

Brussels, May 1967
P-19INFORMATION MEMOFreedom for architects to practise in other member countries

Freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services as self-employed architects are the subjects of three proposals for directives which the EEC Commission has recently submitted to the Council.

Architecture is the first of the liberal professions to be the subject of such proposals.

The first directive provides for the liberalization of establishment and services in respect of architects and firms of architects within the meaning of Article 58. Where membership of a recognized professional organization is compulsory, membership must be open to all those interested. With regard to the supply of services, on the other hand, it is provided that those concerned may be required to bring their intention to supply such services to the notice of the competent authorities beforehand.

The second directive concerns the mutual recognition of architectural degrees, diplomas or other qualifications for the purpose of permission to practise in a Community country. Every Member State will recognize degrees conferred in the other Member States as carrying the same rights on its territory as its own degrees. Article 2 of the directive lists for each country the institutions whose final diploma in architecture is so recognized.

The third directive concerns the co-ordination of laws and regulations affecting certain members of the architectural profession who are holders of diplomas other than those provided for in Article 2 of the second directive.

As complete co-ordination can be effected only gradually, it is advisable to provide in the first place for a test on paper qualifications by which their background, architectural work and experience and thus their professional level can be assessed.

Accompanying these proposals for directives is a draft recommendation of the Council regarding Luxembourg nationals who are holders of a diploma in architecture conferred in a third country. It is designed to facilitate for nationals of the Grand Duchy the independent practice of architecture within the Community by the recognition of these diplomas in the other Member States.