

Brussels, 13 December 1966  
IP (66) 856 156PRESS RELEASEFreedom of establishment for estate agents and  
suppliers of certain business services

On 6 December 1966 the EEC Council adopted a directive introducing freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services in respect of self-employed persons engaged in:

1. Dealings in real estate (ISIC Group 640)
2. Certain business services (ISIC Group 839)

The proposal on which the directive is based was submitted by the Commission on 24 July 1964.

The adoption of this directive marks an important step forward towards the total removal of restrictions on establishment and supply of services, for it covers a considerable number of activities.

In the field of real estate dealings, it liberalizes all dealings of persons or companies who derive income from the purchase, sale, lease or management of real estate, whether developed or undeveloped, in particular premises used for industrial, commercial or professional purposes or as dwellings, or from rights pertaining to these types of property, or from activity as expert or intermediary in dealings relating to such properties or rights.

In the field of business services the following categories are liberalized:

- a) Employment agencies;
- b) Inquiry agencies and security services;
- c) Advertising agencies and services;
- d) The organization of private commercial events (in particular industrial and trade fairs, exhibitions, etc.);
- e) Services ancillary to office work, including the leasing of mechanical and electronic office equipment, and translation services;
- f) Business consultancy services (O and M);
- g) Literary and artistic professions;
- h) Valuers, except insurance assessors;
- i) Interpreters;
- g) Press-cutting services.

The legal status accorded by the directive to nationals of Member States and companies incorporated in conformity with the legislation of a Member State is, under Article 58 of the Treaty, the same as that enjoyed by nationals and companies of the host country.

The directive, therefore, requires the Member States to remove, inter alia, any restrictions:

- a) Which prevent beneficiaries from establishing themselves in the host country or from supplying services there on the same conditions and with the same rights as nationals;
- b) Which stem from an administrative practice and lead to discrimination between beneficiaries and nationals.

In practice all provisions must be removed that stipulate possession of the nationality of the country in which the person concerned wishes to conduct business or that require the possession of a "professional" card or foreign trader's identity card.

Furthermore the beneficiaries are guaranteed the right to join trade or professional organizations on the same conditions and with the same rights and obligations as nationals.

The Member States, to whom the directive is addressed, have six months from notification of the directive to put into effect any measures needed to comply with it.

The following activities, however, are excluded:

- a) Land surveyor;
- b) Press;
- c) Customs agent;
- d) Certain consultants on economic, financial, commercial, statistical matters and labour matters;
- e) Debt-collecting.

For these activities, which also belong to the two fields covered by this directive, the Council will adopt specific directives.