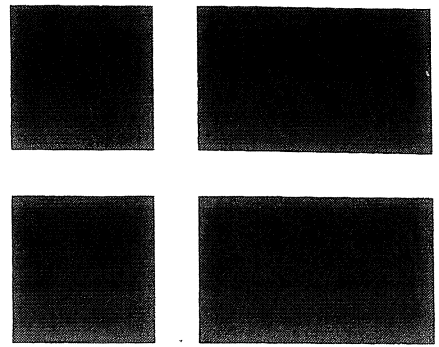


Factsheet Denmark



The European Political Co-operation

II. Substance and results

In 1970 the Member States of the EC initiated a political co-operation aiming at a harmonisation of views and an alignment of positions in foreign political affairs.

A delineation of the structure of the European Political Co-operation (EPC) and its background will be found in another factsheet in this series. Here follows a description of the substance of EPC and a review of the foreign political issues in which EC Member States have succeeded in co-ordinating their positions since 1970.

The consultations, which have taken place within the framework of the political co-operation at ministerial as well as official level, have not been in the nature of general discussions about the political situation of the world in a broader sense, but have been focused on a number of central foreign political issues to which the Ten have attributed special importance and to which it has seemed natural for the Ten to seek an alignment of positions. Here follows an account of the work devoted to the major issues which have been treated up till now.

East-West relations

Since the beginning of EPC the ten EC countries have attached special importance to East-West relations. This is, above all, due to the fact that the security of Europe, and hence that of the Ten, is closely connected with developments in East-West relations. Another important aspect is the many historical and human ties between the EC countries and the countries of Eastern Europe.

In the Ten's dealings with East-West relations the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) holds a prominent place. CSCE constituted the first major international issue in which the European political co-operation was to play an active part. From the preparatory talks in 1971 to the conclusion of the Helsinki Conference in 1975 intensive consultations took place among the delegations of the EC countries, which significantly influenced the course of the Conference as well as the result: The Final Act on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Thus, it is mainly due to the Nine EC countries, as they then were, that the Final Act attributed central importance to the human dimension of détente, such as the development of human

