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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMON MARKET COMMISSION INDICATES  
ITS THINKING ON JOINT SALES AGREEMENTS

Washington, D.C., June 1, 1967 -- The Commission of the European Economic Community has given the first indication of its thinking on joint sales agreements, a classical type of horizontal agreement.

In the Official Gazette of May 29, the Commission gave notice of its intention to grant a "negative clearance" for the amended agreements between the Belgian nitrate fertilizer producers and their joint exclusive sales agency. Upon the Commission's instructions, the contracting parties had removed the provisions contrary to the EEC competition laws. The notice published in the Official Gazette indicates that the Commission intends to eliminate all restraints on producers' as well as resellers' freedom of action that would prevent them from handling the member states' markets like a single domestic market.

By the amended agreements, the joint sales agency retains the exclusive rights to sell all of its members products in the Belgian domestic market and export markets outside the EEC. However, the joint sales agency relinquishes once and for all the right to export from Belgium to the other Common Market countries. Each Belgian nitrate fertilizer manufacturer will handle these exports himself, acting individually. In addition, the joint sales agency will make no direct or indirect restrictions on Belgian wholesalers' or dealers' imports or exports of these products.