

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

236 Southern Building, Washington 5, D.C.  
telephone NAational 8-5070

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 21, 1962

## COMMON MARKET FARMERS MAY RECEIVE COMMUNITY-WIDE ESTABLISHMENT RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 21 -- The Commission of the European Economic Community (Common Market) has sent to the Council of Ministers the first draft of a directive which would permit Community citizens to rehabilitate abandoned or uncultivated farm land in any of the six member countries of the Community.

The draft directive is part of the Community's general program to remove restrictions on freedom of establishment. It provides that the member countries (Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) should eliminate restrictions which prevent nationals of other Community countries from undertaking agricultural work on their own account and farming land which for at least two years has been abandoned or uncultivated. Among the six countries of the Community, it is mainly in France that there are considerable areas of abandoned or uncultivated land which might profitably be farmed.

Under the directive, citizens of any one Community country, in the same conditions and with the same advantages as nationals of any of the other five nations, should be entitled:

- 1) To acquire, to be assigned or granted, to lease, or to occupy and to exploit, in any legal form, any cultivable holding or group of cultivable holdings which has lain waste for more than two years and which fulfills the conditions to which the nationals of the country are subjected regarding minimum area for farms, and to have the right of preemption if the land under cultivation is sold.
- 2) To make use of the various general or special facilities, as regards credit, assistance and subsidies for the purchase, improvement or maintenance of abandoned farms, including measures contained in agricultural development programs.
- 3) To be members or office holders, whatever the office, of cooperatives or other agricultural associations of a collective kind, as well as to take the initiative in setting up such associations, membership of which is open on an equal footing to the nationals of the country in which they settle.