



LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION ASSOCIATION



Council of Ministers Meeting

The Council of Ministers of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) closed its Twelfth Meeting on 22 February, and undertook important commitments to promote trade negotiations among the 12 member countries of the Institution, to facilitate the participation in the regional integration process of less developed countries.

In Resolution 55, the Council adopted a series of measures to facilitate the role of LAIA as the main institutional framework for regional integration. Within this context, the Council decided that the Association's Committee of Representatives would submit a report to the next meeting stating, among others, the bases of a progressive program to set up a free trade area within LAIA, with a view to having a common Latin American market as envisaged in the Treaty of Montevideo, instrument establishing the above Association.

On the other hand, the Council decided that the Committee of Representatives should set forth procedures required so that LAIA becomes a forum for reflection and consultation of member countries regarding issues related to regional integration and trade negotiations.

Likewise, the Council entrusted the Committee of Representatives and the General Secretariat with the preparation of studies and reports to promote and enhance access to the regional market of products coming from the least developed countries.

In view of the situation in Argentina, the Council adopted a Declaration expressing its solidarity with the Argentine Government and people.

Finally, the Council highlighted the activities of the Institution's Secretary-General and Deputy Secretaries-General to modernize and streamline the role of the General Secretariat as the Association's technical body, in charge

of supporting negotiations among member countries. Consequently, the Council of Ministers agreed to re-elect Ambassador Juan Francisco Rojas Penso as the Association's Secretary-General for the period 2002-2005.

Argentine diplomat María Teresa Freddolino and Ecuadorian economist Leonardo Fortunato Mejía were appointed as Deputy Secretaries for the period 2002-2005, as from 20 March, day on which Ambassador Juan F. Rojas Penso will take office once again.



New e-Commerce Page

The Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) will include an e-Commerce Page in its web site, which will be made available to Latin American civil society and particularly to international trade economic operators, as from 15 March.

The objective of this Page is to facilitate access to technical reports and studies related to progress in Information Technology and Communications, as well as to e-commerce in LAIA member countries and other regions. Moreover, the purpose is to ease access to information regarding treatment given to electronic commerce in the different international organizations.

For preparing the Page –envisaged in the 2002 Activity Program adopted by the Committee of Representatives– the Secretary General's Office took into account conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar-Workshop held on 27-28 June 2001, in which specialists from 12 member countries participated. It also took into consideration Study 1514 on the "Situación actual y perspectivas del Comercio Electrónico en la región" (*current situation and prospects of e-commerce in the region*).

The e-commerce page is made up of the following modules:

- (1) Module on Studies and Reports related to e-commerce and information technology.
- (2) Module on Regulations, with the rules governing e-commerce and those pending approval by competent authorities in the member countries.
- (3) Module on Government Procurement used to present public and private agency sites on the Internet, informing on public procurement processes in the member countries.
- (4) Link Module by which web sites related to information technology and communications are presented, particularly, those on e-commerce.

Besides the e-Commerce Page, LAIA's web site allows the user to find information on agreements signed within this association; preferences given and received by member countries; rules of origin; tariffs in force in the Association's countries and foreign trade regulations. It also has a wide range of leads and links of interest for the countries; basic information on each one of them; a directory of integration and cooperation agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean and glossaries with basic terminology frequently used in international trade.

Another issue included in the web site refers to the physical integration of Latin America, with information on agreements signed within the framework of the Treaty of Montevideo -1980- on transport, communications and energy.

Finally, the Business Page –created to give operators economic information to help promote trade- has selected information to promote trade operations, among others, the list of importing and exporting companies in each of the member countries, calendar of events and trade missions by country.

LAIA's site on the Internet is <http://www.aladi.org>

THE CARIBBEAN

Summit Meeting of CARICOM



The Conference of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held its thirteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting in the city of Belize, Belize, on 3-5 February.

Two of the main points on the Conference's agenda were related to the launching of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), and the Heads of Government's endorsement of six important community instruments for the sub-regional integration process. Other noteworthy aspects of the Conference were the inclusion of the Cayman Islands and Bermuda as Associate Members.

In relation to the first point, the official communiqué issued at the end of the meeting points out that the Community gave an enormous step towards the establishment of the CSME with the approval by the Conference of the Programs for Eliminating Restrictions on the Right of Establishment, Services Supply and Capital Flows as requested from the Member States, in fulfillment of the obligations set forth in the Second Protocol of the Community's Treaty. These instruments come into force as from 1 March 2002.

Moreover, by the year 2005, CARICOM countries undertook the commitment to remove all restrictions that may not be immediately eliminated. In this way, the Single Market for goods, services and capital will be completed and a significant movement of persons will be achieved, such as autonomous service providers; entrepreneurs, together with family members, and the businessman's managerial, technical and supervisory staff; university graduates; mass media workers; musicians, artists and sportsmen.

The Heads of Government also progressed in the upgrading of the basic legal framework for introducing the CSME, by signing three essential instruments: (1) the Protocol that envisages the transition from the Common Market to the CSME; (2) the Protocol for the Declaration of the Provisional Application of the Revised Treaty which is pending ratification; and (3) the Inter-governmental Agreement that establishes the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ). It is considered that CROSQ will play an important role in the future CSME for four reasons: (a) it will represent the Community at international and hemispheric standard agencies, instead of the individual representations that the CARICOM countries have nowadays; (b) it will start up a community standardization program that will include world standards and promote the setting of regional standards; (c) it will represent the Community should any international disputes on standards arise and will mediate in intra-regional controversies; and (d) it will provide institutional coverage to national standards organizations. Therefore, this agency with headquarters in Barbados is considered an essential instrument for sub-regional development and the positioning of the Community to effectively advocate in favor of local markets, promote sales and compete on the global market.

Finally, the Conference reiterated its commitment for the early establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) and ordered the creation of a Joint Committee of Attorneys-General and high-level government officials from the finance sector so that they meet with a representative of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and decide on the details of the Court's funding.

CACM

Central American Common Market

Presidential Summit to Reinforce Integration

On 27 February, the Central American Heads of State and Government met in the city of Managua, Nicaragua with the firm purpose of exploring mechanisms to move forward in the political partnership among their countries and reinforce the regional and extra-regional economic integration process.

The Central American Heads of State urged their pertinent Economic Integration Ministers to reinforce economic integration in the framework of the Protocol of Guatemala. They instructed that decisive progress be made in setting up a free trade area and the Customs Union between the sub-region's countries, within the spirit of flexibility set forth in that Protocol. These decisions were taken after assessing the new challenges faced by the sub-region as a result of globalization, the opening of the markets and, particularly, the free trade agreements their countries are subscribing with third countries.

During the meeting in Managua, the Presidents adopted an Amendment to Article 35 of the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), concerning trade-related dispute settlement, so as to have an alternate, agile and modern mechanism in this respect (Text Box 1).

Likewise, Article 38 of the Protocol to the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (Protocol of Guatemala) was amended, relative to the composition of the Council of Ministers of Economic Integration (Text Box 2).

Regarding external relations of the sub-regional bloc, the Presidents adopted the proposal submitted by the Ministers in charge of Foreign Trade for negotiating a Free Trade Treaty between Central American Countries and the U.S.A. In this respect, the Ministers in charge of Foreign Trade were assigned the responsibility of conducting these negotiations –with the political support of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of their respective countries. They also thanked George W. Bush for his initiative on exploring the possibility of negotiating a free trade treaty with the Central American countries.

As far as the relations with the European Union are concerned, the above Ministers were entrusted with strengthening trade relations with the European Union, with a view to negotiate a Global Partnership Agreement.

Finally, they agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of Central American Presidents would take place in Nicaragua, during the forthcoming month of June.

Box N° 1

AMENDMENT OF TEGUCIGALPA PROTOCOL TO THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES (ODECA)

At the meeting held on 27 February 2002, by means of this Protocol, the Central American Presidents decided to amend the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), signed on 13 December 1991. Consequently, they agreed to the following wording for Article 35 of the above-mentioned instrument:

"Article 35.

This protocol and its supplementary and derived instruments shall prevail over any convention, agreement or protocol signed between the Member States, in a bilateral or multilateral manner, concerning issues related to Central American integration. Notwithstanding the above, the provisions of said conventions, agreements or treaties among those States shall remain in force provided they are not opposed to this instrument or hinder the achievement of its purposes and objectives.

Save for the provisions set forth in the next paragraph, any disagreement on the application or interpretation of the provisions contained in this protocol and other instruments referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be put before the Central American Court of Justice.

Any disagreement arising in the Economic Integration Sub-system as a result of intra-regional trade relations shall be subjected to the dispute settlement system established by the Council of Ministers of Economic Integration, which will contain an alternate method for trade dispute settlement, including arbitration. The arbitration award will be binding upon the Member States involved in the dispute. Non-fulfillment of such award shall entail suspension of the benefits in an amount equivalent to those not obtained, as established therein."

The new Protocol is open to accession by Belize and Panama and must be submitted to the ratification of each country in line with their legislation. The ratified instruments will be filed with the General Secretariat for the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA) and the Protocol will come into force eight days after the date on which the third ratified instrument is deposited.

Box N° 2

AMENDMENT OF PROTOCOL TO THE GENERAL TREATY ON CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROTOCOL OF GUATEMALA

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua decided to adjust the Protocol of Guatemala to the new realities of the integration process so as to provide clear, agile and legally feasible operational mechanisms for such Economic Integration process, to allow the promotion of an economic integration policy in the region and enforce presidential decisions in the field of economics.

Consequently, they amended Article 38 of the Guatemala Protocol, which is now worded as follows:

"Article 38.

1. The Council of Ministers of Economic Integration shall be made up of the Minister that in each State Party is in charge of economic integration affairs. The Council shall coordinate, harmonize, converge or unify the economic policies of the different countries.

2. The Council of Ministers of Economic Integration, set up in line with the above provisions, replaces the Central American Council on Tariffs and Customs Affairs and all other bodies created in instruments preceding this Protocol in Central American economic integration matters."

The new Protocol shall be submitted to the ratification of each of the contracting parties, in accordance with their pertinent legislation. Ratification instruments shall be filed with the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA) and will come into force eight days after the date on which the fifth ratification instrument is deposited by the States Parties of the Protocol to the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (Protocol of Guatemala).

CMG Extraordinary Meeting

The Common Market Group (CMG) held its Twenty-Fourth Extraordinary Meeting in the city of Buenos Aires on 14-15 February 2002, attended by delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

On that occasion, the delegations exchanged ideas on the importance of reinforcing the legal and institutional fronts of the integration process, to achieve a higher degree of institutional development in MERCOSUR and upgrade operational aspects. The outcome of these debates was summarized in a Draft Decision envisaging the submission of proposals for institutional strengthening in the MERCOSUR.

Regarding the activities to be implemented by this body throughout 2002, it was decided that, before the next Regular CMG Meeting, the *Pro Tempore* Presidency submit a report containing the priority tasks for this year, based on the survey to be carried out among National Coordinators of subsidiary bodies.

The CMG was also informed that the Specialized Meeting on Joint Trade Promotion (REPCC) plans to hold "The First Forum of MERCOSUR Exporters" in Buenos Aires, in the month of June 2002, when the Twenty-Second Summit of MERCOSUR Presidents takes place.

Finally, the following resolutions were analyzed and adopted:

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT CMG'S TWENTY-FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Buenos Aires, 14-15 February 2002

N°	Subject
01/02	SAM's (MERCOSUR Administrative Secretariat) budget for fiscal year 2002.
02/02	MERCOSUR Administrative Secretariat
03/02	Draft decisions submitted to the Common Market Council

CMC Extraordinary Meeting

The Common Market Council (CMC) held its third Extraordinary Meeting in Olivos, Argentina, on 18 February to deal with core issues for the bloc such as the upgrading of the dispute settlement system, institutional strengthening and macroeconomic coordination.

With regard to the first issue, the Member States' Ministers of Foreign Affairs signed the Protocol of Olivos on MERCOSUR's Dispute-Settlement System, to guarantee the consistent and systematic interpretation, enforcement and fulfillment of the essential instruments of the integration process and of the bloc's regulations, thus reinforcing legal certainty regarding the Customs Union (see next article).

On this occasion, the CMC reiterated the importance of macroeconomic coordination and expressed its willingness to move forward in this field with the participation of the Associate Member countries (Bolivia and Chile). According to the Council's members, the new regional context increases the possibilities of achieving a greater policy convergence among the countries of the bloc, in the medium and long term. Moreover, it requested that the Meeting of MERCOSUR Ministers

of Economy and Presidents of Central Banks work on their issues more thoroughly in the light of the new regional developments, to consolidate results achieved and create the necessary conditions for a greater macroeconomic convergence. This will be carried out in the framework of the provisions of CMC's Decision No. 30/00 and of the Presidential Declaration on Macroeconomic Convergence signed in Florianopolis, in December 2000.

At the Olivos meeting, the CMC also adopted the proposal of the Specialized Meeting on Women so that the MERCOSUR Educational Sector includes the gender perspective in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of its activities, to eradicate discriminatory contents and activities. In this respect, it recommended that the Education Ministers' Meeting take into account this concern in its Action Plans.

Finally, the CMC fixed the date for the Twenty-Second Ordinary Meeting to be held on 13-14 June 2002.

DECISIONS ADOPTED AT CMC'S THIRD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Olivos, 18 February 2002

N°	Subject
01/02	Institutional Strengthening
02/02	Coordination between the Common Market Group (CMG) and the Political Agreement and Consultation Forum (FCCP).
03/02	Agreement on a Project to Foster Environmental Management and Cleaner Production among small and medium-sized enterprises.

Dispute-Settlement Protocol Signed

The Presidents and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the bloc's member countries signed the Protocol of Olivos for Dispute Settlement in the MERCOSUR, at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Common Market Council held in Argentina on 18 February.

The Protocol of Olivos sets forth procedures for dispute settlement among States Parties regarding the interpretation, enforcement or non-fulfillment of the Asunción Treaty, the Ouro-Preto Protocol, protocols and agreements signed in the framework of the latter, Common Market Council Decisions, Common Market Group Decisions and Directives of the MERCOSUR Trade Committee.

The instrument adopted in Olivos envisages the possibility of submitting disputes to the World Trade Organization (WTO) or to any other trade scheme to which the MERCOSUR members belong, at the choice of the claimant. In other words, Article 2 sets forth that the trade dispute cannot be submitted simultaneously to two organizations with decision-making authority on the issue.

Direct negotiations are still the prior instance for solving disputes among MERCOSUR countries (Article 4). However, a maximum duration of 15 days is established for these direct negotiations –unless otherwise agreed by the parties– as from the date on which one of the parties informed the other on the decision to initiate these procedures.

When direct negotiations do not lead to a solution, which is fully satisfactory for the parties, any of the countries involved may initiate an *ad hoc* arbitration procedure or, by mutual agreement, submit the case to the consideration of the Common Market Group. The CMG must decide on the case within 30 days after the meeting at which the dispute was submitted to its consideration.

When the parties are unable to solve the dispute by direct negotiations or through the CMG, any of the States Parties to the dispute may convey to the MERCOSUR Administrative Secretariat, its decision to resort to the *ad hoc* arbitration procedure, as set forth in Chapter 6 of the Olivos Protocol. This Arbitration Tribunal will issue an award within 60 days, a period that may be extended for a maximum of 30 additional days, as from the notification of the MERCOSUR Administrative Secretariat to the parties and other arbitrators, stating the acceptance by the President of the Arbitration Tribunal of his/her appointment.

The most remarkable event within the Olivos Protocol is the instatement of a Permanent Tribunal to review the awards issued by the *Ad Hoc* Arbitration Tribunals. The review remedy filed with this Permanent Tribunal shall be decided upon

within 15 days after the notification thereof. This decision shall be final and shall supersede the awards issued by the *Ad Hoc* Arbitration Tribunals.

MERCOSUR's Permanent Review Tribunal –made up by five arbitrators- will decide upon appeals only related to law issues dealt with in the dispute and the legal interpretations of the *Ad Hoc* Arbitration Tribunal's award. Each Member State shall appoint one arbitrator and a deputy arbitrator for a two-year period, which may be renewed for not more than two consecutive terms. The fifth arbitrator shall be appointed by unanimous agreement of the MERCOSUR countries, for a three-year period –not renewable unless otherwise agreed by the member states. If this unanimity is not achieved, the MERCOSUR Administrative Secretariat shall draw the name from a list of eight candidates.

Once they accept their appointment, the members of the Permanent Review Tribunal shall be available on a permanent basis to act when required.

The Olivos Protocol also envisages direct access to the Permanent Review Tribunal. That is to say, once steps towards direct negotiations have been taken, the parties to the dispute may agree to submit the case directly and solely to the Permanent Review Tribunal. Under these circumstances, the tribunal's awards will be binding on the States Parties involved in the dispute; they shall be considered a final judgment, with no possibility to appeal the decision.

The Permanent Review Tribunal will be headquartered in the city of Asunción. However, when justified, it may exceptionally meet in other MERCOSUR cities.

The Olivos Protocol is considered part of the Asunción Treaty and will come into force on the thirtieth day after all four ratification instruments have been filed by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. As from its entry into force, the Olivos Protocol repeals the Brasilia Protocol on Dispute Settlement signed on 17 December 1991, as well as its Regulations adopted by Common Market Council Decision No. 17/98.

Meeting of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile Presidents

MERCOSUR and Associate Countries' Presidents met during the Third CMC Extraordinary Meeting. Upon its finalization, a joint communiqué was issued in which they:

- Reasserted their commitment towards the integration process and their will to reinforce coordination among the countries.
- Committed all efforts to promote human rights, reduce poverty and social exclusion, protect the environment, ensure progressive trade liberalization and foster more stable capital flows and investment.
- Reasserted their commitment to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.
- Undertook the commitment to move ahead regarding macroeconomic coordination among MERCOSUR member countries, Bolivia and Chile, as well as to keep open and competitive economies.
- Acknowledged the need to improve MERCOSUR's institutional framework to reinforce the legal certainty and management capacity of the integration process.
- Reasserted their interest in ongoing negotiations with the U.S.A. and EU.
- Confirmed their willingness to further the commitments of the integration process between MERCOSUR, Chile and Bolivia.
- Reiterated their interest in concluding MERCOSUR-CAN negotiations before June 2002 to create a free trade area between both blocs.
- Advocated in favor of continuing with the Summits of South American Presidents and reinforcing the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA).

They once again confirmed their support to the efforts of the Argentine Government to overcome the country's adverse situation.



Cooperation Agreement with WTO

The Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Mike Moore, and the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Enrique V. Iglesias, signed a memorandum of understanding on 27 February, to deepen cooperation among both entities for providing technical assistance on trade negotiations and institutional capacity-building in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The document was signed at IDB headquarters in Washington, D.C. upon completion of a meeting held by Latin American and Caribbean Trade and Economics officials on the trade challenges faced by the region, either concerning multilateral negotiations and the fulfillment of WTO commitments, or negotiation and implementation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement.

With a view to cooperating with the region's countries in these multilateral efforts, WTO and IDB will increase their cooperation to support institutional strengthening of the member countries and thus promote their full participation in the world trade system.

The importance of reinforcing institutional capacity was highlighted in the recent Doha Ministerial Declaration, in which WTO member countries sought to prioritize the needs and interests of developing countries in the multilateral action agenda.

WTO pointed out that this agreement with IDB could serve as a model for regional development banks in their efforts to support borrowing countries through technical assistance and institutional strengthening, so that they play a major role in the Doha Development Agenda.

WTO and IDB will work in the framework of the above memorandum to set up joint programs that will include courses, seminars and regional and sub-regional meetings, among other activities targeted at training trade negotiators, distance learning and multilateral negotiations and trade policy analysis.

WTO and IDB will also consider cooperating in technical assistance programs to reinforce Latin American and Caribbean countries' capabilities in trade issues related to the environment, competition, government procurement, investments and trade promotion.

IDB recently cooperated with WTO through the Institute for the Integration of Latin American and the Caribbean (INTAL). In this context, INTAL has organized WTO training courses for trade negotiators in the region's countries and, in line with the new agreement, will reinforce its activities in this field.

Regional Policy Dialogue

As from March 2002, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will continue its high-level dialogues on a series of important issues for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean, such as trade and integration, macroeconomic policies, poverty, education, management and transparency, natural disasters and the environment.

The Regional Policy Dialogue was created in 1999 at the initiative of IDB's Board of Executive Directors. The objective of this initiative is to bring together representatives from the Bank's borrowing countries and experts on substantial issues included in the Dialogue, with the purpose of analyzing imminent challenges encountered by the region, seeking solutions and identifying mechanisms to face such challenges.

Thus, IDB encourages the establishment of networks. The idea is that the links created in the different Dialogue meetings will allow the exchange of experiences and knowledge and will contribute to increasing cooperation in public policy making directly related to development priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dialogue meetings are held twice a year. Participants discuss priority issues and are provided technical advice by experts who have researched on the issues and by Bank personnel. The network members themselves decide upon the agenda, as well as the policies and technical matters to be discussed at the subsequent meetings.

IDB's Integration and Regional Programs Department, Sustainable Development Department, Regional Operations Departments, Legal Department and Research Department play an essential role in the organization of the meetings, either by proposing possible participants or by supervising the research work submitted within the framework of the Dialogue.

The General Secretariat of the Regional Policy Dialogue is the Regional Technical Cooperation Division, Integration and Regional Programs Department.

For further information on the Regional Policy Dialogue, please send an e-mail to dialogo@iadb.org

DIALOGUE MEETINGS PLANNED FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER, 2002

Trade and Integration: 19-20 March;
IDB Contact: Robert Devlin (INT/INT)
Management and Transparency: 4-5 April;
IDB Contact: Joseph James Spinner (LEG/LEG)
The Environment: 4-5 April;
IDB Contact: Walter Arensberg (SDS/ENV)
Education: April 4-5;
Contact IDB: Juan Carlos Navarro (SDS/EDU)

Central Banks: 25-26 April;
IDB Contact: Eduardo Fernandez Arias (RES)
Poverty: 23-24 May;
IDB Contact: Gustavo Yamada (SDS/POV)
Natural Disasters: 23-24 May;
IDB Contact: Walter Arensberg (SDS/ENV)

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES



NORMA SANCHÍS (Ed.)

EL ALCA EN DEBATE.

UNA PERSPECTIVA DESDE LAS MUJERES

Buenos Aires, Argentina: Biblos, 2001. 195 pp.

The book is the outcome from a wider project on trade liberalization and gender, supported by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), that started with the international seminar on the effects of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) on women, held at the same time as the Meeting of the Continent's

Trade Ministers, which took place in Buenos Aires, in April 2001.

The purpose of the book is to discuss the impact that the generation of the biggest trade bloc could have – the implementation of which is envisaged for 2005- based on an assessment of the effects that the initiative will probably have on the different sectors of society in the Americas. In this respect, the three parts of the book (Women, macroeconomic decisions and new citizenships; The FTAA proposal and its expected impacts; and Resistance and Alternatives) attempt to respond to questions such as: Who will be the winners and losers of the FTAA? Does this initiative provide new opportunities for all or will it stress competitiveness gaps among

companies and inequalities among countries? What will happen if health and education become tradable goods and are left in the hands of transnational corporations to offer them to those who can pay? Is it possible to give companies such wide powers so as to invalidate governments' capability of regulating market flows? To what extent can local or national suppliers be affected if the governments sign an agreement to treat all companies throughout the continent in the same way?

The underlying question to any attempts to answer the above is, of course: Will this affect men and women differently?

In this manner, the book tackles what appears to be a double challenge. On the one hand, it promotes the idea that macroeconomic decisions –among which are the big trade policy decisions- must not necessarily be left to experts. On the contrary, it argues that, to the extent that these decisions condition and have profound effects on the daily life of men and women, it is necessary to recover citizens' rights to discuss and exert an influence on these decisions. Along this line, the task of democratizing information and promoting debates in parliamentary fora, civil society and women's movements is discussed.

On the other hand, the book provides a critical view from women's standpoint of the trade liberalization negotiations that are taking place within the American continent, focusing on the different effects this process may bring upon them.

**WILHELM HOFMEISTER AND
FRANKLIN TREIN (ORGS.)**

*ANUARIO BRASIL EUROPA. INSTITUIÇÕES E
INTEGRAÇÃO*

São Paulo, Brazil: Konrad Adenauer Foundation
2001. 240 pp.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation has been working for several years on the dialogue between Brazil and Europe, by promoting conferences to exchange experiences among representatives of the fields of politics, economics, society and sciences. This dialogue

has been documented in various publications, among which the most recent is the Brazil – Europe Yearbook. Institutions and Integration.

The objective of this book is to accompany recent developments in the relations between Brazil and the European countries, by describing and analyzing some of the most important issues on the current agenda.

It is divided into three parts. The first examines the situation of Brazil within the MERCOSUR, based on a series of articles focused on the institutional problem, the harmonization of national economic policies and the trends that allow speculation regarding the future of the sub-regional bloc.

The second part focuses on the European experience and the building of institutions that regulate the regional integration process in this geographical environment, with the purpose of drawing some lessons that will allow a comparative reflection from the standpoint of MERCOSUR. In this way, progress is made to explain the reasons for the emergence of the Economic and Monetary Union as well as the structures and political consequences of this European initiative.

The third part deals with the big trends that have characterized relations between the European Union (EU) and the MERCOSUR, with special reference to the challenges brought about for that bi-regional cooperation by the negotiations being carried out by the South American bloc to set up the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

The last part of the Yearbook contains a series of articles that briefly describe relations between Brazil and the EU during the year 2000. It analyzes the main events of 2000, above all based on the important transition phase in the relations between both international players, which arose after the June 1999 agreement that set the bases for creating a bi-regional agreement between MERCOSUR and the EU. The book ends with a selection of speeches outlining the main Brazilian foreign policy matters in relation to Europe, given by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso during the year 2000, when he visited EU countries or welcomed his European peers.

Besides the organizers, the following people contributed to this book: Helio Jaguaribe, Raúl Bernal-Meza, Félix Peña, Stefano Gatto, Ulrike Guerot, Patricia Luíza Kegel, Rodrigo Vega, Paulo G. Fagundes Visentini and Theotônio dos Santos.

Educational Integration Project Launched

An agreement signed between the *Rede Brasileira de Educação a Distância-UVB* (Brazilian distance learning network) and the *Universidad Tecnológica Nacional de Argentina-UTN* (Argentine national technological university) will allow educational cooperation and the implementation of bilingual courses at the university level, among other activities.

This project aims at setting up the largest virtual teaching network in South America, by bringing together two institutions that have 29 physical locations (Schools and Academic Units) in Argentina and 10 in Brazil, besides a faculty of 17,000 teachers and 190,000 students.

To meet the requirements of this educational undertaking, there will be over 40 multi-point videoconference rooms, virtual on-line and off-line classrooms, publishing of books, video and CD-ROM production equipment, distance learning courses, digital and traditional libraries and open radios.

The network institutions have thought about objectives such as promoting the region's cultural integration, cooperating in the production of knowledge, joint graduate and post-graduate courses, bilingual Master's and PhDs -distance and partial attendance courses, developing applied research projects, elaborating university extension projects, generating student exchange processes and providing educational solutions for public and private institutions.

The project's initial step was the signing of an agreement and the launching of language preparatory courses for the teachers, that is, Portuguese for Argentine teachers and Spanish for the Brazilians. UVB Director, Gilberto Mariot, confirmed that funds are the only missing element to start the first course of the network on Environmental Education. Argentina's economic problems have slightly complicated the project's financial situation. However, Mariot estimates that before the year-end, the course will be undergoing the final preparation phase (*Valor Econômico*, Brazil, 28-02-02).

UVB is a virtual consortium created in July 2000 that brings together the following Brazilian universities: Anhembimorumbi (SP), da Amazônia (PA), do Pantanal (MS), do Sul de Santa Catarina (SC), Potiguar (RN), and Veiga de Almeida (RJ). It also includes the university centers of Triângulo Mineiro (MG), Monte Serrat (SP), Newton Paiva (MG) and Vila Velha (ES). Presently, UVB offers around 35 courses, lasting between 16 and 68 hours, on management, law, the environment, finance, communications, health, education, public administration, technology and tourism. To date, 1,200 students have studied in UVB's virtual classrooms.

http://www.uvb.br/br/atualidades/noticias/convenio_formara.htm

On its part, the Argentine *Universidad Tecnológica Nacional* was created in 1959 and over 30,000 professionals have graduated from its 15 graduate careers. UTN is a federal university, encompassing all of Argentina's regions. Its 21 Regional Schools and 8 Academic Units are located in the Northeast (Chaco, Entre Rios and Santa Fe Provinces); Northwest (La Rioja and Tucuman Provinces); Center (Federal Capital city and Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Mendoza Provinces) and South (Chubut, Neuquen, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego Provinces). Due to its geographical extension, it has a great capacity for absorbing students (70,000 attendants), which accounts for over 50% of all engineering students throughout the country.

Fellowships for a Master's Degree in MERCOSUR Regional Integration

The *Universidad de Buenos Aires* (UBA) and MERCOSUR's Joint Parliamentary Commission (CPC-MERCOSUR), Argentine Chapter, jointly summon candidates to submit Fellowship applications for the first year of the Master's degree program in MERCOSUR Regional Integration Processes, which will be offered at the UBA's Advanced Studies Center in 2002.

The main objective of this fellowship is to promote access of citizens from MERCOSUR Member and Associate Countries to a formal post-graduate studies program, highly qualified and specialized in the field of regional integration studies.

The Master's degree program was created in 1996 and is currently part of the University's International Strategy and MERCOSUR Program (PROMESUR) aimed at developing the field of regional integration and international economics studies at the main Higher Education center of Argentina. The Master's career has its own Faculty and Academic Council made up of prestigious specialists in the fields included in the multidisciplinary Curriculum.

Regarding the scope and requisites for the UBA/CPC-MERCOSUR Fellowship, it has been informed that it will cover the Master's enrollment fees for one citizen from each MERCOSUR Member country (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) or Associate Member country (Bolivia and Chile) in 2002. All other expenses (lodging, etc.) must be borne by the fellows. The Scholarship may be extended for a second year based on the academic performance of the fellow upon completion of the first year.

Candidates accepted to attend 2002 academic year may apply for the Fellowship. During the admission interview, candidates must submit a research project on issues related to the MERCOSUR integration process, which will be assessed together with his/her background.

The UBA/CPC-MERCOSUR Fellowship will be awarded by a Jury made up of representatives from the *Universidad de Buenos Aires* and the CPC, who will assess the background of all candidates who must have been previously accepted to the Master's program, as well as the research project that they intend to develop throughout their post-graduate studies.

Fellowship applications must be submitted with a letter addressed to the President of the CPC and the Director of the Master career together with the Admission forms, either at the offices of the MERCOSUR Joint Parliamentary Commission or at the Secretariat, Center of Advanced Studies, *Universidad de Buenos Aires*.

The Curriculum is structured into two academic years:

First year –Common basic cycle for all specializations: provides training on MERCOSUR's historical, economic, legal and international background, the situation of the bloc's countries, progress achieved in integration and international relations of the sub-region with the rest of Latin America and the World. It includes the following subjects:

- International economics and contemporary technological trends
- MERCOSUR's international relations and insertion
- History and relationship of MERCOSUR countries
- Compared structure and economic development of MERCOSUR member and associate member countries.
- Human, social and political development of MERCOSUR countries
- Culture in MERCOSUR countries
- Integration Economics
- Integration Law
- Introduction to economics (optional for graduates in this field)
- Research methodologies and integration theories
- Portuguese

A Coordinator (Regular Professor) will teach the different subjects and other teachers will be in charge of certain specific issues within each subject. The teaching syllabus includes classes and seminars by special guests from the country and abroad, as well as workshops on diplomatic operational issues related to specific aspects of the integration process.

Second year – Specializations: students may choose among four specializations

- Economic Development
- International Relations
- Human Development and the Environment
- Legal-Administrative System

Forms and additional information on the Fellowship or Master's program may be requested from:

MERCOSUR Joint Parliamentary Committee, Argentine Chapter:

Address: Bartolomé Mitre 2085, Piso 1° Of. 1 (1039), Capital Federal, Argentina

Tel.: (54 11) 4953-3911/8988

Web page: <http://www.cpcmercursos.gov.ar>

E-mail: cpcmercursos@hcdn.gov.ar

Master's in Regional Integration Processes - MERCOSUR

Address: Centro de Estudios Avanzados de la Universidad de Buenos Aires (University of Buenos Aires, Advanced Studies Center)

Pte. José E. Uriburu 950, Piso 1° (1114), Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tel.: (54 11) 4508-3618 (ext. 118, every day as from 04:00 p.m.)

Fax: (54 11) 4508-3628

E-mail: mercursos@sis.rec.uba.ar; info@cea.uba.ar

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