

F.R.G. – Foreign Policy

German unification is a dominant factor in the rapid transformation of Europe. The events of the past year have served to amplify the dynamism and the profile of F.R.G. foreign policy.

This dynamism is in keeping with the continuity of the F.R.G.'s fundamental objectives:

- united Germany within NATO;
- economic integration of the European Community and European political cooperation;
- East-West detente.

The NATO alliance is seen as a stabilizing factor essential to the success of German unification and European economic integration. Still, the F.R.G. has sought to convince its allies to step back from modernizing nuclear weapons, to communicate with and assist the U.S.S.R., to demilitarize East-West relations, and to provide a greater role for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). This increased flexibility ensures U.S.S.R. support for a united Germany's membership in NATO.

European economic integration (the single market of 1992), as well as its political and monetary union, are of crucial importance to the F.R.G. Because of its economic strength, the F.R.G. will not only play a key role, but is already a driving force behind the openness of the European Community toward Eastern Europe, the U.S.S.R., and the world.

The F.R.G. favours enlarging the membership of the European Economic Community (EEC), notably with respect to Austria and Eastern Europe. The F.R.G.'s economic model greatly contributed to the foundation of the EEC, and its political impetus now appears to be a decisive factor.

At the same time, Bonn's energies have been mobilized by the active pursuit of East-West detente since the medium-range nuclear arms treaty between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in 1987. The F.R.G. has made successful efforts to overcome Soviet reluctance and to show support for the democratization of Eastern Europe.

These efforts are primarily aimed at supporting the process of German unification. Yet, in so doing, the F.R.G. is opening up traditional markets in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R. and affirming itself as a political power in Europe.

Canada shares the objectives of F.R.G. foreign policy (not only in Europe but worldwide) in the Group of Seven Finance Ministers (G-7), in peacekeeping, in aid to developing countries, in protecting the global environment and in the United Nations.

As a partner in NATO and the CSCE, Canada values the F.R.G. as a key player in consolidating Canada's political dialogue with Europe. Although Canada is not a member of the EEC, it was under Germany's chairmanship of that body in 1988 that a consultation mechanism was established between Canada and its political associates in Europe.