

## 29.10.2015 Charter and regional elections

The symbolic power of the granitula in the service of the fight for language: the activists who organised the event on Saturday 24 October in Aiacciu as part of the joint day with Basques, Bretons, Occitans and Alsatians have found the perfect way to express here in Corsica the unbelievable energy that this fight demands and will continue to demand. Without the political victory of Corsican nationalism it will be lost in the short term, and, in the event of attaining power, it will certainly be far from easy to achieve!

The annual procession of A Santa di u Niolu under the patronage of the Virgin Mary represents a human chain which draws from its core the strength to redeploy, as symbolised by the helix of a snail. Such is the struggle for language: a reaching into the heart of one's identity in order to redeploy it throughout social space. The will is there, but the tools are absent, and every promised advance is routinely challenged.

The 56th promise made by François Hollande when he was a candidate, the undertaking to ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, is unlikely to be fulfilled. This week the Senate will debate a draft government law which takes up the law proposal approved in January 2014 by the Chamber of Deputies by a very large majority, well above the 3/5th required by the Constitution. But, meanwhile, the Senate has switched sides, and today's majority on the right will probably vote for the indefinite postponement of the debate, with the relieved complicity of a large number of senators in the other camp. This simple petty-political manoeuvre is all that will be required to block the moves begun, and for a long time to come France will remain one of the only European countries to refuse any formal rights to the language communities that want to uphold their language and their culture.

Because what is at stake in the charter is the fact that, once ratified, it creates an area of law for these language communities in the French constitutional framework. This was certainly understood by the Council of State, which issued a fiercely hostile opinion on the constitutional law drafted by Christiane Taubira. In this opinion, it states that the adoption of the constitutional amendment proposed in order to ratify the European Charter would create, whatever its interpretive declaration, a "legal uncertainty" for those upholding the indivisibility of the Republic. And that's exactly what interests us! With all due respect to the purists who would prefer the status quo to an admittedly convoluted text but which opens a breach in the Jacobin wall erected by the French Constitution, Until when will it be postponed? Probably indefinitely, unless we can remobilise and vanquish the inertia which is leading to the disappearance of our languages and our cultures.

The Charter is not the only means, but it is one of them, and we should not give up our efforts to see it ratified. For the immediate future, during the regional elections, we must take action against the right which is manoeuvring, the far right which is even more hostile, and the left which is continually changing track. A nationalist vote is the sole response.

This response can be given in Corsica, in Brittany, in Alsace, as in Occitania.

A strong vote for the Troadec list in Brittany, a strong vote for Unserland in Alsace where the new administrative breakdown has unleashed a genuine revolt, the hoped-for victory for the environmental list of Gérard Onesta in Occitania, and, of course, a new overall increase in the nationalist vote in Corsica: these are the best responses for 'saving' the Taubira draft law and achieving ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages before the end of François Hollande's current term of office.

Vote nationalist next December as a vote for the public safety of language and culture!