

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

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Brussels, 28 February 1966
IP (66) 27

PRESS RELEASE

Dissolution of a cartel fixing quotas and prices for
natural sand

A group of Belgian, German and Dutch producers of natural sand, and their sales representatives in the Netherlands, have notified the EEC Commission that they have dissolved a cartel fixing quotas and prices for the Netherlands market, to which objections had been made by the Commission.

The six producers concerned (four Belgian, one German and one Dutch) had shared out among themselves on a quota basis the Netherlands market for natural sand - a material which is used in ceramics and the manufacture of abrasives, soaps, paints, enamel, etc. This agreement was supplemented by another between the six producers and four sales agents, who bound themselves to obtain natural sand only from producers party to the first agreement, and to fix minimum selling prices.

After a preliminary examination of the provisions contained in the agreements the Commission had notified the parties concerned that, in its opinion, the agreements fell under the ban contained in the EEC Treaty and that exemption would not be justified because these provisions excluded competition between German and Belgian firms and the only Dutch manufacturer of the product in question. The agreements were therefore incompatible with the Common Market and were prohibited.
