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COMMON MARKET ORDERS RESTRICTIONS REMOVED ON FOREIGN SUPPLIERS OF BUSINESS SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 15, 1966 -- Soon any Common Market citizen will be able to open offices and do business in any other EEC country as easily as in his own nation.

The Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community adopted on December 6 a directive introducing freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services for self-employed persons in real estate and numerous business services. The directive, marks another step forward toward the total removal of restrictions on establishment and supply of services.

Business services covered: Employment agencies, inquiry agencies and security services, advertising agencies and services, organizations which organize private commercial events (such as trade shows), services connected with office work (including leasing of mechanical and office equipment and translation services), business consultants, literary and artistic professions, appraisers (except insurance evaluators), interpreters, and press clipping services.

According to Article 58 of the Rome Treaty, all incorporated companies and nationals of member states have the same legal status as the nationals and companies of the host country. The new directive requires the member states to remove any restrictions which:

- * prevent Common Market citizens from establishing themselves in the host country or supplying services in the host country under the same conditions as nationals, or
- * stem from administrative practice and discriminate between beneficiaries and nationals.

In practice, the directive outlaws all nationality requirements imposed on persons desiring to do business in an EEC member state other than their own. In addition, it guarantees those persons the right to join trade and professional organizations on the same basis as nationals of the host state.

The directive excludes the following activities for which the Council later will adopt specific directives: land surveyors; publishers; customs agents; certain consultants on economic, financial, commercial, statistical, and labor matters; and debt-collecting.

Real estate activities covered: The directive liberalizes all dealings of persons or companies who derive income from the purchase, sale, lease, or management of real estate. It also liberalizes these activities for intermediaries and experts.