

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

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PRESS RELEASE

Procedure for block exemption from the ban on cartels

The Commission of the European Economic Community has decided to institute procedure for exempting certain classes of agreements from the ban on cartels under the EEC Treaty (Article 85(1) and (3)). The procedure is based on Council Regulation No. 19/65/CEE of 2 March 1965, which empowers the Commission to exempt en bloc from the ban, by regulation, certain exclusive dealing agreements and licensing agreements to which only two enterprises are parties and which satisfy the conditions for exemption. The Commission wishes to take such action in respect of exclusive dealing agreements. It has therefore put a draft regulation on this matter before the Consultative Committee on cartels and monopolies.

After the Committee has given its opinion, the draft regulation will be published in the official gazette of the European Communities, with the invitation to all interested parties to submit their comments to the Commission within a certain time. When this period has expired, the Committee will be consulted again, after which the Commission will adopt the regulation.
