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DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS AND INFORMATION

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

RUDOLF SCHNIEDERS, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE GERMAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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Rudolf Schnieders was born in Neuenkirchen, Federal Republic of Germany, on November 2, 1926. Mr. Schnieders attended primary and secondary schools in Germany. After working as a farm worker from 1948-50, he studied agriculture at the University of Bonn, receiving an undergraduate degree in 1953 and a graduate degree in 1958.

From 1958-62, he was a scientific collaborator at the IFO Institute (Institute for Economic Research). In 1962, he joined the German Farmers' Association (Deutscher Bauernverband), and in 1976 he became its Secretary-General and a member of the Board. The German Farmers' Association is the professional organization of German farmers and counts about 90 percent of all German farmers as members (about 700,000 farmers). It comprises 15 regional offices and about 40 specialized associations.

Mr. Schnieders since 1967 has been a member of the European Community's Economic and Social Committee in Brussels, which advises the Council of Ministers, the European Community's highest decision-making body. Ten percent of its 156 members are farmers; the others represent employers, trade unions, and consumers.

Mr. Schnieders is married with two daughters and lives in the Federal Republic of Germany.

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