the total trade between the four MERCOSUR countries. As said De Aguinis (1995: 601), the Treaty of Asuncion established the goal of becoming a common market. MERCOSUR countries seem to try negotiating a free trade zone with the European Community, with Australian and New Zealand, or with the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela)[1], through the membership of the given countries to the Latin American Integration Association, or ALADI, created soon after the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo (signed by 11 Latin American countries, including Brazil and Mexico), rather than seriously being involved in and integrating approach to NAFTA. MERCOSUR actually includes a working group (Subgroup 11) about labor relations, set up in December 1991 (due to the initiative of the four labor Ministers, under the pressure of their national labor unions), so that there is a (thin) possibility to see MERCOSUR Parties adopt a labor rights agreement. In May 1991, the Declaration of Montevideo, signed by the labor Ministers of MERCOSUR countries, recommended to set up a "Social Charter for MERCOSUR". In December 1993, a draft "Charter of Fundamental Rights in MERCOSUR" was submitted, by the Coordinator of the Labor Central of MERCOSUR countries, to the Subgroup 11, but was not adopted.

There is also many bilateral free trade agreements, such as Chile-Mexico (1991), Argentina-Chile (1991), Bolivia-Peru (1992), Chile-Venezuela (1993), Bolivia-Chile (1993), Colombia-Chile (1993). There are multilateral free trade agreements: (1) the "Group of Three" (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia); (2) the "Central American Integration System" (SICA), giving birth to the Central American Market (CACM), created by the Treaty of Integration in 1960. SICA includes Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama; (3) the "Caribbean Common Market" (CARICOM), created in the mid-1960's and revitalized in 1973 by the adherence

---

[1] The Andean Pact was signed in 1969 and mainly dealt with liberalization of intraregional trade, achievement of a common external tariff, a common treatment of foreign direct investment. The Andean Trade Preference Pact of 1991 was the basis for the Andean Free Trade Zone, which took effect on January 1st, 1995. It gives duty-free treatment to eligible articles from beneficiary countries in the Andean community. It includes mandatory and discretionary criteria which look like those of the Caribbean Basin Economy Recovery Act.