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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/03/15

A European Army?

Does Europe need a European army? According to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker it does. He says the EU needs an EU army to keep back the Russians.

Mr Juncker said that pooling the defence resources of the 28 EU nations could help send a message to Vladimir Putin that its borders would be protected.

In an interview with German newspaper *Die Welt* Mr Juncker said an EU army would let the continent "react credibly to threats to peace in a member state or a neighbour of the EU".

Europe already has NATO to defend itself against any incoming aggression. Yet it is currently divided on how to deal with an increasingly forthright Russia, who it has accused of supplying rebel fighters to Eastern Ukraine as well as military equipment.

Euro-sceptic parties have criticised the suggestion, including the 'UK Independence Party' in Britain. Mike Hookem, UKIP's defence spokesperson said, "It would be a tragedy for the UK." He added, "We have all seen the mess the EU made of the Eurozone economy, so how can we even think of trusting them with this island's defence." Mr Hookem went on to say, "It would see Gibraltar returned to Spain and the Falkland Islands returned to Argentina."

Some MEPs are supporting the idea, suggesting the termination of Member States armies and that the EU army be controlled by the European Parliament.

British Prime Minister David Cameron responded by saying Britain would "never support" any form of EU army.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about NATO**. What is it? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Who is the European Commission President?
- 2) What does NATO stand for?
- 3) Who is Mike Hookem?
- 4) What did Mr Hookem say?
- 5) Where is Gibraltar?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the British Prime Minister.
- 2) What did some MEPs suggest?
- 3) What is an MEP?
- 4) What did Mr Juncker say?
- 5) How many States are in the EU?

**North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Category: EU Army / Defence / EU

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

A European Army? – 10th March 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**EU army**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs choose three things about the idea of an EU army. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING

In pairs – You have both decided to become soldiers. Describe to the class about what you think a typical day in the life of a soldier involves. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - GAME

As a class – Form a circle – "I joined the army and I saw..."

Go round the circle and repeat the previous words used. Add a word! Forget a word and you are eliminated! *5 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Is Mr Juncker right to want an EU army?
- 3) Would you fight in an EU army?
- 4) Should more women join the army?
- 5) Should Britain be increasing its defence spending rather than cutting it still?
- 6) Do young people do National Service in your country? Explain.
- 7) Should the EU just use NATO?
- 8) If the EU can't manage the euro how could they possibly manage to run an army?
- 9) Are you worried about Russia?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion Room* at the BBC in London. Today's interview is about: *A European Army?*

- 1) Someone from rebel held Ukraine.
- 2) The European Commission President.
- 3) Mike Hookem.
- 4) Your country's leader.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in an internet cafe. Start a conversation on a social network about a European army? Is it a good or bad idea? *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY

In pairs – *Student A* is a soldier in Afghanistan. *Student B* is a soldier in Iraq. Tell the class a bit about your role in these countries. (Imagine) *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

A European Army?

Keep NATO?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) If the EU is divided on an EU army how would it ever work?
- 3) Is Britain right to say it would never support any form of EU army?
- 4) Would Britain likely lose Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands if there was an EU army?
- 5) Should the EU help Ukraine more?
- 6) Why is the EU worried about Russia?
- 7) Did the US and the EU create the situation in Ukraine?
- 8) Who would pay for an EU army?
- 9) What would happen if Russia did invade an EU country?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

A European Army?

Does Europe need a European (1)___? According to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker it does. He says the EU needs an EU army to keep back the Russians.

Mr Juncker said that (2)___ the defence resources of the 28 EU nations could help send a message to Vladimir Putin that its (3)___ would be protected.

In an interview with German newspaper *Die Welt* Mr Juncker said an EU army would let the (4)___ "react credibly to threats to peace in a member state or a (5)___ of the EU".

Europe already has NATO to defend itself against any incoming aggression. Yet it is currently divided on how to deal with an increasingly (6)___ Russia, who it has accused of supplying (7)___ fighters to Eastern Ukraine as well as (8)___ equipment.

rebel / borders / army / forthright / military / pooling / continent / neighbour

Eurosceptic parties have criticised the (1)___, including the 'UK Independence Party' in Britain. Mike Hookem, UKIP's defence spokesperson said, "It would be a (2)___ for the UK." He added, "We have all seen the (3)___ the EU made of the Eurozone economy, so how can we even think of trusting them with this island's (4)___." Mr Hookem went on to say, "It would see Gibraltar returned to Spain and the Falkland Islands returned to Argentina."

Some MEPs are supporting the (5)___, suggesting the (6)___ of Member States armies and that the (7)___ army be controlled by the European Parliament.

British Prime Minister David Cameron responded by saying Britain would "never (8)___" any form of EU army.

mess / tragedy / idea / EU / support / termination / suggestion / defence

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

A European Army?

Does Europe need a European army? According to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (1)___ does. He says the EU needs an EU army to keep back the Russians.

Mr Juncker said that pooling the defence resources of the 28 EU nations could help send a message to Vladimir Putin that (2)___ borders would be protected.

In an interview with German newspaper *Die Welt* Mr Juncker said (3)___ EU army would let the continent "react credibly to threats to peace in a member state or a neighbour of the EU".

Europe already has NATO to defend itself against any incoming aggression. (4)___ it is currently divided on (5)___ to deal with an increasingly forthright Russia, (6)___ it has accused (7)___ supplying rebel fighters to Eastern Ukraine (8)___ military equipment.

As well as / it / an / yet / its / who / how / of

Eurosceptic parties have criticised the suggestion, including the 'UK Independence Party' in Britain. Mike Hookem, UKIP's defence spokesperson said, "It would be a tragedy (1)___ the UK." He added, "We have all seen the mess the EU made of the Eurozone economy, so (2)___ (3)___ we even think of trusting them with (4)___ island's defence." Mr Hookem went on to say, "It would see Gibraltar returned to Spain and the Falkland Islands returned to Argentina."

(5)___ MEPs are supporting the idea, suggesting the termination of Member States armies and (6)___ the EU army be controlled by the European Parliament.

British Prime Minister David Cameron responded by saying Britain (7)___ "never support" (8)___ form of EU army.

would / that / this / some / can / any / for / how

GAP FILL: LISTENING

A European Army?

Does Europe need _____? According to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker it does. He says the EU needs an EU army to keep back the Russians.

Mr Juncker said that pooling _____ of the 28 EU nations could help send a message to Vladimir Putin that its borders would be protected.

In an interview with German newspaper *Die Welt* Mr Juncker said an EU army would let the continent "_____ threats to peace in a member state or a neighbour of the EU".

Europe already has NATO to defend itself against any incoming aggression. Yet it is currently divided on how to deal with an _____ Russia, who it has accused of supplying rebel fighters to Eastern Ukraine as well as _____.

Euro-sceptic parties have criticised the suggestion, including the 'UK Independence Party' in Britain. Mike Hookem, UKIP's defence spokesperson said, "It would be a tragedy for the UK." He added, "We have _____ the EU made of the Eurozone economy, so how can we even think of trusting them with this island's defence." Mr Hookem went on to say, "It would see Gibraltar returned to Spain and the _____ returned to Argentina."

Some MEPs are supporting the idea, suggesting the termination of _____ and that the EU army be controlled by the European Parliament.

_____ David Cameron responded by saying Britain would "_____ " any form of EU army.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things about EU defence. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) An EU army _____
- 2) The idea _____
- 3) Critics _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **A European Army?** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) army
- 2) pooling
- 3) borders
- 4) continent
- 5) neighbour
- 6) forthright
- 7) rebel
- 8) military

ANSWERS

- 1) suggestion
- 2) tragedy
- 3) mess
- 4) defence
- 5) idea
- 6) termination
- 7) EU
- 8) support

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) interview
- 2) forthright
- 3) react
- 4) credibly
- 5) tragedy
- 6) yet
- 7) military
- 8) equipment
- 9) Euro-sceptic
- 10) suggestion

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) independence
- 12) economy
- 13) spokesperson
- 14) termination
- 15) support
- 16) army
- 17) defence
- 18) message
- 19) borders
- 20) already
- 21)

A European Army? – *10th March 2015*