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PRESS RELEASE

Common definition of origin

A draft Council regulation on a common definition of the concept of the origin of goods has been submitted by the Commission to the Council of Ministers.

Despite the efforts of various international organizations there is no such definition at international level. The Member States of the Community still apply quite different rules, conceived according to their own needs and in conformity with their commercial policy as regards non-member countries. But if the future common commercial policy of the Community is to be applied by different means in the various States, it will not yield the expected results. The Commission therefore deems it necessary to adopt a common definition forthwith.

The regulation lays down details governing the certificate of origin which must be submitted in certain circumstances. It also provides for an Origin of Goods Committee, composed of representatives of the Member States with a Commission representative in the chair. The Committee will be empowered to examine all matters pertaining to the implementation of the regulation.

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