ABSTRACT WORKING PAPER 2.6

Trade activity between the EU and the ENP countries: A “Reproduction” of the “Core-Periphery” pattern?

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The European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), launched in 2004, is a unified European Union (EU) policy framework towards the EU neighboring (ENP) countries. The ENP aims at strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of the EU and the ENP countries. Even though the ENP is a distinct and separate process from the EU enlargement, the ENP countries operate under conditions of “neighborhood Europeanization”. This means that despite the fact that the proper “membership anchor” is missing, the progressive compliance with the acquis communautaire is a necessary condition for the ENP countries to increase their “weight” on the EU market. This is so, since according to the Treaty of Lisbon, forced in 2009, EU policies with a bearing on relations to third countries (such as the ENP countries) should be guided by a common set of principles and objectives such as the consolidation and support of democracy and the preservation of peace. Within this framework, and through the estimation of the DK Index, the paper supports that the trade component of the ENP contributes to the “reproduction” of the well-established “core-periphery” EU spatial pattern of development in the wider EU area (i.e. the EU and its neighborhood).