



ETA declares unconditional disarmament for April

Basque pro-independence group will reveal location of arms caches to French authorities

arms caches: *collections of weapons stored in hidden places*

disarmament: *the reduction or withdrawal of weapons*

arsenal: *a collection of weapons or military equipment*

cessation: *the process of ending something*

to be coupled with: *as well as*

an affair (context): *an event*

seizure: *the action of capturing something or someone*

to yield: *to produce*

ceasefire: *a suspension of fighting*

aim: *objective or target, purpose or intention*

to disband (a group): *to break up, separate*

to show up: *to make an appearance*

Civilian intermediaries speaking in the name of ETA, the Basque terrorist organisation, will notify the French judiciary of the location of its **arms caches** in what constitutes a unilateral and unconditional disarmament to be completed on 8th April.

"ETA has made us responsible for **disarmament** of its **arsenal**, and by the afternoon of 8th April, ETA will be completely unarmed," said Jean Noël Etcheverry Txetx, an activist with a radical Basque group called Bizi, in statements to French newspaper, Le Monde.

The disarmament process will be supervised by the International Verification Commission (IVC), created in 2011 after ETA announced a permanent **cessation** of violence, and by the Basque government.

But the impossibility of carrying this out, **coupled with** permanent police tracking of ETA's movements, has pushed the organisation into a change of strategy.

ETA's **arsenal** has been out of use for over five years, making the decommissioning a symbolic **affair**. Spanish media say recent **seizures** of arms have been quite

small, which they say indicate that ETA does not have many weapons left.

The latest police seizure of weapons in France, last December, **yielded** 12 submachine guns, nine machine guns, 25 light weapons and two grenades. This was estimated to be around 20% of ETA's entire **arsenal**.

In January 2011, ETA announced a "permanent, general and verifiable" **ceasefire** with the express **aim** of ending its more than 50-year campaign of terrorist violence.

After the definitive end of violence, ETA attempted to negotiate the terms of decommissioning with the Spanish government. The terrorist organisation sent a delegation to Norway to await a representative of the Popular Party administration, but nobody **showed up**. In February 2013, the ETA delegation was asked to leave Norway following pressure from the Spanish government.

Mariano Rajoy's Popular Party government has insisted that ETA must disarm and **disband**, while also stating that he will not be making any concessions, 'as nothing cannot be exchanged for nothing'.

In a tweet, Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said: "What ETA must do is disband and disappear. It has had time to disarm and it must know that it won't get anything in exchange."

Adapted from: elpais.com/elpais/2017/03/17/inenglish/1489751345_012635.html

"Let's chat about that!"

Write your answers in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Give reasons for your answers

- *Are you for or against Basque independence why?*
- *Do you think this news is important? Why/not?*
- *How do you think political change is best achieved?*
- *How has ETA's permanent ceasefire changed the Basque Country and people's perception of it?*
- *Do you think that the Basque Country will ever be independent? Why/not?*

Weekly English Practice



23rd March 2017

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“iLook, iThink, iSpeak”



Practice for speaking exams

A: COMPARING PICTURES

Look at pictures 3 and 5 below

Compare the two pictures, suggest what is happening in both and say which one you would prefer to do (and why).

“Both pictures show...”

“The first thing that strikes me about this picture is...”

“In this picture they look as though they are...”

“Whereas/while in this picture...”

“It looks as though they are...”

“I’d also like to point out that...”

“I couldn’t agree more.”

“You have a point there.”

“Absolutely!”

“You took the words right out of my mouth.”

“I tend to disagree with you there.”

“I beg to differ”

“For me, personally, ...”

“It’s a tough one, I’m torn between ... and ...”

“Coming back to what (Javi) was saying about ...”



1

B: GROUP ACTIVITY

You are staying in Vitoria-Gasteiz, capital of the Basque Country, for a couple of days with your family. Look at the different pictures and decide on which activities you would like to do. Explain why you want to do those things and listen to your family’s explanations of what they would like to do. Then decide on the three of four things you will do together during your stay.



2



3



4



5