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PRESS RELEASE

Harmonization of provisions on farm tractors

The EEC Commission has submitted to the Council a proposal for a directive on the mutual recognition of the regulations governing farm tractors in the Member States.

The directive would align certain of the Member States' provisions governing the authorization of designs for certain accessories and fixtures for farm tractors on wheels and licences for the tractors themselves. The regulations in question concern the maximum speed, seats for persons other than the driver, and load platforms, which in their present multiplicity of types have an adverse effect on the conditions of competition and on trade within the EEC (Article 100 of the Treaty). They determine, for instance, whether or not the owners of farm tractors can qualify for certain tax reliefs and exemptions or other benefits.

As in the case of the proposed directives on direction indicators, the suppression of radio interference, and number-plates on motor vehicles, the aim is to agree upon a form of authorization that will be valid throughout the Community and will therefore promote free trade and fair competition and help to make the tractors safer to handle and to drive. A licence issued in one Member State for a particular type of tractor would also be valid in the other Member States. Manufacturers from non-member countries who are represented in one Member State could have a particular type of tractor licenced in that State, and thus benefit from the mutual recognition of the regulations governing tractors whose manufacture conforms to the authorized specifications.

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