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[home](#) [page](#) [about us](#) [contact](#) 

us

Table of Contents

IN PRESS

**AGRICECON
2014**

**AGRICECON
2013**

**AGRICECON
2012**

**AGRICECON
2011**

**AGRICECON
2010**

**AGRICECON
2009**

**AGRICECON
2008**

**AGRICECON
2007**

AGRICECON

2006
AGRICECON
2005
AGRICECON
2004
AGRICECON
2003
AGRICECON
2002
AGRICECON
Home

Editorial
Board

For Authors

- **Authors**
Declaration
- **Instruction**
to Authors
- **Guide for**
Authors
- **Copyright**
Statement
- **Submission**

For
Reviewers

Guides for
Reviewers

▪ **Reviewers
Login**

Subscription

Agric. Econ. — Czech

Cihelková E.:

Regional environmental governance: the NAFTA case

Agric. Econ. — Czech, 58 (2012): 454-466

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 elaborated the idea of sustainable development. A comprehensive document called the Agenda 21 provided an explanation how to achieve a sustainable economic

development. Along the lines presented in the document, there emerged in practice a new regionalism which is based on the preferential trade agreements. Currently, regional agreements are of a more complex nature, so that they may include environmental cooperation, too. The aim of this paper is to illustrate, on the case of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a possible approach of regional agreements to environmental cooperation. The paper is divided into four sections. The first one summarizes a general approach to addressing environmental issues within the integration groupings. The second tries to answer the question of whether the NAFTA confirms the general approach to the regional environmental governance. The third deals with the meaning and the failure of the regional governance for the assessment of the cross-border impact of the NAFTA/NAAEC on the environment. The fourth and last section gives an answer to whether the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), as the environmental part of the NAFTA, is a good basis for the effective environmental

governance in North America.

Keywords:

governance, integration, North American Free Trade Agreement, regionalism

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