

Conclusion of Part J

*Dr Alexander Ressos, TEP
Attorney-at-Law (Switzerland), Solicitor (Hong Kong),
Solicitor (England & Wales)*

Part J has examined French from four angles: as the language of the law, as a market, as a linguistic balance and as a matter of the professions. Three conclusions emerge. The first is that French constitutes for Geneva an infrastructure in the proper sense of the word: it carries legal concepts, harmonised institutions, a common currency in the franc zone, a press, a faculty of translation and networks, while giving the financial centre direct access to a space of nearly four hundred million speakers. The second is that this infrastructure works only in combination with other languages: the English of global finance and the German of the Swiss institutions are conditions for the existence of the financial centre. Well organised, multilingualism is the true advantage. The third is that the linguistic infrastructure deteriorates if it is not maintained, and that its maintenance depends on concrete decisions by institutions, organisations and authorities.

These conclusions prepare the ground for Part K. The horizon of 2035 that this final part explores, with its crypto assets and digital assets, its sustainable finance, its international competition, its technology, its relations with the European Union and its scenarios, will put each of the financial centre's assets to the test, language included. A financial centre that manages to combine its French-speaking tradition, its international openness and its command of the new technologies will have a good chance of remaining, in 2035, what it has become over five centuries: a place where the world comes in search of trust.

For general information only. This article does not constitute legal or tax advice, does not replace advice on an individual case and creates no lawyer-client relationship. It reflects the legal position as of September 2026.

Online version: helveticaregister.com/geneva-conclusion-of-part-j