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COMMON MARKET COMMISSION PROPOSES EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR LEAD AND ZINC

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 27 -- The Commission of the European Economic Community (Common Market) has submitted to the EEC Council of Ministers a memorandum on a common industrial and trade policy for lead and zinc, including proposals for an emergency program while prices for these products on the world market are abnormally low.

The Commission's memorandum, presented at the February 25-26 session of the Council, recommends accelerating the timetable in the Treaty of Rome for applying the common external tariff, abolishing internal duties, waiving the special tariff quotas provided for lead and zinc and implementing a common trade policy.

The Commission proposes that a new customs subheading at zero duty be introduced for lead bullion (a raw material for the metalworking industry) and that the duties in the common customs tariff for lead and zinc be suspended when London prices reach or exceed \$20.67 per 100 kilograms for lead and \$23.42 per 100 kilograms for zinc.

The Commission felt that the present steady fall in lead and zinc prices resulting from the artificial imbalance on the world market represents a threat to Community producers and is not in line with the interests of consumers.

Because of the urgent need to cope with these difficulties, the Commission has authorized a number of national safeguard measures for a limited time as part of the emergency program, which will provide a foundation for a Community industrial policy in the two sectors.