

Evaluating Lithuania's Export Competitiveness in the Intra-EU Trade

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Abstract

It is no exaggeration to claim that the international trade system, alongside the economic and managerial activities of individual enterprises, plays an ever increasing role in the contemporary process of trade relations. This process is further characterised by extensive participation of transnational corporations and government institutions. Lithuania's accession to the EU has also marked a shift of its export flows in that direction.

In its own right the European Union (EU) as one of the largest trading blocks in the world, is engaged in fierce competition with other blocks as well as individual countries for domination in the global products markets. While a special co-ordinating role is played by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it is the emergence of the Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs), particularly in the form of regional trading blocks, that represents the main dynamic development in trade relations. The difficulties of reaching trade agreements are particularly severe between the developed and developing nations, something that the trade negotiations round at Doha illustrated vividly. The path that trade negotiations will take in the future will have a profound effect on the competitiveness of Lithuania's exports both inside and outside the EU, owing particularly to Lithuania's status as a small and open economy.

The aim of this article is to evaluate the key aspects of the world trade and EU trade system with a view to assess their possible impact on the trends and prospects for Lithuania's export flows within the EU internal market. The revealed comparative advantage is used to measure the important changes in Lithuania's export competitiveness over 2004-2008 time frame in the EU internal market and attempt to assess how a possible adoption of new trade measures through Doha trade round could further affect Lithuania's export competitiveness.

Keywords: international trade system, export of goods, competitiveness of goods, regional trade agreements (RTA).

Introduction

It is almost accepted as a fact that the swift upward march of world trade volume has become a cornerstone of global economic growth. From the perspective of Lithuania's export competitiveness in intra-EU market, the identification and evaluation of

the factors impinging on it have an important part to play in shaping Lithuania's export flows and the structure of export industries. However, an ever increasing flow of goods and services as well as the number of participants in this process of trade negotiations have created a more complex entanglement of trade interests and trading conditions. So much so that it is becoming harder for the WTO to play its original role as a co-ordinator of the trade negotiations, a view that resulted from the increasing number of problem items on the Doha trade round agenda. WTO's role is not made any easier by conflicts between the requirements of the multilateral trade system on the one side and bilateral and regional trade agreements on the other side, especially when an increasing share of trade is being conducted within trading blocks. In this context, the EU as a trading block free from any administrative restrictions is particularly important for the intra-EU trade opportunities for a small and open economy like Lithuania, yet trade and competition for markets with other trading blocs introduces a further layer of complexity. These contradictions affect the interests and actions of individual countries, further complicating the position of small and open economies such as Lithuania.

The aim of this article is to evaluate the key aspects of the world trade and EU trade system with a view to assess its possible impact on the trends of and prospects for Lithuania's export flows within the EU internal market. This is accomplished through:

- Analysis of the importance of RTAs in the context of WTO trade system;
- Assessment of EU's significance in the world trade system;
- Evaluation of Lithuania's export competitiveness in the EU;
- Analysis of trade problems raised at the Doha round of trade negotiations and their likely effects on Lithuania's export competitiveness.

A number of Lithuanian authors (Rudzkiš, Kvedaras, 2003; Vilpišauskas, 2004; Ginevičius et. al., 2005) have emphasized the problems of Lithuania's

intra-EU export competitiveness in their studies.

Shaping of Competitive Advantage in World Trade

Traditional international trade theories offer a multitude of analytical methods for assessing the effectiveness of trade relations. The emphasis on regional trading blocs in this article is implicitly based on the gravity model of trade idea whereby the size of trade flows between trading partners is predicted to correlate positively with the size of their economies (Krugman, Obstfeld, 2006). While it is not the aim of this article to test the gravity model of trade for trading blocs empirically, it is nonetheless clear that trade flows and policies among trading blocs do add a very significant dimension to export competitiveness in intra-EU trade of small and open economies such as Lithuania. The importance of this aspect of trade has been highlighted in analytical works by CEPII-CI-REM and Atlass consortium (Curran, Zignago, 2009) on factors impacting the effectiveness of EU's and its members' participation in trade negotiations.

Methods of Quantitative Assessment

In addition to a review of the relevant academic literature on trade including the publications by Lithuanian authors on intra-EU trade and its importance for Lithuania's export competitiveness, the analytical methods used in this article relate to OECD's indicators of globalisation level and Bank of Japan's analytical tools for dynamic interdependency in trade flows (revealed comparative advantage (RCA) and are based on data of WTO, UNCTAD and IMF among others.

The revealed comparative advantage is calculated as described below.

The export market share of a region or country in the world export market is calculated as follows (OECD, 2005):

$$I_{\text{exportmarketshare}} = \frac{X_{\text{extra}}^n}{X_{\text{world}}^n}, \text{ thus:}$$

X_{extra}^n - the value of external regional exports of n countries of the region;

X_{world}^n - the value of world exports.

The export competitiveness of Lithuania in the context of intra-EU trade can be evaluated by using export-side revealed comparative advantage (RCA) and import-side revealed comparative disadvantage (RCDA) methodology created by the Bank of Japan (Isogai, Morishita, Ruffer, 2002).

$$RCA_{ij} = \left(\frac{X_{ij} / X_j}{X_{iEU} / X_{EU}} - 1 \right) \cdot 100, \text{ thus:}$$

X_{ij} - country j 's exports of product i (to EU-intra);

X_j - total exports of country j (to EU-intra);

X_{iEU} - total (EU-intra) dispatches of good i ;

X_{EU} - total (EU-intra) dispatches.

The values of $RCA > 0$ (< 0) reflect larger (smaller) share of product i within country's intra-EU export compared with the total share of product i within total intra-EU export, hence advantage (disadvantage) from a country's perspective.

The assessment of advantage or disadvantage in import markets is done similarly:

$$RCDA_{ij} = \left(\frac{M_{ij} / M_j}{M_{iEU} / M_{EU}} - 1 \right) \cdot 100, \text{ thus:}$$

M_{ij} - country j 's imports of product i (from EU-intra);

M_j - total imports of country j (from EU-intra);

M_{iEU} - total (EU-intra) arrivals of good i ;

M_{EU} - total (EU-intra) arrivals.

Both of the aforementioned indicators are combined to produce a value for relative revealed comparative trade advantage (RTB) as follows:

$$RTB_{ij} = RCA_{ij} - RCDA_{ij}$$

The Results of the Research

Factors Causing Changes in the International Trade System and Affecting the Spread of Regional Trade Agreements

The institutional framework of the contemporary world trade system was shaped by post-WWII agreement by 23 countries to create the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Since 1995, GATT has evolved into the World Trade Organisation (WTO), having 153 member countries. Presently, the main element of world trade – the trade in goods – comprises approximately 75% of the world trade volume. World merchandise exports in 2008, compared to 1960, has grown by close to 100 times to reach 7830.5 bn euros (External and intra – EU trade – a statistical yearbook, 2009) or approximately 27% of world GDP.

The essential element of the current WTO-coordinated world trade system is multilateralism based on most favoured nation (MFN) principle as a way to ensure equal access rights to all participating countries. A special role within multilateralism is assigned to regional agreements/blocs.

The largest and most influential regional trading blocs were created in the second half of the 20th century by developed Western countries. The most important of these blocs is the European Union (EU) trading bloc and the North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA). Certain authors have outlined 3 different

paths of progression of the world trade system (Stern, Paretzky, 1996): 1) the system of multilateral rounds of trade negotiations; 2) bilateral agreements as a basis for trade; 3) the formation of large regional blocs, dominated by the main world economic powers.

Since the start of the 21st century, regional trading blocs have arguably gained in significance. Certain authors (Crawford, Florentino, 2005; Ginevičius, Rakauskienė, Patalavičius, Tvaronavičienė, Kalašinskaitė, LISAUSKAITĖ, 2005) foresee a further strengthening of this tendency. Key aspects of the development of trading blocs include:

1. Intensifying competition between developed and developing countries for new markets.

This is particularly salient in the case of “sensitive products”, such as textiles and agriculture, where, according to Nobel Prize winner Stiglitz, the US and the EU are pursuing “an odious policy of divide and conquer” (Stiglitz, Rashid, 2006). The developed nations are not making a secret of their view that “regional economic grouping should be to advance prosperity beyond the level achieved by multilateral institutions such as WTO” (Stern, Paretzky, 1996). Yet this is not the only battlefield. The competition between EU, NAFTA and, in the next 10-15 years, the Asian bloc (consisting of ASEAN plus China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand) is shaping up to be a battle of equals (York, 2006). Also, an important role in the world’s trade and political

architecture may yet be played by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) where all the world’s major economic powers, except the EU, are represented.

2. WTO-coordinated world trade system’s lack of effectiveness.

The key problem here is the length of negotiations process within trade rounds and the difficulties of finding common solutions with many countries involved. Over the last decade, WTO Committee on Regional Trade Agreements has been warning of the dangers that the expansion of RTAs presents to the multilateral trading system (Synopsis of “systemic”....., 2000; WTO Ministerial Conference....., 2009).

3. The desire of smaller and less influential countries not only to protect their economic and political interests, but also to gain access to the largest consumer markets through RTAs (Bergsten, 2007). The most recent example of this phenomenon is the attempt by Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (P4), consisting of Brunei, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore, to attract the USA to its ranks (Teh Cheng Guan, 2010).

EU’s Place in the World Trade System

The EU, as an economic unit, not only accounts for the largest share of world GDP, but also is the largest exporter (without EU intra trade) in the world, as Figure 1 illustrates.

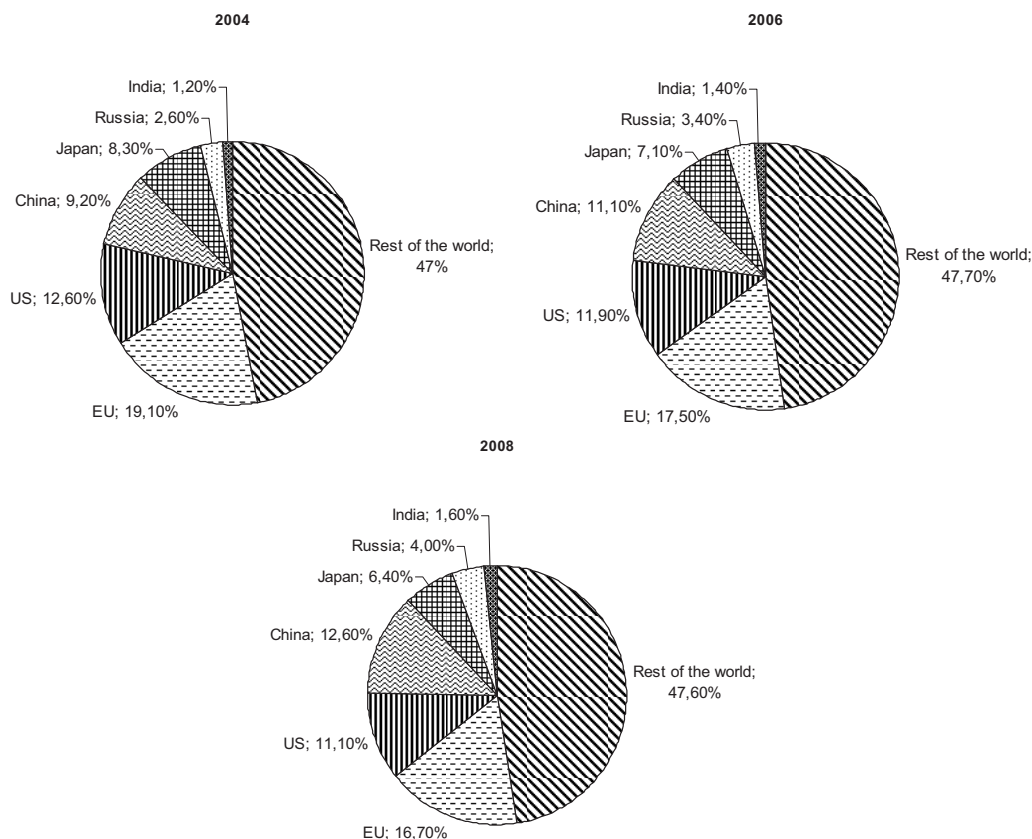


Fig. 1. EU’s Share of World Exports

EU trade policy can be characterised as multi-layered, incorporating policies for both internal intra-EU trade and external trade (Curran, Zignago, 2009). Clearly, the degree of influence on EU's trade policies

is not uniform among the member states, given the differences in economy size between the major EU economies such as Germany, France, the UK and small economies, such as Lithuania.

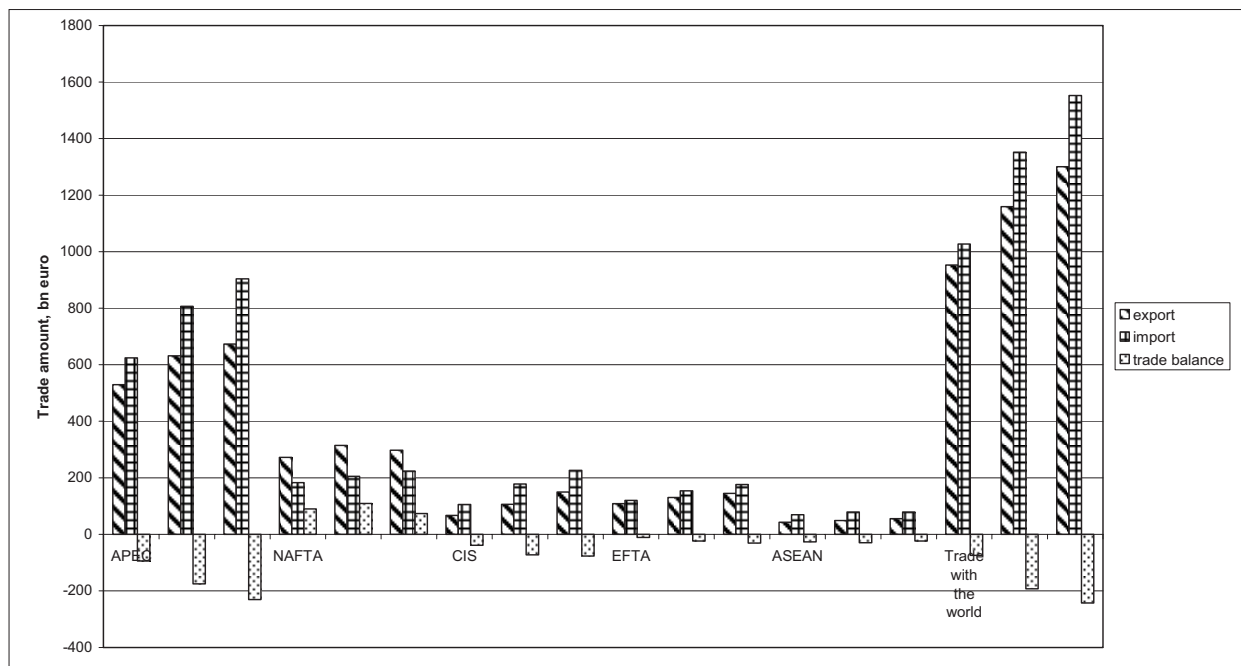


Fig. 2. External EU Trade with Key Trading Blocs* (2004, 2006, 2008)

*APEC – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (21 countries); NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement (3 countries); CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States (9 countries); EFTA – European Free Trade Association (4 countries); ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations (10 countries).

For countries such as Lithuania, the actions of larger EU economies with respect to their trading partners and their effects on various categories of goods traded are becoming of utmost importance, in view especially of increasing external EU trade deficit (see Figures 2 and 3) which by itself is suggestive of inc-

reasing competition (in certain product groups at any rate) from non-EU producers. While it is true that in 2004-2008 time frame external EU exports have risen by 137.1% and reached 1306.5 bn Euro in 2008, external EU imports have shot up by 152.3%, amounting to 1565.0 bn Euro.

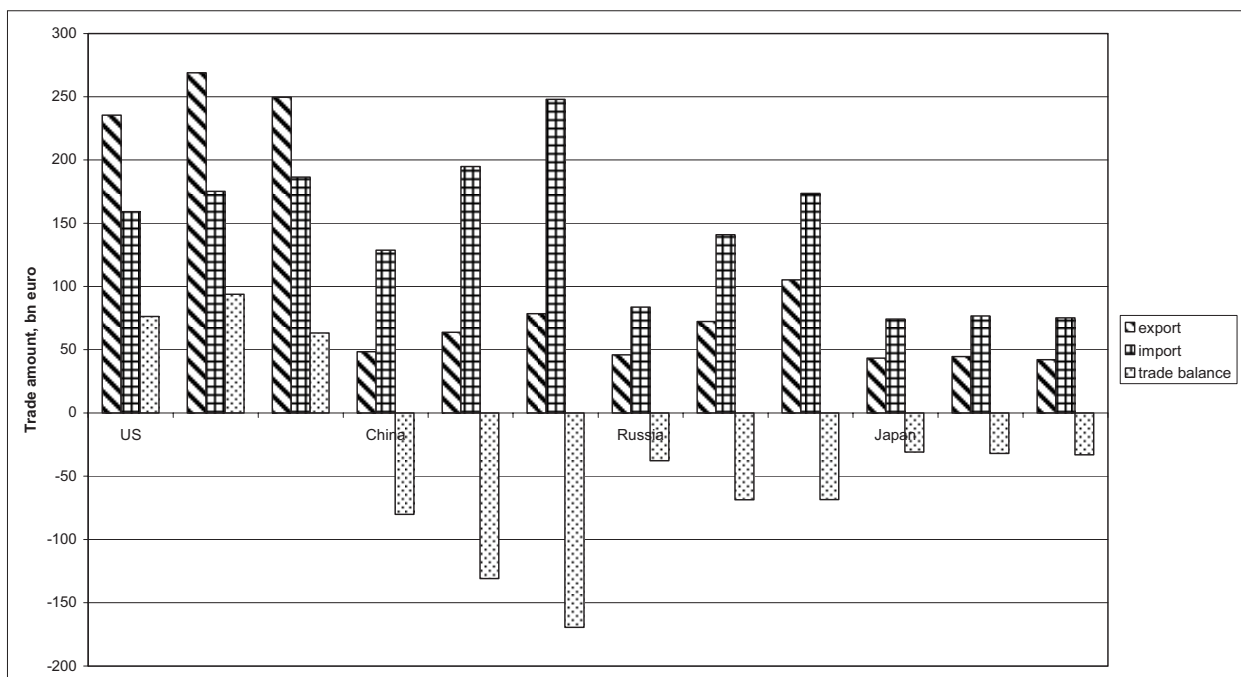


Fig. 3. External EU Trade with Key Countries-Trading Partners (2004; 2006; 2008)

Talking about EU's export-import flows with major trading partners, the patterns of trade can be classified as relatively stable as far as partners such as the USA (changes in trade patterns depend on exchange rate dynamics), Russia (mostly affected by changes in energy prices) and Japan are concerned. However, rapidly growing trade deficit with China is of a structural nature, affecting the economic performance of individual EU members. A study by McKinsey Global Institute confirms the presence of financial and economic leverage possessed by China in US-China trade (Farrell, Lund, Maasry, Roemer, 2007). On this basis, it is likely that EU-China trade has similar characteristics to US-China trade – an important aspect for both the EU and Lithuania.

This aspect is not surprising when considering that EU would attempt to create access to emerging markets such as BRICs for its multi-national corporations in exchange for opening up its markets for producers from these countries (Joint Statement of..., 2009). For example, as of January 1, 2008 the EU has abolished the quota system for China and WTO members in textiles and apparel (Lietuvos Respublikos užsienio ..., 2010). This development is of particular importance to Lithuania given its substantial reliance on these sectors.

Furthermore, EU also operates a system of Generalised Tariff Preferences, consisting of 3 groups of agreements: general arrangement; special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance ("GSP+"); special arrangement for LDCs – least developed countries ("EBA" – Everything-But-Arms). Total GSP preferential imports in 2007 was 58.6 bn Euro and largest sections were textiles and clothing (13.1 bn Euro), plastics and rubbers (4.5 bn Euro), animal and animals products (3.5 bn Euro). Approximately 180 countries made use of this

preferential system. Total "EBA" imports were 4.3 bn Euro, top five products were textiles, live animals, footwear, skin and leather, transport equipment (The EU scheme ..., 2009). As will be illustrated further in this article, the aforementioned sectors are heavily represented in Lithuania's trade structure and concessions to non-EU countries as regards access to these markets will affect both Lithuania's export competitiveness and structure.

The Problems of Lithuania's Export Competitiveness in Intra-EU Trade

In assessing Lithuania's export competitiveness, a number of authors (Rudzkiš, Kvedaras, 2003; Vilpišauskas, 2004) reasonably emphasise the importance of EU internal markets (intra-EU exports grew by 130.5% during 2004-2008, reaching 2704.5 bn euros). Ginevičius et. al. (2005) offer a monitoring framework of changes in EU internal market and its effects on Lithuanian economy.

In 2008, around 60% of Lithuania's goods export was intended for EU market (the 2004 equivalent was 67%). This reliance on EU market is determined by factors such as free movement of goods within a tariff-free area, the existence of a single currency (Euro), and effectively functioning transportation system. Consequently, Lithuania's export to the EU grew by 135.3% in the period of 2004-2008 and reached 9.7 bn Euros in 2008. However, the calculations of RCA, as presented in Table 1, indicate highly uneven distribution of RCA values across different product groups. The highest values of RCA are noted in "food, drinks, tobacco", "raw materials", "energy products", "other manufactured goods" product groups, the unifying characteristic of which is that they belong to low-tech group of products.

Table 1

The level of competitiveness of Lithuania's goods in the EU market (coefficients, acc.SITC rev.4)

Reporter	Coefficients	2004	2006	2008
1. Food, drinks, tobacco	RCA	+0.341	+0.667	+0.551
	RCDA	+0.046	+0.268	+0.629
	RTB	+0.263	+0.399	-0.078
2. Raw materials	RCA	+1.129	+0.750	+0.588
	RCDA	+0.030	-0.200	-0.919
	RTB	+1.099	+0.950	+1.507
3. Energy products	RCA	+4.326	+2.677	+2.800
	RCDA	-0.872	-0.818	-0.867
	RTB	+5.198	+3.495	+3.667
4. Chemicals	RCA	-0.394	-0.312	+0.027
	RCDA	-0.013	+0.033	+0.032
	RTB	-0.381	-0.345	-0.05

Table 1, continued

5. Machinery and transport equipment	RCA	-0.584	-0.556	-0.658
	RCDA	+0.063	+0.101	+0.061
	RTB	-0.647	-0.657	-0.719
6. Other manufactured goods	RCA	+0.212	+0.115	-0.108
	RCDA	+0.144	+0.071	-0.004
	RTB	+0.068	+0.044	-0.104

Looking at medium and medium-high tech product groups such as “chemicals”, “machinery and transport equipment”, negative RCA values are clearly visible. It has to be noted that “chemicals” have achieved a positive RCA value in 2008, yet this occurred with the help of one sub-category (fertilizers). No breakthroughs are in sight for technologically most advanced category of goods, “machinery and transport equipment”, as its RCA values are increasingly negative.

More general RTB indicator is equally showing negative values throughout the analysis period for “chemicals” and “machinery and equipment” product groups. Furthermore, in sharp contrast to 2004 and 2006, negative RTB values emerged in “food, drink, tobacco” and “other manufactured goods” product groups in 2008.

It is clear from the data and analysis presented above that during the period of 2004-2008 (especially in 2008) Lithuania experienced a deterioration of its competitiveness in the EU. A number of factors may serve as an explanation for this:

- increasing openness of EU markets to foreign producers;
- divergent production cost basis between EU countries and developing countries such as China due to different environmental standards and work conditions;
- relatively high exchange rate of Euro (and Lithuanian Litas by extension);
- slow pace of economic restructuring in Lithuania towards higher value-added products.

On the other hand, however, certain positive developments for Lithuania’s exports outside the EU can be noted. Among them, the export of “food, drink, tobacco” products in 2004-2008 grew by almost 4.5 times and in 2008 made up 16.4% of Lithuania’s total non-EU exports. Equally impressively, the export of “chemicals” increased approximately 4 times to 11.1% of non-EU exports, “machinery and transport equipment” products – 2.4 times to 29.3% and “other manufactured goods” – 3.2 times to 21.3%.

This dichotomous nature of Lithuania’s internal- and external EU trade developments hinted at in this article clearly requires further examination with the aim of assessing the extent to which deterioration of Lithuania’s intra-EU competitiveness can be offset by improving position in external EU trade.

Doha Round and its Possible Repercussions for Lithuania

Having analysed the recent changes in Lithuania’s export competitiveness in other section, attention is now turned to possible further effects on export competitiveness that Doha Round could presage.

Doha Round of trade negotiations that started in 2001 in Doha, Qatar, seems to have already established itself as a serious test of the multinational trade system in this century. During its nine years of running, many trade contradictions intertwined with instabilities of political, regional and financial nature have surfaced. The emergence of new centres of economic power has affected the ability of developed countries to implement unilaterally beneficial policies, a tendency likely to be exacerbated by the on-going world financial crisis.

As one of the main trading blocs, EU is presenting and defending its trade policies on the basis of aggregated interests of its member countries. Among the wide array of trade policies discussed, Lithuania’s key interests centre on agriculture and market access for non-agricultural products (Lietuvos Respublikos užsienio ..., 2010).

Agriculture, however, is attracting most of controversy. Possible reasons could be related to strong political positions of the agriculture lobby in developed countries such as EU, US and Japan. On the other hand, fast-growing developing economies are still highly dependent on agricultural sector, and especially on international trade possibilities there. It is estimated that 500m people in China and 700m people in India are dependent on agriculture (Einhorn, Irvastava, 2008). Hence, it is no surprise that developed countries are pressurised into reducing the agricultural subsidies to their own producers. While EU has tabled a proposal before the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in 2005 calling for 70% reduction in trade-diverting agricultural subsidies, 46% reduction in import duties on agricultural produce and complete phase-out of export subsidies, this proposal was not accepted by US and other G20 countries. At the present moment, only an agreement on complete phase-out of export subsidies by 2013 has been reached. From Lithuania’s agricultural exports point of view, this is hardly good news both from internal and external EU perspective. Equally, granting EU market access to

producers from least developed countries would not be positive for Lithuania and would most negatively affect the producers of textiles and apparel.

Conclusions

In this article a quantitative assessment of Lithuania's export competitiveness was conducted by using the method of revealed comparative advantage. The results obtained generally indicate a worsening competitive position in the context of intra-EU trade. Of particular concern is lack of improvement in the categories of medium to high-tech specification goods. Furthermore, the analysis of the world trade system and its recent movement towards large regional trading blocs (albeit with a degree of country overlap) and the potential for significant trade-liberalising breakthroughs in hitherto most protected areas such as agriculture, lead to the conclusion that a further intensification of competition will occur both in internal and external EU trade. Therefore, the analysis suggests that improvements in Lithuania's export competitiveness are unlikely to result from issues and policies currently under discussion in Doha round of trade negotiations. Nevertheless, the presented research has also identified significant growth of Lithuania's exports to non-EU markets. Yet, goods of lower technological sophistication seem to dominate Lithuania's exports to non-EU markets as well, making it difficult to argue that possible future developments in world trade policy will positively affect Lithuania's competitiveness in these markets. Therefore, it would appear that Lithuania faces a very clear need to climb up the ladder of technological sophistication as far as its exports go or face ever-increasing competition in the world markets.

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Karpavičius, H.

Lietuvos eksporto konkurencinio potencialo Europos Sąjungos vieningoje rinkoje įvertinimas

Santrauka

Šiuolaikinės globalizacijos sąlygomis nacionalinių ekonomikų optimalus funkcionavimas siejamas su efektyvia ir lanksčia tarptautinės prekybos sistema. Šiame straipsnyje siekiama identifikuoti veiksnius, kurie turi įtakos Lietuvos, kaip mažos atviros ekonomikos ir narės vieno galingiausių pasaulio ekonominių blokų, konkuruojančio globaliose rinkose su kitais blokais (APEC, NAFTA, ASEAN, NVS), ir atskiromis, didžiausią ekonominę galią turinčiomis šalimis (JAV, Kinija, Japonija, Rusija), eksporto plėtros galimybėms vieningoje Europos Sąjungos (ES) prekybos erdvėje.

Empirinis tyrimas, atspindintis Lietuvos eksporto ES vidaus rinkoje konkurencingumo ypatumus, atliktas naudojant atskleisto santykinio pranašumo modelio, besiremiančio RCA ir RTB rodiklių kiekybiniu vertinimu, atmaina, suformuluota Japonijos banko ekspertų grupės.

Išskirtinis dėmesys ES vidaus rinkai grindžiamas tuo, kad šioje ekonominėje erdvėje prekyba vyksta be jokių administracinių trukdžių. Daugelyje šalių naudojama vieninga valiuta – euras, efektyviai funkcionuoja transporto sistema. Eksporto apimtys šioje rinkoje 2004–2008 m. išaugo 130,5 proc. ir 2008 m. siekė 2704,5 mljr. eurų. Lietuvos eksportas atitinkamai išaugo 135,3 proc. ir 2008 m. sudarė 9,7 mljrd. eurų. Tačiau tyrimo duomenys rodo, kad prekių grupės turi skirtingus lyginamuosius eksporto konkurencingumo rodiklius RCA. Šio rodiklio aukščiausios reikšmės žymi „maisto produktų, gėrimų, tabako“, „ne-maistinių žaliavų“, „mineralinio kuro, alyvų ir panašių medžiagų“ produktų grupės, kurių svarbiausiu bruožu galima laikyti santykinai žemą atitinkamų produktų technologinio sudėtingumo lygį. Tuo tarpu vidutinio ir vidutiniškai aukšto technologinio sudėtingumo lygio produktų grupės („chemikalai“, „mašinos ir transporto įrenginiai“) pasiekė neigiamas RCA reikšmes.

Apibendrinančio eksporto / importo lyginamojo pranašumo rodiklio RTB neigiamos reikšmės visais tiriamojo laikotarpio metais buvo pagal „chemikalų“, „mašinių ir transporto įrenginių“ produktų grupes. Be to, 2008 m., priešingai nei 2004 ir 2006 m., neigiamos RTB reikšmės buvo fiksuotos „maisto produktų, gėrimų, tabako“ ir „įvairių pramonės gaminių“ produktų grupėse (šiose grupėse 2008 m. pirmą kartą užfiksuotas neigiamas ir RCA rodiklis).

Mazėjantį atskirų prekių grupių konkurencingumo

lygį 2004–2008 m. (ypač ši neigiama tendencija sustiprėjo 2008 m.) lėmė nemažai priežasčių, tačiau svarbiausiomis laikytinos šios:

- per lėtai vykstantis Lietuvos ekonomikos restruktūrizavimas;
- didėjantis ES vidaus rinkos atvėrimas daugelio šalių gamintojams.

Pastarasis parametras ryškiausiai atspindi tarptautinės prekybos sistemoje besiformuojančius naujus, kartais labai prieštarigus santykius tarp ekonominių blokų ir atskirų šalių, kurie turi tiesioginės įtakos visų subjektų, taip pat ir Lietuvos, prekybiniais interesams.

Tyrimo atskleistas konfliktinis prieštaravimų aspektas tarp daugiašalės prekybos sistemos, besąlygiškai skatinamos Pasaulio prekybos organizacijos, ir regioninių prekybinių susitarimų, kuriuos realizuojant dalyvauja visos pasaulio šalys. Dohos derybų ciklo, besitęsiančio nuo 2001 m., problema daugiausia lemia tai, kad nemažai šalių, ypač ekonomiškai labiausiai išsivysčiusių ir sparčiausiai besivystančių, nesilaiko daugiašalės prekybos principų.

Lietuva kaip visateisė ES narė patiria visas teigiamas ir neigiamas bendros prekybos politikos pasekmes. Ypač reikšmingi Lietuvai ES–Kinijos prekybinių santykių pokyčiai. Sparčiai didėjantis ES prekybinis deficitas yra struktūrinio pobūdžio ir kelia grėsmę atskirų šalių – ES narių – stabiliam ekonominiam augimui. Pavyzdžiui, bendru sutarimu nuo 2008 m. sausio 1 d. panaikintos kvotos Kinijos tekstilės ir aprangos gaminiams tiesiogiai palietė Lietuvos gamintojų interesus, eksportuojančius šias prekes į ES šalių rinkas.

Dohos derybų ciklo eigoje ES siekia laisviau patekti į sparčiai besivystančių šalių pramoninių prekių rinkas (ypač Azijos šalių), tačiau išsipareigojimas iki 2013 m. visiškai atsisakyti žemės ūkio produkcijos eksporto subsidijų Lietuvos žemdirbiams ir jų produkcijos perdirbėjams nėra palankus. Silpniausiai išsivysčiusioms šalims pritaikytas benuitis režimas į ES įvežamoms pramoninėms (pirmiausia tekstilės gaminiams, aprangai ir drabužiams) ir žemės ūkio prekėms mažina analogiškų Lietuvoje pagamintų prekių konkurencines galimybes ES vidaus rinkoje.

Pagrindiniai žodžiai: tarptautinės prekybos sistema, prekių eksportas, prekių konkurencingumas, regioniniai prekybos susitarimai.

Straipsnis recenzuotas.

Straipsnis gautas 2010 m. sausio mėn.; straipsnis priimtas 2010 m. kovo mėn.

The article has been reviewed.

Received in January, 2010; accepted in March, 2010.