

Brussels, April 27, 1966
IP (66) 40

PRESS RELEASE

Harmonization of rules on measuring instruments

The Commission of the European Economic Community has proposed to the Council for a general directive on the approximation of Member States' laws and regulations covering the whole field of measuring instruments.

As part of the work being done under Article 100 of the Treaty, for the removal of obstacles to trade arising from technical rules, an inquiry was carried out among Member States and representatives of industry. It revealed that, among the branches of industry affected, measuring instruments occupy a leading place. A comparison of the current rules and regulations confirmed that in all Member States measuring instruments are subject to very strict checks in the interest of the consumer or user, but that these checks vary from one State to the next. In the case of imported instruments checks are sometimes made at the frontier.

Differences in test procedures in Member States place manufacturers in a difficult position, for they must produce instruments which will meet the varying requirements in different States. The Commission therefore thought it was time that a general directive be worked out laying down specific principles and definitions, aligning the different regulatory procedures and setting out the legal consequences these would entail at Community level. Individual directives will then be issued laying down the special technical rules for each type of measuring instrument and the procedures for checking that they have been observed. Simultaneously with the general directive mentioned above, the Commission has proposed individual directives for self-registering mercury glass thermometers for medical use, 5 to 50 kg block weights in the "medium range of error" category and cylindrical weights of 1 g to 10 kg in the "medium range of error" category. Draft directives for other measuring instruments are being prepared.
