

European political cooperation (EPC).<sup>15</sup> Throughout its relationship with the Community, the US like Canada had been uneasy and somewhat confused by the complexities of dealing with Brussels, most notably with respect to the separation between Commission competence and EPC (and the distinct consultative mechanisms involved in each).<sup>16</sup>

European political cooperation has, since the late 1960s, been an attempt by the Member States of the Community to consult on and co-ordinate their foreign policy positions, with a view to ultimately having a common European foreign policy. In the course of the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s, however, it became increasingly difficult for the EC to maintain the artificial distinction between its 'external relations' and 'political cooperation' as it tried to compartmentalize neatly those aspects of the EC's international relations that fell under the Commission's external relations' (economic and trade) competence and those that affected Member States' security and defence postures.<sup>17</sup> To rectify the increasing anxiety over the relationship between EPC and the EC (both organizationally and in terms of mandates) article 30 of the Single European Act of 1986 (itself a series of amendments to the treaties establishing the European Communities) codified EPC in an international treaty and thus provided a treaty-basis for a process in which the European Communities and EPC would together attempt to make "concrete progress towards European unity" (SEA, Art. 1(3)).<sup>18</sup>

Historically, without any direct access to the EPC process, the US had been presented with immutable Community positions after the fact.<sup>19</sup> US officials now sought a formal link to EPC in order to have some form of input before the Community's final decisions were made. Some progress had already been made in this area. The Americans had, for example, pushed for and received agreement from the Europeans to brief the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe at the State Department at the beginning of every six month period after the Troika group meeting of the EPC.<sup>20</sup> By late 1989, with the rapid pace of developments in Eastern Europe and the momentum of 'Europe 1992', Europe was firmly on the American foreign policy agenda.

### ***Secretary Baker Sets Blueprint for Formalization of US-EC Relations***

A landmark speech in Boston on 21 May 1989 in which George Bush called for a "European partnership in world leadership" was the actual genesis for the separate Canadian and US trans-Atlantic declarations with the Community.<sup>21</sup> Secretary of State Baker went a step further in a speech at the Berlin Press Club on 12 December 1989, calling for a reorientation of America's policy towards Europe and an