

## European Parliament Resolution on European Political Cooperation (19 January 1978)

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### The European Parliament,

- noting the development of political cooperation machinery between the Nine over recent years,
- considering that the links between the Foreign Ministers of the Nine and the European Parliament must be improved and strengthened, particularly with a view to providing the European Parliament with wider scope for exercising influence over political cooperation,
- regretting the instances of failure to coordinate the positions and action of the nine Member States of the Community, particularly in certain cases, in the General Assembly of the United Nations and in other international fora,
- expressing its concern at the lack of substantive and up-to date information given to the European Parliament by the Foreign Ministers of the Nine concerning measures of joint foreign policy,

#### A. Requests the Governments of the Member States:

1. to ensure that the European Parliament is fully informed concerning all joint foreign policy decisions taken by the Nine;
2. to provide Parliament's Political Affairs Committee, in an appropriate form, with substantive and up-to-date information concerning the meetings and activities of the Foreign Ministers of the Nine outside the quarterly meetings and subsequent colloquies;
3. to take account of the foreign policy guidelines adopted by the European Parliament;
4. to instruct the Foreign Ministers to submit a written annual report on European political cooperation to the European Parliament one month in advance of the annual debate in Parliament on European political cooperation;
5. to decide to end the artificial distinction between 'Community' and 'political cooperation' matters, and, in this respect, to invite the Commission to participate fully in all parts of all political cooperation meetings;
6. to instruct the Foreign Ministers to seek agreement on the political and related aspects of negotiations with third countries before the Council of Ministers gives a mandate to the Commission to open negotiations and to establish this mandate in the light of an orientation debate held by the Parliament;
7. to ensure that the Commission represents the Community in all major multilateral economic negotiations following agreement by the Foreign Ministers on the political and related aspects of such negotiations;

B. Instructs its President to forward this resolution together with the report of its committee to the Council, the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, the Commission and to the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States.