

EU の日本語表記としての「欧州連合」の
使用停止と「欧州同盟」への変更を求める
「欧州議会からの書面質問書」と
「欧州委員会からの答弁書」、及び
表記問題に関する R・コルベツト
欧州社会党事務総長代理からの書簡とその経緯

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解 題

以下は、European Union という国際組織の日本語表記である「欧州連合」の使用停止を求める欧州議会からの書面質問書、および欧州委員会駐日代表部の答弁書、そしてその公文書が出されるに当たって関連して出された書簡とその背景説明である。

殆ど知られていないが、EU の日本語表記としての「欧州連合」については、EU の民主主義を体現する欧州議会の当時、最大政党であった欧州社会党から使用停止と「欧州同盟」への変更を求める公式質問書が出ている。以下は、その実際の内容である。

資料については、2つの種類からなる。その第1は、グリーン・フォード議員（欧州社会党）から欧州委員会宛で提出された公式書面質問書 Written Question E-0138/96 by Glyn Ford (PSE) to the Commission である。

またそれに対する欧州委員会を代表して対日担当レオン・ブリタン委員の名で出された答弁書 Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan on behalf of the Commission (22 February 1996) の2点である。これらはここでは資料1と資料2とする。

書面質問書とは、欧州委員会を含め、他の機関に対し民主的監督を行うために規定された欧州議会のきわめて重要な機能の1つである。これは、欧州石炭鉄鋼共同体創設の直後から制度化され、国内法になぞらえれば憲法付属の法律である国会法ともいふべき「欧州議会議院規則」(Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament)¹に基づく、公的な行為である。それは、同規則、第6章他機関との関係、第42条（口頭による応答を求める質疑）および44条（書面によ

る応答を求める質疑)において規定された重要な権限である。

第2は、欧州議会の最大政党であった欧州社会党からの公式書面質問書が出される経緯の一端を記した R・コルベット欧州社会党事務総長代理からの書簡であり、資料3とする。

欧州議会からの「欧州連合」の表記の使用停止に関する質問書提出の経緯

筆者は、EU が Treaty of the European Union (俗称マーストリヒト条約) により創設される欧州統合組織がいかなる性格を持つ政治組織であるのかについて注目し、いくつかの論文において、代表部が採用した日本語表記の問題点について論及してきた。そして、この国際統合組織の重要性に鑑み、マーストリヒト条約で導入された法案発議請求権の研究のため筆者が行った欧州議会第4総局(日本の国会になぞらえて、あえて言えば、衆参の法制局)での取材時に、欧州社会党事務総長代理のリチャード・コルベット (Richard Corbett) 氏と接触し、1995年9月19日にこの問題を口頭及び書面で指摘した。その後、この質問状がグリーン・フォード議員から提出されることになる労をとっていただいた。資料3がその経緯の一端を示すものである。

書き手はコルベット氏ご本人で、同氏から私宛の手紙となっている。赤いバラのついた欧州社会党の公用封筒と便箋に書かれた、この書簡は、この間の事情についての補足的資料として、今回、リチャード・コルベット議員ご自身の許可を得て、公開するものである。

R・コルベット氏は、EU を創設することになる欧州同盟条約 (マーストリヒト条約) 形成に際してはタスク・フォースとして、欧州議会の側から、欧州社会党の高級幹部として直接関わられた。その後ご自身がイギリス労働党から欧州社会党の議席を確保すべくイギリス選挙区より立候補し、当選され、2002年現在、欧州議会の憲法問題委員会に所属し、EU の更なる民主化に努められている。彼は、欧州議会についての精通された知識と経験を背景に、マーストリヒト条約の形成史について *The Treaty of Maastricht : from conception to ratification a comprehensive reference guide*. Longman 1993 . を執筆された。その後も *The European Parliament's Role in Closer EU Integration* Palgrave 1998 を刊行され、欧州議会研究の第一人者としても、また自らが欧州社会党所属議員として、議院の場において積極的に欧州統合の民主化の問題に発言されている。この人を知らないと、欧州議会研究においてはもとより、EU 研究では素人というべき人である。

1995年9月の面会当時は、不完全な英文草案を用意していただけであったが、その後、私の用語問題に関する見解は A Critical Analysis of the Phrase, " Oushu Rengou " to Indicate the European Union in Japan and the Political Nature of the EU. *Junshin Journal of Human Studies*, No. 2. February 1996 . 『純心人文研究』第2号長崎純心大学刊1996年として刊行し、コルベット氏にも送った²。それが資料3の中にある article ということの意味である。

その合計3つからなる内容についていえば、第1のものは、欧州委員会駐日代表部が使用し、その使用をメディアにおいても公式のものとして使用を促している日本語表記である「欧州連合」の使用停止と、「欧州同盟」への変更を求めるといった内容となっている。

またこの書面質問書に対する答弁書は、これにたいして、欧州委員会がいかなる理由でこの表記を採用したかを一応説明するものとなっている。

「欧州連合」については代表部によって強制的、一方的に「定着」させられているが、10年を経たいまでも、この用語を誤訳の典型として、学術的研究では採用せず、欧州同盟を使用する実証的な学者や研究集団が後を立たない。また後日、日本のEU研究者の中に、この表記がいかなる理由で採用されるに至った経緯について、学問的な考察をする研究者も出てくるものと期待されるが、そのときに備えて、その資料を整理して、残しておく必要を感じ、ここに欧州議会からの書簡が出る契機ともなった当事者の一人として、私が関知した部分において、掲載する。

上記の表記問題については、英語論文から6年を経て、『『欧州連合』という日本語表記問題再訪 EU研究における言葉と認識の問題』を本誌に併せて掲載している。参照していただければ幸いである。なお、フェデラルトラスト理事で、筆者が学んだ欧州大学院大学(College of Europe)客員教授のJohn Pinder教授に英語論文と答弁書のコピーを送付した。同教授からは折り返し1997年7月8日付筆者宛で礼状を頂いた。その中でこの答弁書のコピーについては、以下コメントされていることを記しておきたい。

“ Thank you for your interesting articles, and for the copy of Leon Britain’s rejoinder. It’s interesting that he attributes confusions to the relationship between Japanese language and Chinese calligraphy, particularly as we British believe that Confucius said that the first step towards getting actions right was to get words right. ”

注

- 1 児玉昌己・山本 直訳「欧州議会議院規則」『同志社大学ワールドワイドビジネスレビュー』2巻2号、および3巻1号2001年。
- 2 この論文はベルギーから4カ国で発刊されEU情報についてもっとも精度が高く、研究者から広くレファレンスされるAgence Europe紙でも取り上げていただいた。仏語版では表記の問題はまさに私が主張したかった欧州統合のespritの問題であり、「認識の混乱の種をまく」ものと正しく要約されている。仏語原文は、La conclusion est que l’expression utilisée sème la confusion dans les esprits. Agence Europe. 6700/266–21/22 April 1996.

資料 1 グリン・フォード議員（欧州社会党）からの書面質問書（後出分がオリジナル）

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0138/96
 by Glyn Ford (PSE)
 to the Commission

Subject : Japanese translation of the term 'European Union'

Can the Commission confirm that its information office in Tokyo is using the expression 'Oushu Rengou' as the Japanese equivalent of 'European Union' and that this term has, as a consequence, been taken up by the Japanese press?

Is the Commission aware that the term 'Rengou' means 'Association' and not 'Union'? Is the Commission aware that 'Oushu Doumei' would be a more appropriate term and that this has been used in the only Japanese translation of the Treaty of Maastricht (published by the semi-governmental organization JETRO under the supervision of Pr. Kanamaru, former President of the Japan Association of EC Studies? Is the Commission aware that the term 'Rengou' causes conceptual confusion in the Japanese media, when reporting, for instance, on the association agreements signed by the EU with Central and Eastern European countries, it being difficult to explain how an 'association' has association agreements with associates who are not members of the association?

Will the Commission instruct its Tokyo office to use the correct term 'Oushu Doumei' and cease to use the inappropriate and confusing term 'Oushu Rengou'?

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資料2 欧州委員会を代表してレオン・ブリタン卿からの答弁書（後出分がオリジナル）

Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan
on behalf of the Commission
(22 February 1996)

When the need arises for the translation of a new, hitherto unknown, expression into Japanese, the Commission and in particular its delegation in Japan undertake the necessary checks and consultation of language experts in order to ensure that the proposed translation suits the required purpose.

The Kenkyûsha dictionary (Japanese-English) (standard reference dictionary used for translation of modern, in particular official Japanese) lists the following entries :

rengô (連合) = combination, union, incorporation, league confederacy
dômei (同盟) = alliance, league, union confederacy

The Kenkyûsha dictionary (English-Japanese) gives as translations for the following expressions :

Union 結合 (ketsugô), 連合 (rengô)
United Kingdom : 連合王国 (rengô ôkoku)
United Nations : 国際連合 , 国連 (kokusai rengô, kokuren)

The translation of English (or other European language) expressions in Japanese is often difficult and can not be undertaken solely on the basis of an equivalent expression.

The above examples can only give an indication of what a proper translation of the word Union would be in Japanese.

Two essential problems can be distinguished :

- a. Foreign official terms, when translated into Japanese, are in fact translated into Sino-Japanese expressions, i.e. combinations of characters. These characters are, as the expression Sino-Japanese shows, of Chinese origin. Even when the dictionary entry for a given Japanese word, such as dômei, is translated as union at first, the character combination used may not necessarily carry the same association as the word union does in English.

A particular side-effect of this is that the meaning of a given Japanese word may not cover exactly the same ground as the English word used for its translation. For instance, rengô can be used to translate association in association agreement, but it can not be used to translate association as in shopkeepers' association. The correct word in this case would be rengôkai (連合会)

- b. Expression, such as are created in the Community to give a name to new European (as opposed to national) institutions, are by definition new also in the Community e.g. European Commission. This has taken on a meaning of its own, and is now associated with " bureaucracy, large administration, etc ." This is quite different from the meaning associated with " parliamentary commission ", based on the traditional meaning. Similarly, in Japanese, the words used to translate European Commission (ôshû iinkai , 欧州委員会) are not self-explanatory, but must be explained and understood as an expression 'sui generis'.

The translator of 'Europeak' expressions into Japanese is therefore faced not only with the difficulty mentioned under a., but also with the necessity to invent a new Japanese (or Sino-Japanese) expression that is as close as possible to the intended meaning of the European words.

The Japanese expressions *rengô* and *dômei* can both be translated as union. Due to the characters used, *rengô* implies something more akin to a group of peers who each retain a measure of independence, similar to the Community and its Member States. *Dômei*, however, is a word used regularly in expressions with the meaning of alliance, in particular military alliances or allied forces. For this reason, and based on the above explanations, the Commission is of the opinion that the expression *ôshû rengô* is better suited to translate the word European Union than *ôshû dômei* would be.

The Japanese translation of association agreement is indeed *rengô kyôtei* (連合協定). This expression (which is correct) has been used for more or less 20 years, and it would therefore not make sense to modify it at this stage. The confusion to which the Honourable Member refers is in fact the confusion between the words Treaty of the Union (*rengô jôyaku*) and association agreement (*rengô kyôtei*). It should be added, though, that as in Europe, the Treaty of the Union is often referred to in Japan as the Maastricht Treaty (*Mâsutorihito jôyaku* (マーストリヒト条約)).

The press and information office of the Commission in Tokyo undertakes, as part of its general work to spread information about the Community in Japan, all necessary efforts to clarify such potential misunderstandings.

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資料 3 R・コルベット欧州社会党事務総長代理からの筆者宛書簡（後出分がオリジナル）

Brussels, 7 March 1996
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Mr. Masami KODAMA
Mitsuyama 235
Nagasaki
Japan

Dear Professor KODAMA,

Thank you very much of your letter of 24 February 1996 and the enclosed article.

By coincidence, I had just received a copy of the response by the Commission to a parliamentary question on the subject of the Japanese translation of the term "European Union", which I enclose. I had prepared this question following your visit last autumn and Glyn FORD, M. E. P., a member of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with Japan, kindly agreed to sign it and table it.

I shall now suggest to him that he forwards a copy of your article to the Commissioner responsible, Sir Leon BRITTAN, in order to press for further action.

I also enclose copies of the two documents which you requested.

Thank you very much for the picture.

Yours sincerely,

Richard CORBETT



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FRAKTION DER SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHEN PARTEI EUROPAS • GRUPO PARLAMENTARIO DEL PARTIDO DE LOS SOCIALISTAS EUROPEOS
GRUPPO PARLAMENTARE DEL PARTITO DEL SOCIALISMO EUROPEO • FRACTIE VAN DE PARTIJ VAN DE EUROPESE SOCIAALDEMOCRATEN
EUROOPAN SOSIALIDEMOKRAATISEN PUOLUEEN PARLAMENTTIRYHMÄ • DE EUROPEISKA SOCIALDEMOKRATERNAS PARLAMENTSGRUPP
GRUPO PARLAMENTAR DO PARTIDO SOCIALISTA EUROPEU • DE EUROPEISKE SOCIALDEMOKRATERS GRUPPE
KOINOBOLAETIKH OMAAA TOY EPYQHTAIKOU ΣΟCΙΑΛΙΣΤΙΚΟΥ ΚΟΜΜΑΤΟΣ

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Yours sincerely, - Jo Keen in touch!

Richard Corbett

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