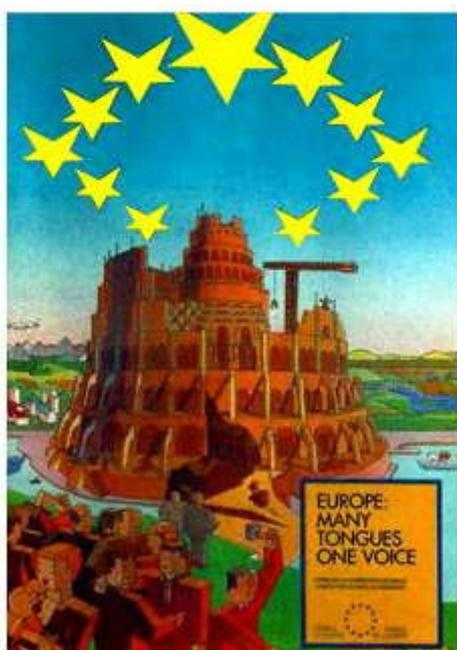
The European Union set May 1, 2004 as “E-day” - the date for the EU’s expansion into the ex-communist world.

The 15 current members have agreed that the new members will participate fully in the European Parliament elections in June 2004 and in the planned conference on a future EU constitution.

The 10 new countries are Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia,

Some skeptics say the bringing of ten more governments, and 75 million relatively poor people into the 370 million-strong EU, will cost it dearly and render it unworkable. Others say the healing of Europe’s Cold War divide will create the world’s most powerful economic bloc. This makes the EU the third largest entity after China and India.

EU BECOMING A TOWER OF BABEL



A Reuters report from Brussels (4 Nov 02) suggests the European Union will turn into a modern Tower of Babel when it expands eastwards in 2004.

After the Union's biggest ever expansion, the number of official languages will grow from 11 to 20. The EU has been striving to translate its 80,000 pages of laws into the languages of the 10 new members.

EU institutions are facing a bill of hundreds of million of euros for hiring some 1,800 new translators. It already employs 4,000 interpreters and translators that work for the Commission. The report says the bloc's complex administrative procedures risk "linguistic gridlock".

English is rapidly taking over as the main language, replacing French which dominated the EU for decades until the powerful Frenchman, Jacques Delors stepped down as Commission president in 1995.

COULD THERE BE FURTHER EXPANSION?

How many more nations could be added to the EU? Well, in 2007, Bulgaria and Romania are scheduled to join the Union. Other aspirants are Turkey and Israel, and then possibly Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo and Albania.

As the number of nations increase, so do the problems of the multi-lingual, multi-cultural Union. The reviving Roman Empire in Europe is very much a mixture of iron and clay (see Daniel 2:41)

It will take enormous strength to weld so many diverse people into a harmonious unity. Or I should say, it will take a superman to hold the Union together. I am reminded of the words of Dr Henri Spaack, one of the early planners of the European Common Market, and Secretary-General of NATO.

Years ago Spaack said:

" We do not want another committee. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and be he God or devil, we will receive him"

Europe has evolved from the original 6 in 1957 to 25 nations today, and although it has made powerful strides towards gaining superpower status, the "man of sufficient stature" has not yet arrived.

REACHING TOWARDS ITS DESTINY

The EU is not yet the prophesied kingdom of the beast, but it IS racing

towards that destiny. It will ultimately become - peaceably or by upheaval - the seventh head of the 7-headed beast of Revelation 17 (read Rev 17:8).

The prophesied "beast" is a confederation of nations that has its origins in the ancient Roman Empire and the "Holy Roman Empire". The old Roman empire (6th head) disintegrated long ago, but Daniel, and Revelation, indicate that that iron kingdom would be revived in the endtimes to become the 7th head. And at that time a powerful ruler - a king - would arise (Daniel 8:23-26). This refers to the Antichrist. After he is revealed, there will be an upheaval that will bring ten of the most powerful EU nations under his total sovereignty. (read more in Daniel 7 & 17:12-13)

Just how the European Union evolves into the endtime Roman confederation remains to be seen. In the meantime, it is interesting to see the struggles going on in the EU.

What we see in Europe is a beast, seeking to give birth to the Beast kingdom of Revelation 13 & 17. We are witnessing Europe, pregnant with the foetus of a beast in her womb. The days are fast ticking off till she gives birth.

SO WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES?

The signs in Europe are all an indication that the hour is near when
"the Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28)