

ALVAR VILLEGAS, Jorge

Spain's trade policy with Central Asian countries

Abstract: Central Asia has never been a significant market for Spain. Bilateral relations have always been meagre, by any measure. The explanation for such scanty relations should be sought in factors characteristic both of these markets, such as distance, institutional difficulties and size (small incomes and populations), and of the Spanish offering, such as its feeble international ambitions and preference for other countries and areas. And yet attractive market niches and highly successful, pioneering companies can be found in Central Asia. Their importance need not be exaggerated to assert that their existence would justify both potential interest for certain types of Spanish business and action on the part of Spain's trade authorities.

Key words: Spanish companies, Spain's brand name, economic transition, EurAsEC.

JEL classification: F13, F14, F50, 053, P33, P47.

BAENA GRACIÁ, Verónica and CERVÍÑO, Julio

Market selection in the international expansion of Spanish franchises

Abstract: Market selection is one of the strategic decisions to be made by franchisers when expanding abroad. Not many papers have been published on the subject, however, and the few that have nearly always focus on U.S. and British manufacturing and retail franchise chains. The present article aims to fill that gap by analysing the approach to country selection adopted by the Spanish franchise system. The results show that per capita income, risk aversion, individualism and cultural distance between the home country (Spain) and the investment host are the key factors in the selection of foreign markets.

Key words: international expansion, country selection, franchise system.

JEL classification: FO, F2.

GARCÍA FERNÁNDEZ-MURO, Clara and ORLANDINI, Arnaldo

Energy relations between China and Central Asia: complementarity and strategy

Abstract: With the demise of the USSR, Central Asia emerged as an area of immense energy potential. And in recent years China has begun to play a highly significant role in the region's hydrocarbon industries. This paper describes the energy-based relations between China and the major Central Asian export and transit countries (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), and the specific action taken by the East Asian nation to exploit their complementary interests. Lastly, the soundness of Chinese actions to

ensure supply is assessed in light of energy governance in the two counterparts studied.

Key words: hydrocarbons, governance, China, Central Asia.

JEL classification: F59, P28, Q40, Q48.

HUICI SANCHO, Laura

Regional institutional framework and governance

Abstract: The challenges to economic security and development facing the Central Asian nations call for sound and effective international cooperation. Nonetheless, the tension among the five «stans» and their reluctance to cooperate constitute an ongoing challenge for the international organisations working in the region. Effective structures for cooperation have only been established and developed thanks to the presence of outside actors such as Russia and China, but even then they have been subject to the need to strike a balance among a variety of demands. Another essential problem is the existence of different organisations with similar purposes. Greater effectiveness should be sought by rationalising the existing structures in favour of the most prominent, differentiating scopes of action and defining inter-organisational cooperation mechanisms.

Key words: international organisations, international cooperation, regionalisation, EAEC, CTSO, SCO, Central Asia.

JEL classification: F53, F55.

LARUELLE, Marlène and PEYROUSE, Sébastien

Central Asia in the context of the world economy

Abstract: The role on the international stage of the five Central Asian nations emerging from the implosion of the Soviet Union depends heavily on their economic position: these are rentier countries whose societies are operational thanks primarily to prime material exports (such as oil, gas, cotton, uranium, gold or rare minerals) and manufactured imports, mainly from China but also from Europe. Located between Russia, China and Iran, they find it difficult to define their place in the context of the world economy. Moreover, their globalisation is hindered by an unstable geopolitical environment and a steep decline in human capital that has reinforced their rentier status.

Key words: Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, transition, hydrocarbons, gas, oil, uranium, minerals, agriculture, cotton, international trade, China, Russia.

JEL classification: FO2, F10, F59, P28, P48, Q10, Q33.

MAÑÉ ESTRADA, Aurèlia and DE LA CÁMARA ARILLA, Carmen

Central Asia: a region moving toward energy poverty

Abstract: This article analyses the growth and development potential of the five ex-Soviet Central Asian republics. Their «socialist colonial» legacy and economic transition to «mutant economy» status constitute a starting point that is scantily favourable to development. In this context, these nations have adopted a growth-development model based on the export of natural resources. The (mis)management of their natural wealth, however, dooms them to «energy poverty». A change in the design of the energy model would be a first step toward reversing this situation.

Key words: mutant economies, transition, Soviet colonialism, geo-energy domain, energy poverty, natural resources, hydrocarbons, Central Asia.

JEL classification: F23, F54, N55, 044, 053, P31, P48, Q34.

PÉREZ MARTÍN, Miguel Ángel

New emerging energy markets: transnational corporations, transport corridors and trends in Central Asian trade

Abstract: Central Asia has significant potential in certain industries regarded to be strategic, such as energy, transport networks and trade. This article analyses and describes these industries from a geo-economic standpoint and from the perspective of the participation or involvement of foreign transnational corporations in Central Asia.

Key words: oil, gas, uranium, water, natural resources, reserves, transnational corporations.

JEL classification: F23, P28, Q25, Q32.

PUIG GÓMEZ, Albert

Foreign direct investment in Central Asian countries. General trends and Spanish presence

Abstract: This paper analyses foreign direct investment inflows from the nineteen nineties to date in the five Central Asian countries that formed part of the Soviet Union until its disintegration in 1991. While this type of investment has been on the rise in the five countries over the last twenty years, it has accounted for only a marginal proportion of total world-wide direct investment. Growth is the net result of the factors present in these countries and discussed in the article that on the one hand attract and on the other

deter investors. Finally, the role of the Central Asian countries in the intense internationalisation of Spanish business through direct investment over the last 15 years is analysed and compared to the role played by the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole.

Key words: foreign direct investment, transition economies, Central Asian countries.

JEL classification: F21, F23, O53.

SALAS DURAZO, Iván Alejandro and MURILLO GARCÍA, Favio

Assessment of public programmes in Mexico: a critical look at CONEVAL

Abstract: This article describes public programme assessment, differentiating the process from other related practices. It conducts a case study of the operation of Mexico's Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social (National Council for Assessment of Social Development Policy-CONEVAL). The main conclusions drawn show that, despite its relatively recent creation, CONEVAL has met the purpose for which it was created. Assessment culture must still be furthered, however, along with training for specialised human resources to contribute to the creation of a more integrated national assessment system.

Key words: government performance, analysis of public policy, assessment of public programmes.

JEL classification: H11, H83, I38.

SÁNCHEZ ANDRÉS, Antonio

Economic relations between Russia and Central Asia

Abstract: This paper analyses the economic relations between Russia and Central Asia over the last 10 years. It begins with trade relations, first globally and then between Russia and each of these countries. This is followed by a review of mutual investment, likewise between Russia and Central Asia and subsequently broken down by country. Relations are concluded to have grown steadily, but very unevenly due to the imbalance generated by Russian exports to Central Asia. This imbalance may limit further growth in the parties' mutual economic relations.

Key words: economic transition, Russia, Central Asia, international economy, international trade.

JEL classification: F1, F2, P3.

SAURA ESTAPÀ, Jaume

Emerging rights in emerging regions: the right to potable water and wastewater collection in Central Asia

Abstract: The human right to potable water and wastewater collection has gained increasingly staunch international support. It may be defined as every human being's ability to access clean, safe-to-drink water and States' concomitant obligation to guarantee and protect that right. The Central Asian States have sufficient water to guarantee a clean and safe supply to all their citizens, but poor management and waste lead to substantial shortfalls, particularly in rural areas. Improvements in pricing, service and cross-border cooperation are seen as possible ways to solve the problem.

Key words: Central Asia, sustainable development, right to water, human rights.

JEL classification: F59, H41, H87, K32, K33, N45, N55, O19, Q25.

SOSVILLA RIVERO, Simón

Employment in Spanish industries

Abstract: This paper applies Leamer's (2007) decomposition to the ordinary and extraordinary contributions of twenty Spanish industries to analyse their employment behaviour during periods of expansion. This is intended to help identify the industries best positioned to drive job creation when economic reactivation begins.

Key words: economic cycles, employment, time series, productive sectors, Spain.

JEL classification: E32, E24, C22, E23, O52.

