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EURÓPSKA ÚNIA A REGIONÁLNE OBCHODNÉ DOHODY

Abstract: *The EU ascribes a great significance to external economic relations and to the common trade policy. The common trade policy is based on unified export policy principles, setting of customs tariffs, unification of liberalisation measures, and also on the closing of negotiated trade agreements. Regional trade agreements (RTAs) help in the liberalisation of the world trade and are important in the relations of EU member countries with third countries. The contractual parties provide different trade preferences on the basis of these agreements. In the current period the members of these agreements are involved in approximately 40 % of the world's trade exchange. On the basis of these arguments the author analyses the issues of RTAs. The focus of the paper is on the characteristics, analysis and evaluation of the following agreements:*

- *EU–Mercosur Association Agreement*
- *EU–Andean Community of Nations Cooperation Agreement*
- *EU–ACP (Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific) Countries Partnership Agreement*
- *Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the EU and CARIFORUM (Forum of the Caribbean ACP States)*

Key words: *European Union, World Trade Organization, liberalisation of trade, regional trade agreements, Mercosur, Andean Community of Nations, African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries, Cariforum*

JEL: F 13, F 14, O 24, O 52, O 54, O 56

Úvod

Regionálne obchodné dohody (Regional Trade Agreements) sa považujú za komplementárne nástroje multilaterálnej obchodnej liberalizácie. Na základe nich si zmluvné strany navzájom redukovujú rôzne tarify a obmedzenia v obchode a poskytujú si obchodné preferencie. Regionálne obchodné dohody majú značný vplyv na rozvoj obchodu, na investičné toky, na trhy práce a na kvalitu životného prostredia. Prinášajú vyššiu mieru konkurencie, dosahovanie úspor z rozsahu a môžu zvyšovať prílev priamych zahraničných investícií. V týchto dohodách sa pozornosť