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Regional Trade Agreements and the Multilateral Trading System

Edited by Rohini Acharya



CAMBRIDGE

About this publication

The book contains a collection of studies examining trade-related issues negotiated in regional trade agreements (RTAs) and how RTAs are related to the WTO's rules. While previous work has focused on subsets of RTAs, these studies are based on what is probably the largest dataset used to date, and highlight key issues that have been negotiated in all RTAs notified to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). New rules within RTAs are compared to rules agreed upon by WTO members. The extent of their divergences and the potential implications for parties to RTAs, as well as for WTO members that are not parties to RTAs, are examined. This volume makes an important contribution to the current debate on the role of the WTO in regulating international trade and how WTO rules relate to new rules being developed by RTAs.

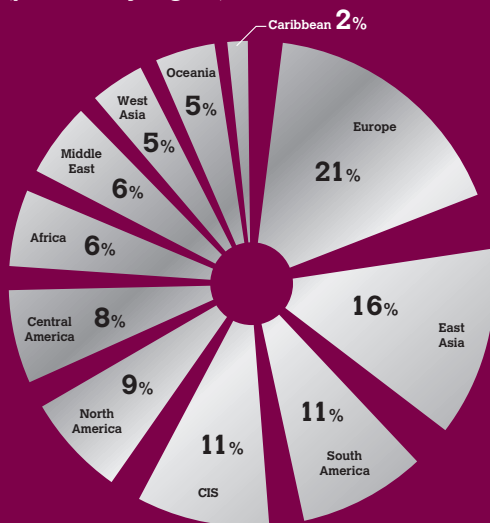
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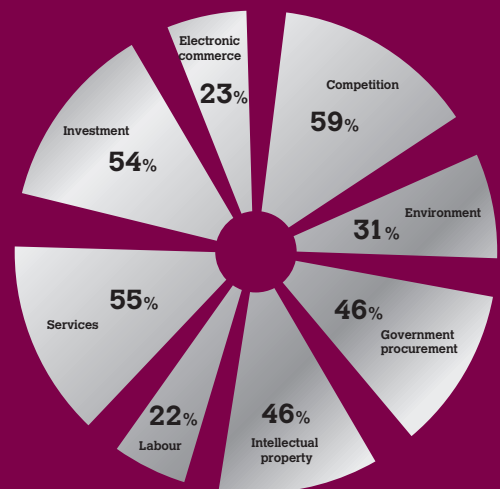
Much of the information that has been gathered to produce the book originates in the WTO's transparency mechanism for RTAs which, as its name suggests, aims to make RTAs more transparent through information gathering and analysis by the WTO Secretariat. The information collected for individual RTAs is made available to the public through the WTO's RTA database. These tools have enabled us to keep better track of developments in RTAs and will help WTO members to make better and more informed decisions regarding their trade policies. It is a precious resource and its continued improvement is crucial for us to better understand RTAs and more importantly their interaction with the multilateral trading system.

Roberto Azevêdo
WTO Director-General

**RTAs notified and in force up to 1 October 2015
(per cent by region)**



Key provisions in RTAs (2000-2014)*



* The chart shows the percentage of RTAs dealing with the issues indicated.



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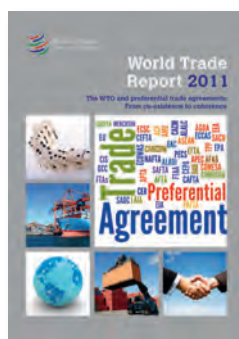
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