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Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America The Role of European Investors

Ziga Vodusek, Editor

Inter-American Development Bank

Washington, D.C. 2001

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In the 1990s, the economic environment in Latin America and the Caribbean changed markedly. The countries of the region underwent a process of stabilization and economic reform that encompassed fiscal consolidation and the privatization of state-owned enterprises, as well as market deregulation and trade liberalization. These developments increased the region's attractiveness for foreign direct investment (FDI), which rose to unprecedented levels towards the end of the last decade.

Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America provides an overview and analysis of the increased presence of European investors in Latin America. As flows grew rapidly from a number of countries, particularly Spain, overall European FDI flows to the region rose more than eight times in the second half of the 1990s relative to the first. The European investor countries covered are Spain, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands and Switzerland. A separate chapter by Professor John Dunning reviews the process of "Latin Americanization" of European companies. The book also presents the results of a survey carried out in the major European investor countries with a view to analyzing corporate investment strategies in Latin America.



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