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PRESS RELEASEProposals for directives on farm leases and  
the right to change to other farming activities.

Two directives relating to farming have been put before the Council of Ministers by the Common Market Commission.

The first proposal is that each Member State should remove restrictions concerning farm leases on individuals and companies from the other Member States engaged in or setting up in order to engage in agricultural activity on its territory.

The second lays down that each Member State should give individuals or companies from the other Member States who have been engaged in agricultural activity on its territory for more than two years complete freedom to change from one form of undertaking to another.

The restrictions in question come under two heads:

- (a) those which, under legislation, regulations or administrative provisions, have hitherto denied the beneficiaries of the directives the same rights as nationals or have subjected them to special conditions;
- (b) those resulting from some administrative practices which in effect discriminate between nationals and the beneficiaries of the directives.

"Agricultural activity" in these two proposals means the activities referred to in Schedule V to the General Programme for the removal of restrictions on freedom of establishment:

- (a) General agriculture, including growing of vines, fruits, nuts, seeds, vegetables and flowers both in the open and under glass;
- (b) Raising of livestock, poultry, rabbits, fur-bearing and other animals, bees; and the production of meat, milk, wool, fur, eggs and honey.

The Member States are to put into effect the measures needed to conform with these directives within six months of being notified of them and must inform the Commission immediately of the measures they have taken.