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PRESS RELEASE

Easing of trade formalities
between EEC Member States.

The EEC Commission has put before the Council of Ministers a draft decision intended to ease the formalities required by Member States in their mutual trade.

In the course of its studies on application of the Treaty provisions concerning the free movement of goods, the Commission has noted that the system of automatic licences for liberalized products is an impediment to intra-Community trade. It causes delay and extra costs for firms and is even in some cases a camouflaged means of imposing unjustified restrictions.

The Commission has also noted that the Member States can obtain the same results as those achieved by the licence through other formalities, such as a compulsory technical visa or the presentation of a prior authorization or comparable document, which have the same restrictive effect on intra-Community trade. The Commission therefore considered that, in order to remove these obstacles, action should be undertaken with regard not only to the automatic licence system but also to all similar formalities, whether prior or concomittant, which still have to be observed on import or export of goods no longer subject to quantitative restrictions between the Member States.

The proposal is for a general prohibition, with effect from 1 April 1967, on making import or export subject to compliance with certain formalities. However, in the present stage of development of the Common Market, the rule must be modified by a few exceptions which will disappear as the aims of the Treaty are achieved.

The proposed decision is based on Article 235 of the Treaty.