

French Foreign Policy

The process of European integration and a strengthened European Community (EC) are the main thrusts of France's dynamic foreign policy. France played an important part in the adoption of the Single Act, which will be a major step in creating an open common market after December 31, 1992. In keeping with its position on European political cooperation, France tends to develop common positions with its EC partners on many issues.

The Mitterrand-Kohl initiatives on European political union and European security are examples of close ties between France and Germany in foreign policy. France is also active in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). In November 1990, the CSCE summit of heads of state and government was held in Paris.

France has also sought to maintain a close dialogue with the countries of Eastern Europe and with the U.S.S.R. France has played a leading role in the creation of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Jacques Attali, a close adviser to President Mitterrand, was elected the bank's president.

France shares Canada's commitment to promote La Francophonie on a world scale. This common objective has brought our two countries closer. Paris in 1986 and Quebec City in 1987 were the sites of the first two summits of La Francophonie. President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Mulroney both participated in the third summit, held in Dakar in 1989. These summits revealed that our two countries share positions on many subjects ranging from North-South dialogue to the indebtedness of the poorest countries. The fourth summit, Le Sommet de Chaillot, will be held in Paris, November 19-21, 1991.

France has become one of the most dynamic advocates of North-South dialogue. The French government has often pointed out that its increased aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe would not be at the expense of funding and other efforts for developing countries.

On the world scene again, France was one of the largest European contributors to the Persian Gulf War operations. It has also made many efforts towards resolving the Cambodian conflict.