

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE

441.2(3)

Further to an initiative by the Belgian delegation, the Council held a broad exchange of views on relations with the countries of Eastern Europe during which it emphasized the need better to ensure a global, consistent and dynamic approach to those countries.

Accordingly, it adopted certain conclusions, the main points of which are as follows:

- The Council noted with interest that political and economic reforms are continuing in a number of East European countries in different ways and that the process of normalizing relations with the European Community is progressing satisfactorily.

The Community and its Member States will continue to react constructively and to play an active role in East-West relations.

The Council will actively pursue work on the agreements in force or to be negotiated with East European countries, taking into account the specific nature and characteristics of each case.

- The co-operation which the Community is in the process of establishing with the East European countries must be complementary to that of its Member States, must not replace it but must give it a new dimension and must reflect the present and future of the Community. A constructive approach should make it possible to promote complementarity between the actions of the Member States and of the Community for the best possible defence of their interests.

- As the European Council emphasized in its Rhodes Declaration on the international role of the European Community (paragraph 6), the aim of greater consistency between Community policies and those agreed in the framework of Political Co-operation is recognized as being particularly desirable in the context of relations with the East European countries.

- The Council also emphasized the need for better co-ordination of the economic co-operation policies of the Member States and the Community with regard to East European countries and greater transparency and consistency of Member States' export credit policies towards those countries. The Community's active role in the East European countries should also be stepped up, in particular by Community initiatives to help businessmen.

- With regard to the various conferences provided for in the final document of the Vienna CSCE, the Council confirms that it is in favour of active Community participation in those conferences, where matters involving Community competence are concerned. It will take the requisite decisions in good time for the Sofia Conference on the environment (16 October to 3 November 1989).