

(ECE) should have the mandate to address some labor rights issues (for instance, the rights to association and organizing, collective bargaining, the right to strike), although they can deal with such issues in their reports about related subject matters (Herzenberg: 1995: 18). Some authors (Compa: 1995: 355-356; Helfeld: 1995: 376) suggest that such labor rights should be the subject of either ECE analysis and recommendation or of the Arbitrary Panel dispute settlement, rather than only a review and a report by the domestic National Administrative Office (NAO). As said few authors (Reza, Peake and Dyck: 1996: 64; Fuentes Muniz: 1995: 391-393), only three labor rights are subject to dispute resolution procedures that could result in fines (up to 20 millions \$ or a re-imposition of the pre-NAFTA tariffs up to the amount of the fines that the Party fails to pay) against the Party which fails to enforce its own national laws about occupational health and safety, child labor and minimum wage (Pomeroy: 1996: 777). The rights to organize, bargain collectively, and to strike are left to consultation and cooperation processes between the Parties. It is particularly striking to observe that the labor rights that the ECE should have the mandate to address are those which are actually included in the GSP and serve as criteria for applying a loss of trade benefits to developing countries. Few "think-tank" organizations (such as the Sierra Club and the International Labor Rights Fund) suggested to eliminate the "three-tier" division of rights enforcement that excludes the most basic labor rights.

b) Southern America Integration Projects.

On January 1st, 1995, the Southern Common Market (Mercado Comun del Sur, or MERCOSUR), including Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina) was in effect. Indeed, it has been created by the "Treaty of Asuncion", signed on March 26, 1991. But its ancestor was the Argentina-Brazil Program for Economic Cooperation and Integration, ratified in 1989. In December 1994, the "Ouro Preto Protocol" (signed in Brazil) sets up the institutional structure of MERCOSUR. MERCOSUR countries make up near to 45% of Latin American population, 60% of its total land area and 50% of the region's GSP. MERCOSUR was and is still clearly to the advantage of the bilateral trade between Brazil and Argentina (which represent near to 85% of