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EEC AGRICULTURAL 'STRUCTURE' COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12 -- The Common Market's recently formed standing committee on agricultural "structure" has just concluded its first meeting, held in Brussels.

Two officials appointed by each of the six member countries of the European Community serve on the committee, established by an EEC Council decision of December 4 on the coordination of agricultural structure policies in the Common Market.

The coordination moves are in line with a recommendation of the Common Market Commission's "action program" of last fall, calling for correction of structural defects in agriculture which have resulted from changes in the general economic structure.

Dr. Sicco L. Mansholt, EEC Commission vice president, addressed the standing committee. He spoke of the need to harmonize farm production and sales. He urged that the rational employment of agricultural workers be viewed in relation to general economic trends.

Strong economic expansion in the Community, including economically backward regions with poor farm structure, Dr. Mansholt said, is one of the first conditions for transferring unproductive farm workers to other occupations without displacing them from their homes. A constructive policy on farm structure must help to assure agriculture of active participation in the general economic development of these areas, he said.

On the Commission's proposal the standing committee drew up and on March 6 adopted rules of procedure. The committee decided to set up two working parties, one to check definitions of concepts used in the field of farm structure and the other to deal with the financing of measures to improve agricultural structure.

The committee will meet again at the end of May to discuss the member states' first reports on farm structure policies, including their relation to regional economic policy and agricultural market policy, and to hear reports from the working parties.