

Abstract

The relationship between the European Economic Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance went through a major transformation between 1957 and 1973. This thesis argues that the institutional interactions between these two organizations were a logical consequence of their internal development. Both represented a regional economic integration and despite political and ideological differences they have been forced to establish a certain level of cooperation, due to the expanding contacts between the member states.

After the signing of the Treaties of Rome, which founded EEC, CMEA refused to recognize de jure the existence of the Community and condemned it as a discriminatory capitalist organization. At the same time the Council passed reforms that were supposed to link its economies and strengthen the cohesion of the Eastern bloc. By adoption of the Statute of 1959, the CMEA established its internal structure and operating principles. The first success of the EEC, the pursuit of its own reforms and the UK application motivated CMEA to revise its attitude to the EEC for the first time. The Soviet leadership tried unsuccessfully to get through a supranational leadership of the CMEA - principle they criticized in the EEC for being discriminatory. After the appointment of de Gaulle as president of France and the failure of the EU enlargement, mutual contact between the two organizations was minimized. Changes in the international situation of the 60's and 70s, followed by restoration of activity in the West European integration process has led to the need for commencement of contact between the CMEA and the EEC. The ratification of the Moscow Treaty, adoption of the Common commercial policy by EEC and efforts to strengthen the Eastern bloc under Soviet control can be considered as the key factors for the establishment of official relations between the CMEA and the EEC. The EEC was motivated by a desire to preserve the policy of détente and the efforts to deepen the integration process through the Common Commercial Policy.