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PRESS RELEASE

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Amended draft directive on public works contracts

The Commission of the European Economic Community has laid before the Council an amended draft directive on the co-ordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts.

The original draft directive was submitted by the Commission to the Council in writing on 28 July 1964. The amendments now proposed take into account the opinions expressed by the Economic and Social Committee on 25 February 1965 and by the European Parliament on 23 March 1965, as well as the wishes of certain local authorities. A few other amendments, which also seemed appropriate, have been included.

- i) The provisions of the directive will now apply to public works contracts estimated to be worth not less than 300 000 units of account, instead of 60 000 u.a. as previously. The limit has been raised because of the difficulties that the directive would have caused, in its original form, for certain local administrations with insufficient staff. Thus towns and communes will not retain the freedom they at present enjoy in certain countries with regard to the award of contracts involving small or moderate sums of money.
- ii) Until the end of the transitional period, public works contracts let by publicly owned gas, water and electricity undertakings are to be excluded from the scope of the directive.
- iii) With a view to achieving uniform conditions of competition in the transport sector, the public works contracts let by any transport undertaking established under public law in the rail, road and inland waterway sector will be excluded from the scope of the directive until such time as special arrangements are promulgated. The original draft directive made an exception only for railways.