

effective responsibility of the committee chaired by Viscount Davignon was to propose means by which the "Six" could co-ordinate their foreign policies. The result was the Davignon Report which was presented to a conference of foreign ministers in Luxembourg in October, 1970. For all of the rhetoric contained within the report what Davignon actually proposed was extremely modest. The appellation "European Political Cooperation" was really the only substantive concession to the ostensible goal of moving closer to political unification. Foreign ministers would meet twice a year to discuss an agenda prepared by political directors (the Political Committee), who would meet normally four times a year. Authorization was given to the Political Committee to set up working groups and commission expert studies. Finally a follow-on report was to be made within two years of EPC coming into operation.

This second report was presented in Copenhagen in July, 1973. This codified existing practices that diverged from those laid down in the original Davignon Report. The fact that ministers and the Political Committee had met more or less when it was believed that the occasion demanded rather than on the limited occasions set out at Luxembourg was recognized, as was the emergence of the "Group of European Correspondents" whose main task is to draft the conclusions of ministerial and Political Committee meetings. The London Report of 1981 broke some new ground in that the participation of the Commission in all aspects of the EPC was accepted, although in order to reinforce concerns about the intergovernmental character of EPC being diluted the wording of the Report sought to ensure that the Commission would not thereby establish any institutional competence with respect to EPC. Finally, foreshadowing the Single European Act, in accepting the report the foreign ministers agreed "to maintain the flexible and pragmatic approach which has made it possible to discuss in Political Cooperation certain important foreign policy questions bearing on the political aspects of security."⁵

In the Single European Act of 1985 (it was not finally ratified until 1987), as a by-product of wider political and institutional change, EPC was given treaty status. A small secretariat was set up in Brussels and the text was explicit in placing EPC outside the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.⁶ In other words, the intergovernmental character of EPC was reconfirmed. On the sensitive issue of the role of EPC with respect to security issues, the SEA went somewhat farther than the London Report. It was held "that closer cooperation on security matters would contribute in an essential way to the development of a European identity in external policy matters." To this end, EPC could be used to coordinate member states' positions on the political and economic aspects of security; this introduction of the economic dimension was complemented by reference also to the technological and industrial conditions necessary for security.⁷ This latter inclusion was symptomatic of wider European concerns about the competitiveness of the European "high-tech" sector. All in all, the SEA did not expand the scope of EPC in any

⁵Nuttall, p.178.

⁶Article 31, Single European Act

⁷Title III, Article 6, Single European Act