

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL – Andrés Morales Interiano

The Czech Republic's Participation in the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America and its Policy Implications

Introduction and Justification:

The EU-CA AA, signed in June 2012, was the first region-to-region Association Agreement for the EU and for Central America as well. It shows an innovative way of treating with trade agreements in a constantly changing globalised economy. In this context, it is always important to go back and see what individual states do and how they play their part in the international community. Therefore, it was considered relevant to study the Czech Republic's participation in this agreement, starting from the 'pre-negotiation' stage until after its application. This thesis studies the way the Czech Republic formulated its interests for this agreement and how it was able to meet them. It is of personal interest because I was born and raised in Central America and was always interested in their international trade. Additionally, I have always been impressed by the role the Czech Republic has played in the global system and their quick introduction and increased participation in the EU.

Research Questions

What was the Czech Republic's participation as an individual MS of the EU in the EU-CA AA negotiations; how did it present and meet its interests?

What have been the policy implications for the Czech Republic and the trade outcomes of signing this agreement?

Theoretical Framework

Considering I double-majored in Political Science and International Relations, it was only natural to combine these disciplines with Economics. Therefore, the theoretical framework is based upon the International Political Economy, specifically, the Political Economy of Regionalism. This framework includes the usage of terms such as International Trade and Preferential Trade Agreements, which are the focus of this study.

Methodology and Sources

Consequently, the methodology is mainly performed with qualitative methods; however, in order to show the effects in trade flows, there were some quantitative methods applied. Some of the techniques applied are the following:

Searching for Political Economy review,
Research and analyses of official documents,
Research and analyses of macroeconomic data, and
Interview of actors

THEORY AND INTRODUCTION:

Previous agreements

The EU-CA AA

Acemoglu, Smith, Ricardo, H-O, Daniels & Radebaugh & Sullivan, Weingast & Wittman (Oxford), Persson & Tabellini (MIT).

NEGOTIATION PROCESS:

Department of Americas in the Ministry of Industry and Trade

Ministry of Foreign affairs

European Commission webpage and publications

Interviews with Kristyna Chvátalová and Carlos Molina

Websites from Central America and their relationships with the EU

PUBLIC OPINION:

Publications of NGOs

DATA:

The data used came from official sources in order to find the amount of exports and imports from and to the Czech Republic with the Central American countries:

<http://madb.europa.eu/madb/indexPubli.htm> Market Access Database (EUROSTAT)

<http://apl.czso.cz> Czech Statistical Office

<http://www.sieca.int/> La Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana