



Solidarity for Ukraine – issue 28- Odes to joy

IN THIS ISSUE

Unhappy passions

Bad joy in Russia

Anxious joy in Ukraine

Ode to joy

Useful contacts

The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) is associated to the international solidarity for Ukraine attacked by Russia on 24th February 2022. After a pandemic that has weakened democratic countries with the disturbing rise of conspiracy theories and hate speech on social networks, we do hope this war in Europe will be an opportunity to reflect on a new solidarity, among European and international allies. This issue is the 6th one for 2024 and the 28th since the beginning of the war in Ukraine.. The European Parliament elections will take place from the 6th to the 9th of June 2024. The results will be a test. The most virulent Eurosceptics, supporters of Russia, should massively enter the parliament ; the defenders of Europe and democracy, defending Ukraine, are preparing for an existential struggle.

In a first point, we will evoke the ambiguous emotions aroused by the elections in Europe and in the world: between joy and sadness. In a second point, we will mention the bad joy of the pro-Russian clan in case of victory of its supporters supported by offshore money and mafia practices. In a third point, we will analyze the mixed joy of anguish in the pro-Ukrainian clan where the fight against corruption is a major issue. In conclusion, we will recall the formidable utopia that constituted the European construction after the Second World War. In 2024, we fervently hope that the Ode to joy can resonate with lightness and relief throughout Europe and in the European Parliament. Uncertain times are opening for Europeans and democracy in the world to fight the bad joy (*Schlechte Freude*) of autocrats.

- 1- Unhappy passions in Europe and worldwide
- 2- Bad joy in Russia
- 3- Anxious joy in Ukraine
- 4- Ode to joy

* the logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

Unhappy passions in Europe and worldwide

The French Lacanian psychoanalyst, Jacques Alain Miller (1) recalls the different ways in which European humanists have defined joy by what it is or what it is not, between emotion and passion. For German philosopher Kant, “the blissful phlegm (.../...) is that quality which allows the courageous man not to lose, under the effect of emotions, the calm of his reflection”. French philosopher Descartes distinguishes six primitive passions: admiration, love, hatred, desire, joy and sadness. For French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan, sadness is opposed, not to joy (cartesian approach), but to gay knowledge (*gay savoir*), like bliss to boredom, or happiness to bad humor. He speaks of “that moral cowardice that is sadness” that can go as far as psychosis. He likens an analyst not to a sage “who masters his passions”, but to a saint who can be “besieged by the passions he arouses” and whose enthusiasm is an engine of action. For Dutch philosopher with Portuguese origins Spinoza, joy «accompanies the idea of God as a cause». Enthusiasm is «chance of gay knowledge», and not «beatitude which is an affect» and belongs to the register of knowledge (1). Romanian writer Cioran writes «*I dream of an ideal confessor to whom to tell everything, to confess everything, I dream of a blasé saint*». (2)

Sad passions and negative emotions may be unleashed in Europe, and in the World in 2024. French newspapers “Le Monde” (3) and American newspaper New York Times (4) have underlined that half of the world’s population is called to the polls in 2024. “Multiple elections (presidential, legislative, regional, municipal) will be held in 68 countries. Among them are the United States, Brazil, Mexico, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Russia, eight of the ten most populous states in the world” (3). Holding an election does not guarantee a free and fair electoral process. In authoritarian countries, elections are played in advance, for example in Russia or Iran or Pakistan or India. Darrell M. West, Brookings Institution researcher (4) points to the high risk of foreign influence campaigns. Artificial intelligence has overloaded disinformation efforts and distorted perceptions of reality. Misinformation will reach new heights. In March 2024, the European Commission published guidelines to combat the information war waged by Russia and its allies (5). It can affect the election results in the United States in November and in the European Parliament in June. On both sides of the Atlantic, there is a rise of populism based on white supremacy (racist, sexist and openly hateful) carried by the most radicalized fringes of Donald Trump supporters or far-right, Europhobic parties in Europe.

Negative emotions or passions (fear, anxiety, and hatred) are at their highest. For Kant, quoted by J-A Miller (1), emotion “has a short memory”, while “passion is enduring, it gives itself time and thought to achieve its goal” – what will be the fate of democracy in 2024?

Bad joy (*schlechte Freude*) in the pro-Russia camp

Let's consider the ideal scenario for Russia- Donald Trump wins the elections in the United States and the European elections in June see the massive arrival of Europhobes and Eurosceptics of all kinds. The scenarios were considered as early as January 2024 with the launch of electoral campaigns in Europe and America. Corruption of European leaders, like that of the American candidate Donald Trump, is the Achilles heel of autocrats.

In an article published on January 8, 2024 (6), two economists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), recalled the major threat facing democracies and strengthening authoritarian regimes: “underground offshore money (which makes it easier to support candidates, manipulate public opinion and persuade people to vote for a dictator.” They add that “The black money of the Russian oligarchs has long been a pillar of the country’s economy and political system. President Vladimir Putin’s close relationship with the sources of black money is well documented.” The first opponent of Russian President Alexander Navalny was the most virulent to denounce the kleptocracy of the Russian regime; he illustrated the colossal wealth of Vladimir Putin, unknown to the Russian population. Another important ally, China, has developed the same forms of financing. MIT economists write, “Less well known are the secret deals conducted by Beijing, which allowed the Chinese government to build a vast network of global influence. We are just beginning to realize the dependence of some low-income countries, particularly in Africa, on various entities supported by China.” They add «the Chinese Communist Party according to American newspaper *Wall Street Journal* «invested billions of dollars» in global disinformation around the world, including campaigns to influence the US elections». The Chinese threat to Taiwan, a rebel democracy supported by the United States, is highest in 2024.

An economic journalist from French newspaper *Le Monde* was considering on January 8th of 2024 (7) the consequences of Donald Trump’s election on the economy «Economically, his victory would once again be under the sign of the trade war». It evokes the nickname of the former American president «Tariff man 2». Its main proposal would be to impose 100% tariffs on all products imported into the United States. Officially to reduce the colossal trade deficit. Contrary to apparent evidence, “the customs bill is not paid by China but by the American consumer.” Pro-Russian supporters are also under investigation for embezzlement and corruption. In Europe, we can cite the examples of Victor Orban in Hungary, Robert Fico in Slovakia, or Marine Le Pen in France (her party took out a loan from a Russian bank). In the United States, the House of Representatives revealed in January 2024 that Donald Trump had received at least \$7.8 million from foreign entities while in power (8). His many trials (that he continuously loses) and the financial crisis he is faced to may be a much bigger incentive for being even more corrupted in the future as he urgently needs money.

The best way to counter the «bad joy» of the pro-Russian clan is therefore to actively fight against the tax havens that exist in Europe, America and the world.

Anxious joy in the pro-Ukraine camp

Let's look at the most optimistic scenario for Ukraine – the European elections are won by democratic parties in June 2024 and the democratic camp is victorious in the United States in November 2024 with Joe Biden elected for a second time. In Europe as in Ukraine, greater transparency and the fight against corruption go hand in hand.

The European institutions suffer from a major lack of knowledge in Europe. The European Parliament has no equivalent weight to the national parliaments. The European Council, which brings together the heads of state and government of European countries, combines both executive power (it gives its roadmap to the European Commission whose members are appointed by the various governments) and legislative power (by initiating directives, the European laws). The European Parliament has a formidable weapon-it can oppose the appointment of Commissioners and the President of the Commission. It may also dissolve or force the European Commission to resign following a malfunction (9). The European Parliament finally has an influence on European public opinion – members of Parliament are working together with their colleagues on issues that affect the future of Europeans; they inform their fellow citizens about what Europe has done concretely to improve living and working conditions ; and finally alert them to thorny issues by feeding a necessary critical reflection (climate issue, threat from lobbies, etc.). Active citizenship is a major theme. European members of Parliament (as all MPs) must be above reproach- the Qatargate affair at the end of 2022 (10) gave a corrupt image of some MEPs. To the classic reproach that the European construction would be an undemocratic technocratic machine, is added the recurring theme of corruption of the elites, a main ferment of populism.

President Volodymyr Zelensky visited the European Parliament for the first time in Brussels on 9 February 2023 during an extraordinary plenary session (11). In a solemn speech, he thanked the European Union for its help since the beginning of the conflict. Addressing Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in the Chamber, he reaffirmed Ukraine's desire to "win its membership in a winning Europe" because "We have a common history, it is that of Europe, we are Europeans". His approach was successful -in November 2023, the accession process was officially signed. The biggest obstacle remains the corruption of Ukrainian leaders and institutions. It continued to plague during the conflict with war profiteers who were unmasked, ministers including the Minister of Defense had to resign and the fight continues in 2024 with the dismissal of other officials (12).

The war waged by Ukraine has two fronts - an external one against Russia and an internal one against endemic corruption among people in a position of responsibility. Bad habits, unpunished under the Soviet era, have been established that undermine the morale of Ukrainian troops as much as the massive misinformation of the Russian clan and its allies since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022..

Ode to joy

On January the 5th, 2024, in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, President Joe Biden gave a noticeable kick-off to the election campaign three years after the January 2021 Capitol assault that rocked the first western democracy (13). The Democratic President presented the November election as a test of survival for democracy (14). The alternative is «the continuation of the democratic regime in the United States or political chaos». He personally attacked Donald Trump who “tries to steal history the same way he tried to steal the election.” He adds, “Donald Trump’s campaign is about him, not America, not you.”

In 1993, French political scientist Dominique Wolton (15) mentioned three challenges for Europe. A first one is historic. The political and cultural tools were conceived in the framework of nation states while Europe is «a community of nations». The leap is «qualitative between the history of democracy, within nation states and its emergence today almost *sui generis*, at the European level. And on an unprecedented scale in the world.” A second challenge is “a lack of experience.” Most European citizens do not see themselves as such. Political European construction preceded collective experience. A third challenge is “technocratic practices”. The project built and conceived in the 1950s by a group of visionary idealists, traumatized by the World War II (WWII) must be modernized. The «modernist and universalist technocratic model» has put the question of identity at the heart of the debates. For pessimists, the lack of European identity is a real threat; optimists believe that innovation and creativity can overcome identity hatred.

The European Union has strong symbols. It enabled a French woman, Simone Veil (16), to be the first President of the European Parliament in 1979, in its first elections by universal suffrage. Her competences, her political struggle and her personal history (she survived the Holocaust) are very symbolic of the importance of European construction after the World War II (WWII). Another great French figure, Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission (1985-1995), had three ideas: a common currency, a common defense, the democratization of the institutions (17). It will achieve only one: the common area without borders, the free movement of goods and people. The economy succeeded when politics was held back, the same approach that guided the founding fathers (18) with a gear strategy: each decision made calls for another which makes it impossible to go back (ratchet effect). A common European defense has returned to the forefront.

Europe is symbolized by a music, “Ode to joy” (19), which became a European anthem in 1985. It rang out during the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and each time a new member country enters the EU. It was played on 1st of July 2018 when Simone Veil entered French Pantheon making the link between a nation state (France) and a Community of Nations (the EU)- both facets of the identity of any European in 2024. Joy was true and sincere, not the bad joy of the Europhobes. For the European elections of June - "May our (European) joy remain!" (20)..

- (1) Jacques-Alain Miller, « Les affects dans l'expérience analytique », *La Cause du Désir*, 2016/2 (N° 93), p. 98-111. DOI : 10.3917/lcdd.093.0098. URL : <https://www.cairn.info/revue-la-cause-du-desir-2016-2-page-98.htm>
- (2) E.M Cioran (1973) « De l'inconvénient d'être né », Paris : Idées Gallimard
- (3) Marie Jégo « 2024, une année électorale record », *Le Monde*, 7 & 8 janvier 2024
- (4) Tiffany Hsu, Stuart A. Thompson and Steven Lee Myers, "Elections and Disinformation Are Colliding Like Never Before in 2024", *New York Times*, 8 janvier 2024- <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/09/business/media/election-disinformation-2024.html?smid=em-share>
- (5) Guidelines published on 26 March 2024 by the European Commission under the Digital Services Regulation (*Digital Services Act - DSA*). - https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/ip_24_1707
- (6) Daron Acemoglu et Simon Johnson « Cet argent offshore clandestin qui corrompt la démocratie », *Le Monde*, Idées, 9 janvier 2024
- (7) Stéphane Lauer « Le retour de Trump et du protectionnisme », *Le Monde*, mardi 9 janvier 2024
- (8) Luke Broadwater « Trump Received Millions From Foreign Governments as President, Report Finds », *New York Times*, 4 janvier 2024
- (9) the Santer Commission resigns on 15 March 1999 before a motion of censure.
- (10) Les institutions européennes face à la corruption- Entretien avec Stephan Lamby- Arte, 18/03/2024- France - <https://www.arte.tv/fr/videos/118926-001-A/les-institutions-europeennes-face-a-la-corruption/>
- (11) Toute l'Europe , 9 février 2023- <https://www.toutteleurope.eu/l-ue-dans-le-monde/apres-un-deplacement-a-londres-et-a-paris-volodymyr-zelensky-se-rend-pour-la-premiere-fois-au-parlement-europeen-a-bruxelles/>
- (12) Guillaume Ptak « L'Ukraine poursuit sa lutte anti-corruption », *Les Echos*, 21 septembre 2023 <https://www.lesechos.fr/monde/europe/lukraine-poursuit-sa-lutte-contre-la-corruption-1980488>
- (13) Piotr Smolar « Aux Etats Unis, l'affrontement Biden-Trump s'installe », *Le Monde*, 9 Janvier 2024
- (14) Editorial publié dans *Le Monde*, dimanche 7 & Lundi 8 janvier 2024
- (15) Dominique Wolton (1993), « La dernière utopie », Paris : Flammarion
- (16) « 1927- 2017, C'était Simone Veil »- <https://www.gouvernement.fr/1927-2017-c-etait-simone-veil>
- (17) Françoise Fressoz « La mort de Jacques Delors, un grand d'Europe », *Le Monde* ; 27 décembre 2023
- (18) French leaders Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman, the German leader Konrad Adenauer, Italian leader Alcide De Gasperi, Luxembourger leader Joseph Bech, Dutch leader Johan Willem Beyen and Belgian leader Paul-Henri Spaak.
- (19) Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1823, « Symphonie n° 9 » « *O Freunde, nicht diese Töne !* »- Fonal choir inspired by Schiller « Ode to joy » - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=8nGhHL6Dhok>
- (20) Jean Sebastian Bach (1723) "*Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben*", BWV 147 (« Que ma joie demeure »- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=SdFBAmuarZ8>

Newsletter written on Tuesday 9 January 2024 and updated on 9 April 2024

Useful contacts

We mean to share the following contacts

- 1- National Union of Journalists of Ukraine- [HTTPS://NUJU.ORG.UA/](https://NUJU.ORG.UA/)
- 2- Ukrainian Parish of Saint Volodymyr –Paris – paroisse.st.volodymyr@gmail.com
- 3- Catholic Mission of the Polish Church in France also suggests the following link:<https://mission-catholique-polonaise.pl/polska-we-francji/pere-brzys-la-mcp-lance-une-initiative-nationale-pour-aider-lukraine/>

A list of associations & ONG - **Source** : <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15542>

Support Ukraine – <https://www.supportukraine.co/>

Croix-Rouge Française - **Croix-Rouge française** Redcross - <https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE>

Médecins sans frontières - emergency funds in countries bordering Ukraine and seeking to bring in medical equipment and personnel. - <https://soutenir.msf.fr/faire-un-don/~mon-don>

Secours populaire – a call for support .- <https://don.secourspopulaire.fr/ukraine/~mon-don>

Protection civile - un appel aux dons pour financer d'autres besoins (défibrillateurs, respirateurs, groupes électrogènes, etc.) : <https://don.protection-civile.org/soutenir>

Fondation de France - lance un [appel à la générosité](#) pour soutenir les centaines de milliers de personnes affectées par le conflit en Pologne et en Roumanie - - <https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainsiens/~mon-don?>

Agence des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés - situation d'urgence de niveau 3 pour la crise en Ukraine, le plus élevé.: <https://donner.unhcr.org/fr/fr-fr/urgence-ukraine? cv=1>

Unicef - un besoin urgent de financement pour répondre aux besoins essentiels des enfants Pour faire un [don sur le site Unicef.fr](#) - <https://don.unicef.fr/b/mon-don?cid=322& cv=1>

ONG Care International - un [formulaire en ligne de dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine](#) pour apporter une aide d'urgence aux populations et aux réfugiés - .- <https://soutenir.carefrance.org/>

L'ONG française ACTED organise des convois humanitaires pour l'Ukraine

association Solidarités International –pour envoyer des convois de vivres et biens de première nécessité, distribuer de l'eau et des repas aux réfugiés - <https://dons.solidarites.org/b/mon-don?cid=880& cv=1>

Plan International, pour apporter aide matérielle et psychosociale aux jeunes ukrainiens et à leur famille, et [sollicite des dons](https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don) pour ce faire.- <https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don>

L'Aide médicale et caritative France-Ukraine - envoi de convois d'aide humanitaire, des soins aux blessés, des échanges de savoir-faire médical, une aide psychologique et organise des colonies de vacances pour les enfants orphelins - [HelloAsso](https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don) - <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don>

Le Comité d'aide médicale Ukraine - réfugiés en transit dans l'ouest du pays, et collecte fonds, médicaments et équipements pour l'hébergement et les soins via ses partenaires français, l'association SAFE et l'organisation FONDEMOS. - <http://www.cam-z.org/en/news/121/>

JeVeuxAider.gouv.fr est la plateforme publique du bénévolat, - une page dédiée [Mobilisons-nous pour l'Ukraine](https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/) .- <https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/>

Les Banques alimentaires - une [aide d'urgence à apporter aux frontières de l'Ukraine](https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine), dans les pays frontaliers accueillant des réfugiés - <https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine>

La Protection Civile et l'Association des maires de France ont établi une [liste](#) (lits de camps, sacs de couchage, lingettes, conserves, pansements hémostatiques, solutions antiseptiques ...).

L'Association des maires de France a dressé les [lieux de collecte](#) à travers toute la France. Les Maires de France appellent à la [solidarité avec l'Ukraine](#) . De nombreuses villes de France organisent des collectes de produits de première nécessité - <https://www.amf.asso.fr/documents-les-maires-france-appellent-la-solidarite-avec-lukraine/41122>

La plateforme officielle « [Je m'engage pour l'Ukraine](#) » lancée le 8 mars 2022 par le gouvernement pour accompagner les Français souhaitant héberger chez eux des Ukrainiens réfugiés et accueillis en France.- <https://parrainage.refugies.info/>

Les associations, fondations, entreprises et collectivités territoriales peuvent utiliser ce [formulaire en ligne](https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine) pour renseigner leur capacité d'hébergement.- <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine>

Bibliothèque sans frontière (BSF) - elle mobilise et déploie, partout en Europe, des solutions d'urgence pour l'accueil et l'intégration des populations réfugiées. - <https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2022/10/14/bsf-lance-bonjour-france-une-application-innovante-dapprentissage-du-francais-pour-les-refugies-ukrainiens/>