
Editorial

GATT Negotiations

The failure to reach agreement on agriculture in the GATT negotiations in Brussels in December last is to be regretted on all sides. It represents the triumph of rhetoric over common sense and is yet further proof of the undue power of the farm lobby in the United States and the European Community. The United States enjoyed a propaganda success in portraying the Community as the cause of the failure of the negotiations, although the impression of "plank in their own eye" was not wholly erased. Negotiations are due to resume shortly and it is to be hoped that this

time common sense and the interest of consumers in cheaper food will prevail.

Internal Market

There are now two years to go before the internal market as defined in Article 8A EEC is due to be achieved. In these two years the emphasis shifts to the "hotter potatoes" on which political agreement will be more difficult. Sight must also not be lost, however, of the need to ensure proper implementation of Community legislation at national level and it will be important for the Commission to ensure that infringement

proceedings are not merely settled on the basis that the Member State will comply by 1993. The Commission must continue to be vigilant against the use of political compromise and convenience to solve problems without ensuring that the underlying barriers to trade are removed. Most complaints are, of course, solved without the need to resort to litigation, but as 1993 approaches, the temptation in some national circles to resist compliance for as long as possible must be firmly countered.

Laurence Gormley