

Sarkozy suggests Roma 'should be sent to Luxembourg'

French President Nicholas Sarkozy sparked a bitter European Union row by suggesting that the European Commissioner who compared his Roma policy to Nazi deportations should offer to host expelled gypsies in her native country of Luxembourg. The French President's policy' on expelling the Roma from their illegal encampments in France has created tension in the EU. It has ruffled feathers between heads of State, EU governments, the EU Commissioner and his deputy, *who made the accusation against the French Presidents policy with that of the Nazi deportations*. Viviane Reding, a Luxembourger and the EU's Justice Commissioner had on Tuesday (14th September) threatened legal action and described Mr Sarkozy's treatment of Roma as a disgrace that reminded her of Second World War 'round ups' of gypsies and Jews. Brno Sido, a French senator said his country's leader would personally raise the "scandalous criticism at the EU summit on Thursday". He added that he was only applying European Regulations, French laws, and France was irreproachable in the matter but that if the Luxembourgers want to take them he had no problem."

French authorities have recently dismantled more than 100 illegal gipsy and traveller camps and deported more than 1,000 Roma, mainly back to Romania and Bulgaria, who are EU Member States. A Berlin government spokesperson said: "Ethnic minorities should not be discriminated against. If the Commission now wants to examine whether events in France are in accord with this, then it has the perfect right to do so, and the Commission has the perfect right to make a statement." At Thursday's EU summit in Brussels the Roma issue was the main topic of EU leaders. EU Commissioner Jose Manuel Barroso said, "The discrimination of the Roma is unacceptable." It is believed that he and Sarkozy had heated words behind closed doors on the issue with Sarkozy refusing to change his stance. Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker took a dig at the French president calling the jibes "inappropriate".

The Grand Duchy is already at loggerheads with Paris after repeated French attacks on its banking secrecy laws, said by Paris to encourage tax evasion. Meanwhile Germany and Luxembourg quietly continue to return Kosovo refugees, including many Roma and children from their countries.

Category: Europe / European Union / Roma
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. **The French President, the EU, and the Roma issue:** Briefly, what three things do you know about the French President, his dismantling policy of illegal Roma encampments in France and the European Union row it has caused? Go round the room swapping details.

2. **Geography +: Luxembourg and France:** Where are Luxembourg and France? What are their capitals? What countries surround them? What sea surrounds France? Who is the President of France? Who is the Prime Minister of Luxembourg? Who is the head of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

4. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) **What's the latest on this story?**

7. **Let's think!** Think of five countries the Roma live in. Then add five issues the Roma create for France. Why? Are the Roma discriminated against? Why? Why not? Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these.

Five countries the Roma live in	Five issues the Roma create for France
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

Sarkozy suggests Roma 'should be sent to Luxembourg' – 25/09/2010

8. **Let's discuss: The Roma:** In pairs. Think of two positive and negative things you know about the Roma? Compare and discuss together with your partner.

	Positive		Negative
1		1	
2		2	

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with the '**The Roma/Gypsies**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

10. **Let's talk! Radio EU:** *In pairs/groups*. You are in the Radio EU studio. One of you is the presenter; the other student(s) is/are one of the people in exercise 12**. Try to get a balanced interview. *5 minutes*.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the French President.
- 2) Name the Luxembourg Prime Minister.
- 3) Name the EU Commissioner.
- 4) Name the Deputy EU Commissioner.
- 5) How many Roma have been deported from France?

Student B

- 1) Who have been quietly returned to Kosovo?
- 2) What did the French President say?
- 3) What has the EU said?
- 4) Who has ruffled feathers and why?
- 5) Who are at loggerheads and why?

12.** **An EU summit: The Roma issue in France:** In pairs/groups. Choose to be one of the following people. You are at an EU Summit in Brussels. Create a short story about the Roma issue in France. Tell it to your partner/group. Try to make it interesting! Students try to interlink **or** interact student storylines!

1	Deputy EU Commissioner	3	The French President
2	A displaced Roma person	4	The Prime Minister of Romania

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

13. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The Roma issue**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

14. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The Roma _____
- b) France _____
- c) The President of France _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Is the EU right to criticize the French President ? Why? Why not?
- 2) Was President Sarkozy right to do what he did? Why? Why not?
- 3) Are **EU Brussels bureaucrats** not just a lot of people paid a lot of money to hop on the gravy train and milk the EU for its money? Explain!
- 4) What use is the EU? Give three examples.
- 5) Is the EU in Brussels today not just a lot of hot air? Explain.
- 6) Surely France was right in making its own decisions about the Roma issue they have? Explain.
- 7) How do you compare the Roma issue in France and their evictions to those of Hitler and the Jews? Explain this carefully.
- 8) Do you think the Deputy EU Commissioner should apologise to President Sarkozy or vice versa?
- 9) Should the EU ministers in Brussels who sit in a nice cosy office and get paid a lot of money offer to take in a Roma displaced person?
- 10) Should the EU Ministers in Brussels spend a week or two living with the Roma **or** with a person who lives next door to their camps so that they might get a real viewpoint on the issue at hand that the French President in his own way is addressing?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) What do you think about the Deputy EU Commissioners comments? Were they right or wrong?
- 3) Was this comment about "Sending the Roma to Luxembourg" not just a tit for tat exercise between the two countries?
- 4) Should Luxembourg take in the displaced Roma? Why? Why not?
- 5) Will Luxembourg actually take in some of the displaced Roma? Explain.
- 6) If Luxembourg or Germany forcibly returns Kosovo refugees who have settled in their country who's to say they wont do the same to any Roma people they might take in because of this current situation?
- 7) What would you have done if you had been the French President?
- 8) Is this Roma issue a hot potato for the EU leaders?
- 9) What is likely to happen in the near future with the Roma issue? Nothing or something? Why?
- 10) Do you have a solution for this issue?

SPEAKING

Let's debate! The Roma issue

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

The Roma issue in the EU

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

French President Nicholas Sarkozy sparked a (1)_____ European Union row by suggesting that the European Commissioner who compared his (2)_____ policy to Nazi deportations should offer to host expelled gypsies in her (3)_____ country of Luxembourg. The French President's policy' on (4)_____ the Roma from their illegal encampments in France has created tension in the EU. It has ruffled feathers between heads of State, EU governments, the EU Commissioner and his deputy, who made the accusation against the French Presidents (5)_____ with that of the Nazi deportations. Viviane Reding, a Luxembourgish and the EU's Justice Commissioner had on Tuesday (14th September) threatened legal action and described Mr Sarkozy's treatment of Roma as a (6)_____ that reminded her of Second World War 'round ups' of gypsies and Jews. Bruno Sido, a French senator said his country's leader would personally raise the "scandalous (7)_____ at the EU summit on Thursday". He added that he was only applying European (8)_____, French laws, and France was irrefragable in the matter but that if the Luxembourgers want to take them he had no problem."

disgrace

expelling

native

criticism

Roma

policy

regulations

bitter

French (1)_____ have recently (2)_____ more than 100 illegal gypsy and (3)_____ camps and deported more than 1,000 Roma, mainly back to Romania and Bulgaria, who are EU Member States. A Berlin government spokesperson said: "Ethnic (4)_____ should not be discriminated against. If the Commission now wants to examine whether events in France are in accord with this, then it has the perfect right to do so, and the Commission has the perfect right to make a statement." At Thursday's EU summit in Brussels the Roma issue was the main (5)_____ of EU leaders. EU Commissioner Jose Manuel Barroso said, "The discrimination of the Roma is unacceptable." It is believed that he and Sarkozy had heated words behind closed doors on the issue with Sarkozy refusing to change his (6)_____. Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker took a (7)_____ at the French president calling the jibes "(8)_____".

inappropriate

topic

dismantled

stance

authorities

dig

traveller

minorities

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Sarkozy suggests Roma 'should be sent to Luxembourg'

French President Nicholas Sarkozy sparked a bitter _____ by suggesting that the European Commissioner who compared his Roma policy to Nazi deportations should offer to host expelled gypsies in her native country of Luxembourg. The French President's policy' on expelling the Roma from their illegal encampments in France _____ in the EU. It _____ between heads of State, EU governments, the EU Commissioner and his deputy, who made the accusation against the French Presidents policy with that of the Nazi deportations. Viviane Reding, a Luxembourger and the EU's Justice Commissioner had _____ on Tuesday (14th September) _____ and described Mr Sarkozy's treatment of Roma as a disgrace that reminded her of Second World War 'round ups' _____. Brno Sido, a French senator said his country's leader would personally raise the "scandalous criticism at the EU summit on Thursday". He added that he was only applying European Regulations, French laws, and France was irreproachable in the matter but that if the Luxembourgers want to take them _____."

French authorities have recently dismantled more than 100 illegal gipsy and traveller camps and deported more than 1,000 Roma, mainly back to _____, who are EU Member States. A Berlin government spokesperson said: "_____ should not be discriminated against. If the Commission now wants to examine whether events in France are in accord with this, then it _____ to do so, and the Commission has the perfect right to make a statement." At Thursday's EU summit in Brussels the Roma issue _____ of EU leaders. EU Commissioner Jose Manuel Barroso said, "The discrimination of the Roma is unacceptable." It is believed that he and Sarkozy had heated words behind closed doors on the issue with Sarkozy refusing to change his stance. Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker _____ French president calling the _____".

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

French President Nicholas Sarkozy sparked a bitter European Union row by suggesting (1)___ the European Commissioner who compared his Roma policy to Nazi deportations (2)___ offer to host expelled gypsies in her native country of Luxembourg. The French President's policy' on expelling the Roma from (3)___ illegal encampments in France has created tension in the EU. It has ruffled feathers between heads of State, EU governments, the EU Commissioner and his deputy, who made the accusation against the French Presidents policy (4)___ that of the Nazi deportations. Viviane Reding, a Luxembourger and the EU's Justice Commissioner had on Tuesday (14th September) threatened legal action and described Mr Sarkozy's treatment of Roma as a disgrace (5)___ reminded her of Second World War 'round ups' of gypsies and Jews. Brno Sido, a French senator said his country's leader (6)___ personally raise the "scandalous criticism at the EU summit on Thursday". He added that he was (7)___ applying European Regulations, French laws, and France was irreproachable in the matter but that if the Luxembourgers want to take (8)___ he had no problem."

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French authorities have recently dismantled more than 100 illegal gypsy (1)___ traveller camps and deported more than 1,000 Roma, mainly back to Romania and Bulgaria, (2)___ are EU Member States. A Berlin government spokesperson said: "Ethnic minorities should not be discriminated against. (3)___ the Commission now wants to examine whether events (4)___ France are in accord with this, then (5)___ has the perfect right to do so, and the Commission has the perfect right to make a statement." (6)___ Thursday's EU summit in Brussels the Roma issue was the main topic of EU leaders. EU Commissioner Jose Manuel Barroso said, "The discrimination (7)___ the Roma is unacceptable." It is believed that he and Sarkozy had heated words behind closed doors on the issue with Sarkozy refusing to change his stance. Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker took a dig at the French president calling (8)___ jibes "inappropriate".

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	scandalous	11	criticism
2	ethnic	12	accusation
3	irreproachable	13	regulations
4	ruffled	14	disgrace
5	deportations	15	spokesperson
6	discrimination	16	whether
7	unacceptable	17	Nazi
8	countries	18	refugees
9	encourage	19	jibes
10	loggerheads	20	threatened

LINKS

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/luxembourg/8005614/Sarkozy-suggests-Roma-should-be-sent-to-Luxembourg.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11345165>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11027288>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11332488>

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=188193>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/row-with-merkel-leaves-sarkozy-more-isolated-than-ever-2082650.html>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Sarkozy suggests Roma 'should be sent to Luxembourg' : French President Nicholas Sarkozy sparked a **bitter** European Union row by suggesting that the European Commissioner who compared his **Roma** policy to Nazi deportations should offer to host expelled gypsies in her **native** country of Luxembourg. The French President's policy' on **expelling** the Roma from their illegal encampments in France has created tension in the EU. It has ruffled feathers between heads of State, EU governments, the EU Commissioner and his deputy, who made the accusation against the French Presidents **policy** with that of the Nazi deportations. Viviane Reding, a Luxembourgish and the EU's Justice Commissioner had on Tuesday (14th September) threatened legal action and described Mr Sarkozy's treatment of Roma as a **disgrace** that reminded her of Second World War 'round ups' of gypsies and Jews. Brno Sido, a French senator said his country's leader would personally raise the "scandalous **criticism** at the EU summit on Thursday". He added that he was only applying European **Regulations**, French laws, and France was irreproachable in the matter but that if the Luxembourgers want to take them he had no problem."

French **authorities** have recently **dismantled** more than 100 illegal gypsy and **traveller** camps and deported more than 1,000 Roma, mainly back to Romania and Bulgaria, who are EU Member States. A Berlin government spokesperson said: "Ethnic **minorities** should not be discriminated against. If the Commission now wants to examine whether events in France are in accord with this, then it has the perfect right to do so, and the Commission has the perfect right to make a statement." At Thursday's EU summit in Brussels the Roma issue was the main **topic** of EU leaders. EU Commissioner Jose Manuel Barroso said, "The discrimination of the Roma is unacceptable." It is believed that he and Sarkozy had heated words behind closed doors on the issue with Sarkozy refusing to change his **stance**. Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker took a **dig** at the French president calling the jibes "**inappropriate**".

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