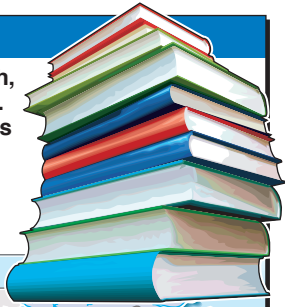


EU's Tower of Babel

With the addition of Romanian, Bulgarian and Irish, the tally of official languages in the EU rises to 23. Politicians say they are an expression of the bloc's unity in diversity but critics say bureaucracy in Brussels has become a *Tower of Babel* that bogs down decision-making



EU OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

From Jan 1, 2007

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. English | 11. Portuguese |
| 2. French | 12. Estonian |
| 3. German | 13. Latvian |
| 4. Italian | 14. Lithuanian |
| 5. Spanish | 15. Polish |
| 6. Dutch | 16. Czech |
| 7. Danish | 17. Slovak |
| 8. Swedish | 18. Hungarian |
| 9. Finnish | 19. Slovene |
| 10. Greek | 20. Maltese |

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 21. Irish (<i>Gaelic</i>) |
| 22. Romanian |
| 23. Bulgarian |

