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Editorial: International Trade

Colloquially one can say that international trade has been accompanied to a human being since the dawn of history, dating back to ancient times, and as an economic phenomenon was recorded in Europe in the Middle Ages, for example as the Hanseatic League.

Trade at international level is not only the cross-border movement of goods. Entities participating in it must reckon with the operation of separate legal and economic systems, what is more, cultural conditions are also not without significance for this kind of cooperation. The higher level of risk, associated to international trade, should be taken into consideration when discussing the profitability from entering foreign markets. Nevertheless, the benefits of international trade were appreciated both in times of distant historically and today.

On the basis of the classical theory, international trade is determined by the diversity of partners and comparative advantages resulting from the possession of resources of different factors. According to the new theory of international trade, the causes of growth are based on the increased exchange between similar partners, which resulted in the effect of intra-industry trade, the source of which was a specialization in production determined by achieving economies of scale.

In the broad sense, international trade includes not only trade in goods but also in services, or in intangibles as know-hows or licenses.

Therefore, considerations devoted to competitiveness in foreign markets, liberalization and protectionism, in the era of globalization and integration processes, affect several aspects of social and economic life.

The theme of the current issue of *Horizons of Politics* is dedicated to international trade as a matter closely related to international relations. The response among potential authors was intense, and we reported a variety of papers, more or less economic ones. This issue contains 11 thematic articles which discuss international trade broadly (from foreign, through international to global trade). We hope that everyone interested in international trade will find in this issue some interesting articles. We wish you a pleasant reading.

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theme issue editors