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COMMON MARKET • EURATOM • COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY

FREEDOM OF SETTLEMENT PROPOSED

FOR COMMON MARKET FARMERS

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 11, 1962 -- The European Economic Community Commission has adopted a proposal that would give farm immigrants in the European Community equal footing with nationals of the host country in buying or renting land, and in subsidies, credit, marketing cooperatives and other agricultural activities. The announcement was made in Brussels.

The proposal now goes to the Common Market Council of Ministers for further discussion.

If finally adopted, the measure would be another step toward freedom of establishment for farmers in the Common Market countries (Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands).

SPECIFICS OUTLINED

Nationals of the Community's member countries who had been in continuous employment in another member country for at least two years would benefit. The directive would apply to those employed in arable farming, arboriculture, horticulture and stockbreeding for a minimum of eight months per year.

Farmers fulfilling the conditions required by the directive would, when wishing to take up residence in another country, give notice of their intention to the new country of residence, which would have 30 days to verify that they were entitled to do so.

Workers affected by the directive would mainly be Italians now employed in other member states of the Community -- particularly in France, Germany and Luxembourg.

Last month the Commission adopted for submission to the Council another directive designed to grant Community-wide freedom of establishment to farmers (on farmlands derelict or uncultivated for two years). During the preparation of the general program for removing restrictions on establishment of enterprise, approved by the Council in 1961, France obtained agreement that liberalization in agriculture should be confined to these two measures for several years. France, like Belgium and Luxembourg, normally requires foreign farmers to have prior authorization to settle and is, in addition, particularly concerned to protect the resettlement of French farmers repatriated from Africa.

Before taking a decision on this directive, the Council of Ministers must consult the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.