

ABSTRACTS

MONETARY POLICY STRATEGY: EFFECTIVENESS AND COMMUNICATION. THE CASE OF THE ECB

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The author of this article analyzes the monetary policy strategy designed by the Governing Council of the European Central Bank at the end of 1998, and oriented toward the high-priority objective of price stability. The quantification of an inflation objective for the Euro Area within a wide range of variability supposes that growing responsibility has been assumed in terms of the level of precision in the announced objective. The independence of this monetary institution should be considered as closely related to the matter of responsibility. While the clear, precise communication of an objective is a constitutive element in any monetary policy strategy, certain balances between the detailed information on each future

action and the publication of a general appraisal of inflationary tensions can impose some restrictions on communication. Nonetheless, at the same time that it is assumed that the Central Bank's independence has been interpreted as an element of the perfection of the democratic system, the importance of establishing ongoing, clear communication with regard to the objective is emphasized, so that expectations of agents will be consistent with the monetary policy strategy.

LATIN AMERICA ADVANCES TOWARD GLOBAL INSERTION: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS; CURRENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE

RAMIRO X. VERA-FLUIXÁ

One of the most notable characteristics of development in Latin America over the last two decades has been its willingness and capacity for making reforms. Generally speaking, there are two major processes accompanying the region's global insertion during the last 20 years: a political process, characterized by the reestablishment of democratic government systems, and an economic process, crystallized in a considerable number of reforms aimed at economic deregulation and the trade opening in Latin American countries. Given the need for a more refined perception and

greater administrative efficiency on the part of Latin American governments in the search for obtaining benefits from the globalized economy, it is important to evaluate the experiences thus far, how to overcome the pending debts, and—in relation to establishing a free trade area—the negotiating capacity of Latin America in its totality, as individual countries or as integrated regional blocs.

EVOLUTION AND CHANGES IN CUBA'S ENERGY SECTOR IN THE 1990S

SANTIAGO RODRÍGUEZ CASTELLÓN

The objective of this article is to analyze the essential aspects of the national energy situation, characterizing the actions and policies linked to the transformation of the energy sector, and defining the barriers and inadequacies in the development of this sector.

SUBSIDIZED SAVINGS OR CREDIT? FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE POOR

CAROLA CONDE BONFIL

More than a quarter of a century ago, a revolution began in the world's financial system, when Muhammad Yunus demonstrated that the poor need financial services, and that such services can serve as an effective tool in fighting poverty.

Since the Grameen Bank was founded, a number of other projects have emerged, promoted by international entities. These projects take some aspects of the "methodology" designed by that bank and operate in different parts of the world, transforming millions of persons living in poverty or in conditions of extreme poverty into clients and even members.

2002: NEW ECONOMIC SCENARIO

EDUARDO LORÍA DÍAZ

In this note appears an adjustment to the possible settings of the Mexican economy for 2002 based on the Eudoxio's econometric model, considering three central changes determined by the greater growth of the US economy, the expectation of a smaller nominal depreciation of the exchange rate and the oil international prices.

