

improving access for farm exports to the EC. At the same time, it will be important to ensure that improved access negotiated in the MTN is not nullified by restrictive measures introduced as part of EC 1992.

This situation is reflected in an Agra Europe analysis of the implications of EC 1992 for the agri-food industry. The report indicates that

"The possible effects for external trade are a much greater cause for concern. The Communiqué issued by the Heads of State at the Hannover Summit in June 1988 said that:

'The internal market should not close in on itself. In conformity with the provisions of GATT the Community should be open to third countries and must negotiate with those countries where necessary to ensure access to their markets for Community exports. It will seek to preserve the balance of advantages accorded, while respecting the identity of the internal market of the Community'.

In relation to the EC's import policy, the report indicates:

"The Community's commitment to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is clear and most of the negotiations with regard to access to the Community market are carried out within its framework. But, despite lip service to liberalisation of trade by the Community, the Community is protectionist now and will be just as protectionist - if not more so - once the 1992 ideal is a reality. This is inevitable because Member States, who may be forced into removing the internal protectionism which now exists, will require assurances that their industries do not suffer more competition from third countries."

It will also be necessary to monitor how the EC intends to interpret paragraph 20(2) of the Mid-Term Review Chairman's Report within the MTN which reads:

"strengthen Article XX so that measures taken to protect human, animal or plant life or health are consistent with sound scientific evidence and use suitable principles of equivalence"

The question arises as to whether the EC will apply the phrase "sound scientific evidence" in a manner that requires this evidence to prove product safety, or will it be applied in a manner that requires it to prove the more stringent criteria of complete absence from risk.