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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EC "TRUST-BUSTER" TO BE REPLACED BECAUSE OF ILLNESS

The EC Commission yesterday paid homage to Luxembourg Commissioner Albert Borschette who has failed to recover from a stroke he suffered in May and has been declared incapable of continuing his duties by the European Court of Justice.

The Commission deeply regretted the use of this procedure but found it necessary because of Mr. Borschette's health.

Mr. Borschette's main responsibility since joining the Commission in 1970 was competition policy. He earned a reputation for vigorous enforcement of Community law in this field. Of the numerous cases that went to the Court during his time in office, three made legal history. One resulted in the breaking-up of a large sugar cartel. In a second, United Brands was fined for unfair pricing and refusal to supply, and in a case against Continental Can, the Court of Justice affirmed that the Commission could prevent mergers between companies if the result would be a monopoly or virtual monopoly. Borschette was also responsible for a controversial report on oil companies' pricing practices.

During the first three years on the Commission, Borschette was also responsible for regional policy and the EC information service. From 1973 on, he was responsible for personnel and administration, in addition to competition policy.

The Commission paid tribute to Mr. Borschette's commitment to the European ideal and praised the "competence and courage" he always showed in fulfilling the responsibilities of his office.