



Membre de la plateforme de l'Agence
des Droits Fondamentaux de l'UE

A l'attention de Monsieur Frank Jensen
President d'EUROCITIES
Square de Meeûs 1
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BELGIQUE

Objet: contribution EUROCITIES Days Nantes 2012

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PJ : CD « Bretagne une région d'Europe – Partition imposée assimilation forcée »

Nantes october 23th 2012

Mr President,

Your visit to Nantes to open days "Eurocities 2012" is an opportunity for Bretagne Réunie to welcome you in our city, wishing you'll enjoy your stay amongst us.

This initiative taken by Eurocities, under the auspices of the City of Nantes can only be encouraged by all those who are victims of a lack of local democracy.

Brittany's people, in France, earnestly hope that these days of discussions and debates will lead to awareness and commitments of the participating cities in favour of democracy.

Nantes City, which will host on its territory prominent representatives of the largest cities in Europe, is definitely not a model for democracy and can certainly amend and change towards a little more listening and understanding of its population demands.

The present crucial issue of Nantes, Breton town, probably shows the total lack of listening and dialogue existing between a local community and the people living on its territory.

First victim of nationalist conceptions of French Republic's main elected representatives, Brittany has been reduced by one department out of five, the "Loire-Atlantique" having been split off its mother region, during the Second World War. By a plain decree (n° 2727, June 30th 1941), without any public consultation, the Vichy's collaborationist regime created an artificial region, they called "Loire", by including the department of Loire-Atlantique (that has become since a part of "Pays-de-la-Loire").

The Central Government and the French City of Nantes, still refusing to recognize the existence of national minorities on their own territory, are opposed to the administrative reunification of Brittany, so as to an alternative identity policy towards the people - and especially in Nantes, on its own children.

The so said new region «Pays de Loire», upon which the city of Nantes has a very strong influence, seeking visibility and legitimacy, has increased its communication budget by 160 % in the last few years ! - a very propaganda in order to erase Nantes' and Loire-Atlantique's Breton identity and to impose a "new man", they called "Ligérien" ! (from Latin "Liger", Loire).

In Nantes, to impose the "new man" existence, the City does erase constantly the word "Brittany", ruining by this way our Ducal heritage (e.g. destroying under concrete, three Breton chapels of the sixteenth century), emptying the Chateau des Ducs de Bretagne's ducal past, banning the sale of comics and books because they would be "too much Breton" (sic), occulting the Breton identity of

many a Nantes celebrities, practicing a real censorship on the two local T.V. channels ... etc. (see document "Brittany, a European Region -imposed partition, forced assimilation ")

Brittany and the Bretons are not without reacting, particularly through their elected representatives.

- The **Regional Council of Brittany**, by a vote on the 30th of June 1997, requested administrative reunification of Brittany. The central government has not even acknowledged the request.
- The **Loire-Atlantique General Council** voted a wish to organize a public debate on administrative reunification of Brittany on the 22d of June 2001. The central government did not even bother to respond.
- The **Brittany Regional Council** passed a second wish for the administrative reunification of Brittany, on the 2d of July 2001. The central government has displayed the same contempt.
- The **Brittany Regional Council** passed a third wish for the administrative reunification of Brittany, on the 30th of June 2003, without any reaction from the central government.
- The **Brittany Regional Council** passed a resolution requesting the administrative reunification of Brittany on the 8th of October 2004. The central government has heard nothing.
- The **Brittany Regional Council** passed a motion on the 24th of October 2004 in the framework of the territorial reform in France, taking into account the issue of the reunification of Brittany. The current **Prime Minister** Jean-Marc Ayrault, personally prevented the government from dealing with the question.
- The **Brittany Regional Council** voted on the 15th of December 2008 a new motion asking the government to introduce a bill on the organization of a referendum on the whole of Brittany. The French state has not heard or answered.
- The **Morbihan General Council**, on the 7th of December 2011 has also passed a wish for administrative reunification of Brittany, without any reaction of the French central government.

All these wishes and sometimes motions, voted unanimously by elected assemblies, have never received the slightest echo from the French State which boasts yet to be a modern democracy, ignoring nevertheless ten favourable polls .

The last poll of March 2009, produced at the request of the government itself, **confirms that 68% of the population wishes the reunification** of Brittany by the return of the Loire-Atlantique in the current administrative region "Bretagne ", Brittany having been the mother land for more than 1000 years!

Breton members of parliament at the National Assembly have also succeeded in passing an amendment on the 21st of December 2011, for the organization of a referendum through the five Breton departments, during the debate on popular referendums. The legislation has not yet been voted on that crucial issue, at the Senate, and now seems buried by the new government.

In recent years,

- More than four thousand elected Bretons, from the five departments, signed the Charter for reunification.
- To initiate the process of administrative reunification of Brittany, without any reaction of the central government, hundreds of town Councillors voted after debate, wishes for reunification.
- Luis Maria de Puig, during its presidency of the Council of Europe, stated the legitimacy of the reunification and supported it.
- UNESCO has been forced to repeatedly intervene towards the French government for the "Val de Loire" - classified as World Heritage- being no longer used for political purposes, by wrongly annexing within its scope, the Loire-Atlantique department!
- Mrs Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission, said, following the filing of a complaint by the Bretons through the Commission that she co-chairs, that she doesn't have the necessary tools to enforce breaches of French government against Bretons, while recognizing the existence of a Breton minority in France.

Conclusion:

Despite a strong popular will, and support by many local elected politics, during the last decades, the "reunification" of Brittany desperately doesn't succeed, because of some Nantes' elected leaders, durably blocking the file.

For Bretagne Réunie, this is really anti-democratic, even more than France likes to appear as the human rights homeland and Nantes would be, when listening to their representatives, a model for democracy.

Bretagne Réunie, therefore does wish to submit this "case study" to the forums participants, debates and roundtables at Eurocities Days, which will take place in Nantes from November, the 7th to the 10th, hoping they can clarify the definition of democracy, so that all citizens of our European cities can live more happily tomorrow.

Waiting to hear from you, or even better, to meet you during your stay in Nantes, will you please accept, Mr President, our sincere, and best Breton, French and European greetings.

President of Bretagne Réunie

Delegate to the European relations
and Member of the Institute Cultural de Bretagne

Jean-François LE BIHAN

Jean-Pierre LEVESQUE

Delegate to the Plate-forme de l'Agence
des Droits Fondamentaux de l'EU

Paul LORET

**** entre 2004 et 2009 - 9,5 millions d'euros en 2004 contre 25 millions d'euros en 2009 (selon une étude très détaillée réalisée par le groupe politique d'opposition régionale des Pays de Loire)***

IDENTITY OF THE ASSOCIATION "BRETAGNE RÉUNIE



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Brittany brings together 48 cultural associations, businesses, civil society actors and individual members (about 1100).

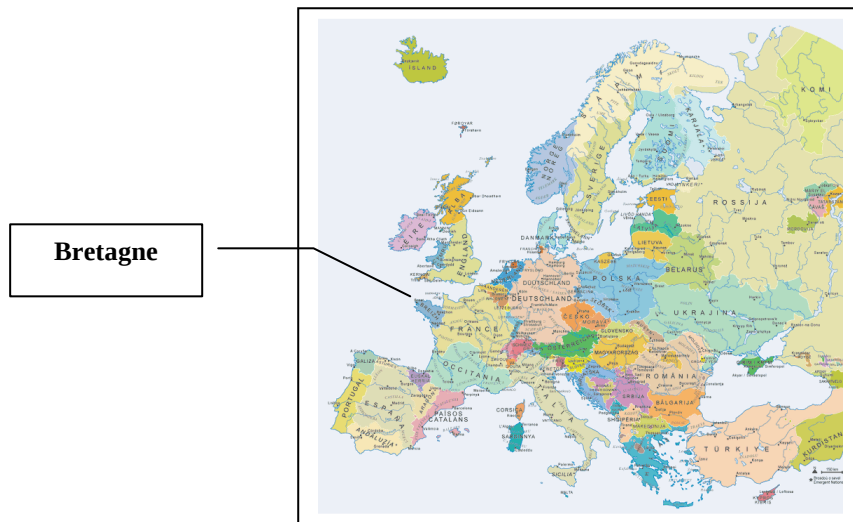
Social purpose (Art. n°1 of the bylaws): territorial recognition inside the region Brittany of the current departments of Côtes d'Armor, Finistère, Ille-et-Vilaine, Morbihan and Loire-Atlantique. Objective: reunification of Brittany by the return of the department of Loire-Atlantique" (département 44), within its former ancient mother region, current administrative "Région Bretagne"(Brittany) .

In September 2009, BRETAGNE RÉUNIE had been received at the Council of Europe, convened by Luis Maria de Puig, then President of the Parliamentary Assembly.

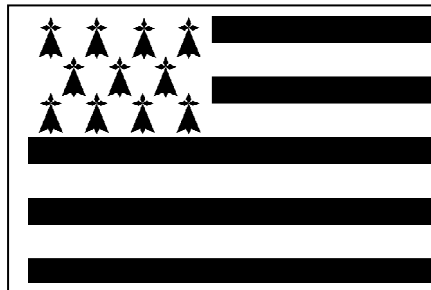


11 siècles d'histoire en bref...

La Bretagne à l'Ouest de l'Europe et de la France



Le Gwenn ha Du : drapeau de la Bretagne



Gwenn ha du est le nom donné au drapeau breton et signifie "Blanc et Noir". Il fut créé au siècle dernier.

Il est aujourd'hui reconnu par toutes les Bretonnes et tous les Bretons comme l'emblème fort de la Bretagne.

Il est utilisé aussi par les Bretons expatriés dans le monde comme signe de reconnaissance.

Les neuf bandes égales représentent **les 9 diocèses** de Bretagne :

- Les 4 blanches représentent ceux de Basse-Bretagne : Cornouaille, Léon, Trégor et Vannetais.
- Les 5 noires ceux de Haute-Bretagne, **Pays Nantais**, Rennais, de Saint-Brieuc, de Saint-Malo et de Dol.

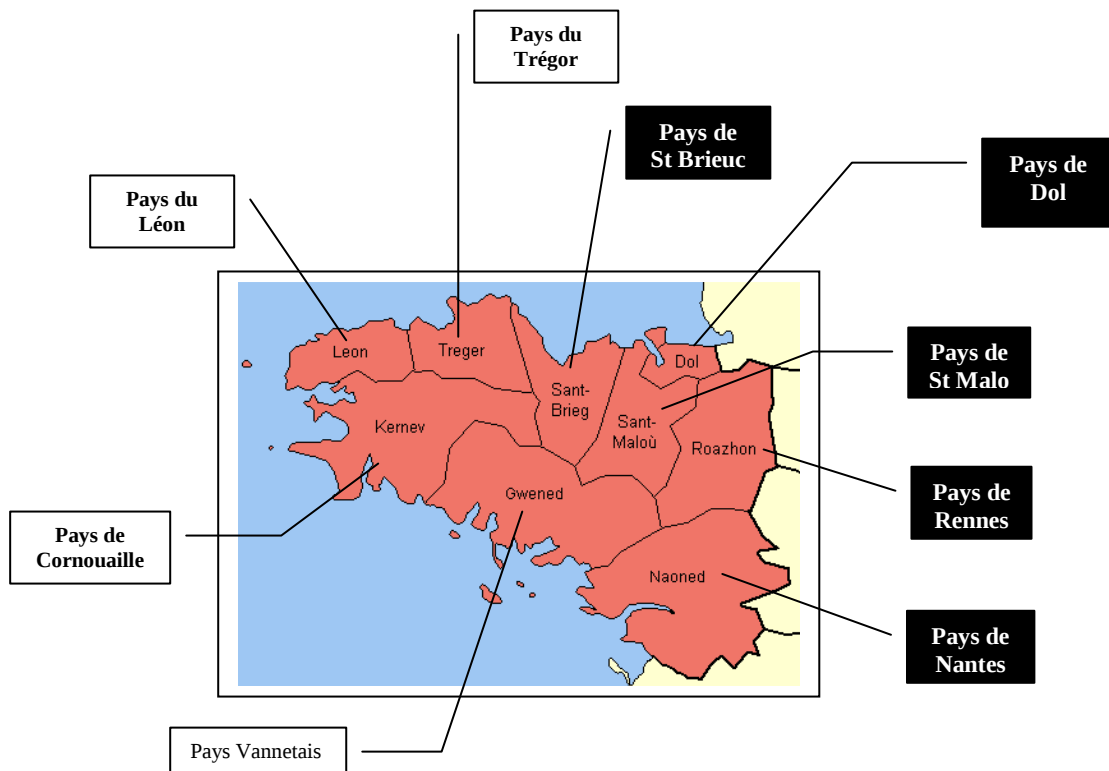
Le canton d'honneur est fait d'un champ d'hermines innombrables symbolisant le Duché de Bretagne, dont Nantes fut la « capitale ».

Ce champ est emprunté à l'étendard d'hermine plain créé en 1316 par le Duc Jean III de Bretagne.

Les 9 diocèses de Bretagne

Depuis le IX^{ème} siècle

Le territoire de la Bretagne se caractérise par une remarquable stabilité. Les frontières de la Bretagne se stabilisent vers l'an 850. D'abord un royaume sous Eripsoé, reconnu au traité d'Angers (851), elle devient ensuite un duché indépendant. Après le traité d'Union de 1532, la Bretagne devient, la *Généralité de Nantes* ou le *Gouvernement Général de Bretagne*. Les limites territoriales restent inchangées et le comté de Nantes en fera toujours partie sans aucune interruption.



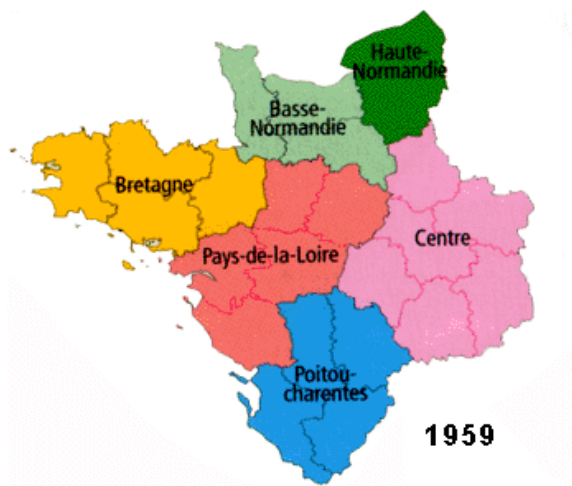
Les révolutionnaires transforment les 9 diocèses en 5 départements

Les révolutionnaires (1789) transforment les 9 diocèses (ou pays) en cinq départements - Côtes d'Armor, Finistère, Ile et Vilaine, Loire-Atlantique et Morbihan – et conservent les limites territoriales de la Bretagne dans son intégralité.



La partition

Le décret du 30 juin 1941, promulgué par le régime de Vichy, partitionne la Bretagne.



La Bretagne est amputée de la Loire-Atlantique, département le plus industrialisé de Bretagne. Ainsi, la Bretagne est affaiblie économiquement.

Le 20 septembre 2008, à Nantes, 10000 personnes manifestent pour défendre la réunification et la diversité culturelle.



Les 2 télévisions locales nantaises financées par la ville de Nantes dont le maire était Monsieur Jean-Marc AYRAULT et Nantes-Métropole dont le Président est Monsieur Jean-Marc AYRAULT, ne diffusent aucune image et aucun commentaire sur l'évènement.