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COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 13 March 1969

concerning the attainment of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of activities of self-employed persons engaging in exploration (prospecting and drilling) for petroleum and natural gas (ISIC ex Major Group 13)

(69/82/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 54 (2) and (3) and 63 (2) and (3) thereof;

Having regard to the General Programme for the abolition of restrictions on freedom of establishment,[1] and in particular Title IV D thereof;

Having regard to the General Programme for the abolition of restrictions on freedom to provide services,[2] and in particular Title V C thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament[3];

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee[4];

Whereas the General Programmes provide for the introduction, between the beginning of the third stage and the end of the second year of the third stage, of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of activities of self-employed persons engaging in exploration (prospecting and drilling) for petroleum and natural gas; whereas these activities comprise the search for petroleum and natural gas deposits by all appropriate means and all operations preparatory to extraction, including preparation of the site;

Whereas, since the adoption of the General Programmes, the European Economic Community has drawn up its own nomenclature of industrial activities, entitled 'Nomenclature of Industries in the European Communities' (NICE); whereas this nomenclature, which contains references to national nomenclatures, is, while following the same decimal classification, better adapted to the needs of the Member States of the Community than the ISIC nomenclature (International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities);

Whereas the Council Directive of 7 July 1964 concerning the attainment of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of activities of self-employed persons in mining and quarrying (ISIC Major Groups 11-19[5] abolished existing restrictions in respect of prospecting and drilling for petroleum and natural gas only in so far as such activities were conducted by the holder of the production licence; whereas the present Directive covers both holders of an exploration (prospecting and drilling) licence and undertakings conducting exploration operations for petroleum and natural gas on behalf of the holder of a production licence or exploration licence (undertakings working under contract) or conducting such operations on their own account;

Whereas the geographical area in respect of which the present Directive applies is identical with that covered by the aforementioned Directive;

Whereas the exercise of certain professions (engineer, geologist, geophysicist) tends to be closely associated, on the technical side, with petroleum and natural gas exploration (prospecting and drilling); whereas the liberalisation of these professions and the mutual recognition of diplomas and other evidence of formal

[1] OJ No 2, 15.1.1962, p. 36/62.
[2] OJ No 2, 15.1.1962, p. 32/62.
[3] OJ No 268, 6.11.1967, p. 3.
[4] OJ No C 1, 12.1.1968, p. 8.
[5] OJ No 117, 23.7.1964, p. 1871/64.