

The second basket deals with co-operation on the following issues: commercial exchanges; industrial cooperation and projects of common interest; provisions concerning trade and industrial cooperation (eg. arbitration); science and technology; environment; and co-operation in other areas (eg. transport, tourism, migrant labour, and the training of personnel). The third basket contains four areas: human contacts; information; co-operation and exchanges in the field of culture and co-operation and exchanges in the field of education.

After the signature of the Final Act of Helsinki in 1975, the CSCE did not come to an end. The Final Act provided for a follow-up to the Conference which basically boiled down to the convening of periodic follow-up meetings for review and further development. Subsequent follow-up meetings have also decided to organize expert meetings and ad hoc conferences on specific subjects. In the framework of this process an increasing number of official CSCE documents have been adopted. In addition, these specialized CSCE meetings have also resulted in the adoption of substantive concluding documents; a major example is the Document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe (1986). Since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act the CSCE process appears to have acquired its own momentum which has survived critical lows in East-West relations.

Basic Features

One of the most important features of the CSCE process is the linkage of all the baskets of the process. This means that progress in one field has usually been accompanied by progress in the other CSCE baskets. In this way, political and security issues, questions of economic co-operation and humanitarian issues are firmly interconnected.

A second basic feature of the (early) CSCE process was its remarkably light institutional structure which was recently changed at the Paris summit in 1990. Until then the CSCE lacked a traditional institutional structure with a permanent administrative organ and permanent political organs. In essence the institutional structure consisted only of periodic follow-up meetings which were organized every two or three years and hosted by one of the CSCE states. Apart from the periodic follow-up meetings, specialized conferences and expert meetings on specific subjects have been organized, on an ad hoc basis, since 1978. In the course of the development of the CSCE process, the number and scope of such specialized conferences and expert meetings have steadily increased.