



INTERCAMBIO CULTURAL EUROPEO, S.L

## SEGUNDO EJERCICIO EXAMEN DE INGLÉS: TRADUCCIÓN DIRECTA

Everybody always claims victory after European Union summits. Often, this is a transparent fib. But this time, ~~pretty much~~ all those who attended the summit in Brussels walked away with what they wanted (or at least what they said they wanted). That should have made them happy, but didn't. Instead the meeting, intended to draft a replacement for the ill-fated EU constitution, was a strikingly bad-tempered affair.

There are several explanations for this sourness. But the most interesting may be that, although each of three competing camps came away from the summit declaring that they had won, their victories exposed how differently the 27 EU members now see their relationship with Europe.

The first and biggest camp took in the 22 countries that arrived hoping to resurrect the constitution two years after it was stopped by No votes in France and the Netherlands. In broad terms, they succeeded. They had to chop the defunct constitution up and rename its most contentious elements, like a planned "foreign minister". But in the relieved words of the Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, "90% of it is still there."

The second camp had a single country: Poland. The twin Kaczynski brothers who are Polish president and prime minister fought hard (at one point even arguing that Poland should be treated as a bigger country, because so many Poles died in the second world war). They made few friends, but won one huge concession. The Germans, hosting the summit as holder of the EU's rotating presidency, agreed to preserve for another decade the existing voting rules, which favour Poland and underweight Germany. This gift secured the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, the successful outcome that she wanted.

The third camp, comprising naysayers to the constitution, needed visible changes to the text, either because their voters had rejected it (the Dutch and French) or because they probably would have done if asked (the British and Czechs). France's president, Nicolas Sarkozy, became a sort of co-host of the summit, working with Ms Merkel to win others round to his vision of a boiled-down, simplified treaty. But Mr Sarkozy exacted a price for his help. Whereas Ms Merkel ~~toiled away~~ in the shadows, Mr Sarkozy invited press photographers to see him meet a string of leaders, then went for a jog wearing mirror-finish sunglasses and a black T-shirt with the badge of France's toughest police commando unit.

The Economist. June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Charlemagne. Treaty Blues.

