

EU countries to launch military crisis force

The European Intervention Initiative is a planned military force intended for rapid deployment to deal with crises near Europe's borders, allowing member countries to act independently of NATO and EU structures

EUROPEAN INTERVENTION INITIATIVE (EII) COALITION

■ EII members ■ NATO members

1 France: Initiative championed by President **Emmanuel Macron**

2 Britain: EII would allow strong defence ties with EU to be maintained after Brexit

3 Germany

4 Spain

5 Netherlands

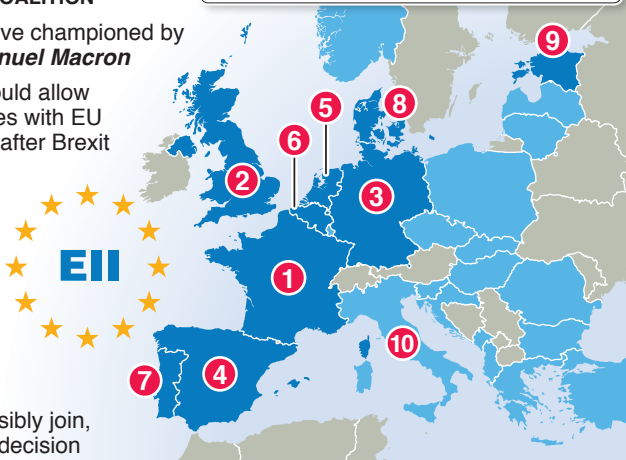
6 Belgium

7 Portugal

8 Denmark

9 Estonia

10 Italy: May possibly join, yet to make final decision



French troops during military exercise in Côte d'Ivoire

■ **Role:** Members expected to deploy troops and coordinate planning to counter threats to Europe – such as natural disasters, crisis intervention and evacuation of nationals

■ **Effectiveness:** Small group of countries, outside of framework that governs EU and NATO action, could potentially react more quickly

■ **Existing forces:** Since 2007, EU has had four multinational military “battlegroups” – with about 1,500 troops each – but they have never been deployed

