

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1212/01
by Jean-Charles Marchiani (UEN)
to the Council

Subject: Languages used in the defence sector in the European Union

Can the Council state what languages are used in Eurocorps and the Standing Military Committee?

In view of the fact that French and German are by virtue of demographic realities by far the most widely spoken mother tongues in the European Union, does it not feel that they ought to be retained - both for historical and political reasons - as priority languages within European military structures?

Can it explain the reasons behind the use of English within such structures?

Does it believe, both in the interests of efficiency in time of crisis and in the light of the prevailing cultural realities in Europe (existence of three major language branches, i.e. Latin and Gallo-Latin, Germanic and Anglo-Saxon), that it would be appropriate at the very least to limit oneself to the use of French, German and English?

Given the prospect of the establishment of a genuinely independent European defence policy, does it not believe that the unjustified and excessive use of English sends out, by analogy, a very poor message to Europeans?