The European Commission has just announced an agreement that English will be the official language of the EU - rather than German (the other possibility). As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement, and has accepted a 5-year phase-in of new rules which would apply to the language and reclassify it as EuroEnglish.

The agreed plan is as follows:

In year 1, the soft 'c' would be replaced by 's'. Certainly, this will make the civil servants jump with joy. The hard 'c' will be replaced by 'k'. This should clear up confusion and keyboards can now have one less letter.

There will be growing public enthusiasm in the second year, when the troublesome 'ph' is replaced by 'f'. This will reduce 'photograf' by 20%.

In the 3rd year, public acceptance of the new spelling can be expected to reach the stage where more complicated changes are possible. Governments will encourage the removal of double letters, which have always been a deterrent to accurate spelling. Also, all will agree that the horrible mess of the silent 'e's in the language is disgraceful and they should eliminate them.

By year 4, people will be receptive to linguistic corrections such as replacing 'th' with 'z' and 'w' with 'v' (saving more keyboard spaces). During the fifth year, the unnecessary 'o' can be dropped from words containing 'ou' and similar changes valid to other combinations of letters.

After the fifth year, we will have a reasonable writing style. There will be no more troubles or difficulties and everyone will find it easy to understand each other. ..

ZE DREM VIL FINALI KUM TRU!!!