

Abdelaziz Testas (2004) Analysis of Factors Constraining Intra-Maghreb Trade, Journal of Development and Economic Policies, 6(2): 73-92

Abstract:

The creation of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) on February 17, 1989 by Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia was aimed at increasing the volume of intra-regional trade, an aim that was expressed explicitly in the founding (Marrakech) declaration. Fifteen years after, this objective is far from being realised. The share of intra-regional trade in AMU's total trade is still exceptionally small, hovering at around 3%. This article explores the hypothesis that this situation may reflect the fact that the factors, namely--geographical proximity, cultural and historical similarities, and the height of tariffs--which were initially thought to determine potential intra-AMU trade, may have played only a secondary role, if at all.