

A distinction must be made between the EPC and its successor, the CFSP, and the foreign relations of the EC, even though their activities involve the same participants, i.e., the Commission and the foreign ministers of the EC member states.

The EC's foreign relations concern its international powers set out in the founding treaties, such as trade policy, the common agricultural policy, fishing and economic assistance. The basic principle set out in the Single European Act and the Treaty of European Union remains that of coherence between the foreign policies of the EC and the policies agreed upon within the EPC or the CFSP.