

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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COMMON MARKET · EURATOM · COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY

COMMON MARKET TO "EUROPEANIZE" PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS

WASHINGTON, 12 April -- One of the many problems involved in shaping Europe's Common Market is being tackled in Brussels where a working party is drawing up common rules to be applied in the six-nation European Economic Community for the award of public contracts, it was reported here today.

The Treaty creating the European Economic Community requires that all restrictions on the right of establishment in member countries be abolished and all services in the Six be freed of national restrictions. Within this framework, discrimination on grounds of nationality would be abolished in the award of public works contracts let by national or local governments. (This would mean, for example, that Italian, Dutch, or Belgian bids would receive exactly the same consideration as a German bid for a public contract let by the German public agency.)

The working party, which reports to the executive branch of the EEC, must submit proposals for common rules in the drawing up of public contracts, the standards for selecting candidates and accepting tenders, the publications of calls for bids, and the value above which tenders should be invited on a European basis. Eventually, before the end of the Common Market's transition period (probably January 1, 1968), common rules will apply, particularly those relating to standards for selection and award, to all public contracts in excess of \$600,000.