PREFACE

The European Community, now the Union, today is the most successful regional organization in the world. Not only it has grown from a club of six to the community of fifteen, its sphere of influence has also been increased significantly. It fact, it has moved beyond fostering trade and economic integration amongst the Member States. It is now seeking to meet the ambitious objective of enforcing political integration amongst them.

The key to achieve this integration has been the legislative or decision making process of the Community. The gradual adoption of laws by the Community can be viewed as the necessary condition for the integration and the method of adopting the law as the sufficient condition. In the legislative process of the Community, its two key institutions, the Council of the Minister and the Commission have chiefly been involved, with the European Parliament increasingly playing an important role.

The Council representing the Member States' interests - an intergovernmental body - is the main legislature of the Community. However, over the years, the Commission and the Parliament representing Community's interests with supranational characteristics, are becoming decisive players. This effectively means the slices of power are being transferred from Member States to the Community. The present work is the study of the legislative process of the Community, involving the Council and the Commission and the forces responsible for the change in the process.

Although, now formally and legally rechristened as the European Union, in the present study, it has been described as the European Community.

I would like to express my earnest thanks and gratitude to Professor Sunita Chishti here. Without her excellent guidance and ever present helping hand, this study wouldn't have materialized. Also, I would like to thank Prof B Vivekanandan for his help and encouragement. Prof Peter Ludlow, director, European Policy Research Institute, Brussels, spared his precious time for me and provided valuable insight on the future of the Community.

I also thank Jawaharlal Nehru University which gave me the institutional back up and an excellent academic atmosphere to pursue the study. Its School of International Studies deserves special thanks since it gave me the opportunity to collect the original resource materials from Brussels.
I also thank the JNU librarian and staff for their cooperation. Ashok Purang at the Delegation of the European Commission to India was always very helpful. Also, the staff at the Commission's and the Council's bibliotheques in Brussels deserve special thanks who extended their facilities to me during my trip.

I cannot forget the hospitality extended by Koen and Caroline, my dear friends in the beautiful university town, Leuven with whom I spent a month during my field trip to Brussels in April-May 1994. I also thank Tom and Grete, Stef and Ada, and Kaat in Leuven, Frank and Eulina in Amsterdam and Peter in Paris who became my life long friends. And Meera Iyer, my friend and colleague, to whom I owe this thesis in its final shape. Without her the 'dirty work' of proof-reading would never have been accomplished.

M/S A.P. Computers deserves kudos for excellent work done well ahead of schedule.

Finally, I am eternally indebted to my parents who are not only responsible for my existence in the world, but also for making me what I am.

July 1995
New Delhi

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