



**PRESSE-MEDELDELSE · MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE · PRESS-RELEASE · INFORMATION A LA PRESSE
ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ · INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA · MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

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Brussels, 8 June 1988

**Spain and Portugal end the stamping of Member State
nationals' passports**

Under Community law, Community nationals, including tourists, need only a valid identity card or passport when entering or leaving a Member State. In the Commission's view, the mere fact of stamping a passport with an entry or exit stamp is contrary to Community law and all the old Member States have been prevailed upon to abolish the practice. After they joined the Community, the Commission drew the attention of Greece, Spain and Portugal to its unlawfulness by sending them a letter of formal notice.

Spain and Portugal have just informed the Commission that they have issued instructions to the effect that the stamping of Community nationals' passports must cease. The Commission welcomes this decision to follow the example of those who have abolished this formality. It makes Europe a more tangible reality in the eyes of its citizens.

The Commission has therefore terminated the infringement proceedings against these two countries. (Those against Greece continue with the dispatch of a "reasoned opinion").