

'Old' Europe reuniting East with West

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. a crisis | a. to take the place of something |
| 2. to criticise | b. to write to ask for something |
| 3. an effect | c. a time of great danger or difficulty |
| 4. to apply | d. to make something bigger |
| 5. a warning | e. an agreement between countries |
| 6. to replace | f. to say that somebody is wrong or bad |
| 7. to enlarge | g. saying that something bad will happen |
| 8. a treaty | h. a change that happens because of something |

2 Who's Who

Fill the gaps using the words in the list

European foreign president defence minister the USA

1. Jacques Chirac is the _____ of France.
2. George Bush is the president of _____.
3. Donald Rumsfeld is the US _____ secretary.
4. Romano Prodi is the president of the _____ Commission.
5. Bronislaw Gemerk is the former Polish _____ minister.
6. Adrian Nastase is the Romanian prime _____.

Now read the text and check your answers:

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The crisis in Iraq has created problems for many countries but now it could also have a negative effect on the European Union and, in particular on the plans to welcome the Eastern European countries into the EU in 2004. Jacques Chirac, the French president, criticised the Eastern European countries last week for their support for George Bush's policy on Iraq.

At the end of the EU summit on Iraq in Brussels, Chirac said their behaviour was "childish" and "dangerous". Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and the other EU candidates should keep quiet, he said. "When you are in the family, after all, you have more rights than when you are asking to join the family, and you are knocking on the door." Romania and Bulgaria were particularly careless, he said, because they were still applying to join the EU.

This was a strong warning. France has never really liked the plans to enlarge the EU because it sees the enlargement as a British plan to change the character of the EU. It will be more difficult for French farmers when Polish farmers are in the EU. French has been replaced by

English as the main language of the European Union. And, worst of all, the post-communist governments in Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, the Baltics, Slovenia and Slovakia are mostly pro-American.

Last month Chirac was very angry when Donald Rumsfeld, the US defence secretary, criticised France and Germany as "old Europe" in contrast to the friendly countries of "new Europe". The pro-American open letter of five current EU members and three of the new candidates was another example of the division between "old" and "new" Europe..

France is not the only country that has criticised the Eastern European countries. Germany says that it is wrong for these countries to accept money from the EU and then support the Americans. Romano Prodi, the president of the European Commission, said he was "very, very disappointed" by the position of the future member states. Chirac even said there might be a referendum in France on the question of the enlargement of the European Union.

The European Union summit in Copenhagen last December made the final decision on enlargement. The treaty for the 10 new members, which include Poland, Slovakia, Malta and Estonia, will be signed in Athens in April. They should join the EU on May 1st 2004.

The Eastern European countries replied carefully to the criticism. Bronislaw Geremek, the former Polish foreign minister, said that France and Germany had not consulted the other current EU member states over the crisis in Iraq.

Some people recognised that this was not really an attack on the Eastern European countries. "Every time I have an argument with my wife I shout at my sons," explained Romania's prime minister, Adrian Nastase. France has a problem with the US and Britain but it is easier to criticise the Eastern European countries.

The Guardian Weekly 20-3-03, page 6

'Old' Europe reuniting East with West

Level 1 | Elementary

3 Comprehension check

Decide whether these statements are true or false. There is one sentence for each paragraph.

1. The Iraq crisis could have a positive effect on the European Union.
2. Romania and Bulgaria are already in the EU.
3. English is now the main language of the EU.
4. France and Germany have been called "the old Europe".
5. France is the only country that has criticised the Eastern European countries.
6. The 10 new members will join in 2004.
7. The Eastern European countries replied to the criticism carelessly.
8. It is easier for France to criticise the US and Britain than to criticise the Eastern European countries.

4 Vocabulary: Opposites

Find the words in the text that are the opposites of these adjectives:

1. positive _____
2. safe _____
3. noisy _____
4. careful _____
5. weak _____
6. easy _____
7. unfriendly _____
8. right _____

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Level 1 | Elementary

5 Vocabulary: Prepositions

Fill the gaps using an appropriate preposition.

1. France has criticised some countries _____ their support for the US.
2. French has been replaced _____ English as the EU's main language.
3. There is a division _____ "old" and "new" Europe.
4. Some countries have accepted money _____ the EU.
5. Romano Prodi was disappointed _____ the position of some countries.
6. The treaty will be signed _____ Athens.
7. This was not really an attack _____ the Eastern European countries.
8. It was an attack on the US, _____ particular.

6 Complete the table

| VERB | NOUN |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1. to behave | _____ |
| 2. to apply | _____ |
| 3. to warn | _____ |
| 4. to enlarge | _____ |
| 5. to divide | _____ |
| 6. to decide | _____ |
| 7. to criticise | _____ |
| 8. to argue | _____ |

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Level 1 | Elementary

Key

1 Key Vocabulary

1 c; 2 f; 3 h; 4 b; 5 g; 6 a; 7 d; 8 e

2 Who's Who?

1. president
2. the USA
3. defence
4. European
5. foreign
6. minister

3 Comprehension Check

1 f; 2 f; 3 t; 4 t; 5 f; 6 t; 7 f; 8 f

4 Opposites

1. negative
2. dangerous
3. quiet
4. careless
5. strong
6. difficult
7. friendly
8. wrong

5 Prepositions

1. for
2. by
3. between
4. from
5. by
6. in
7. on
8. in

6 Word Building

1. behaviour
2. application
3. warning
4. enlargement
5. division
6. decision
7. criticism
8. argument