

What Is the European Union and Why Is It Important?

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Four Perspectives

1. Peace
2. Democracy
3. Protest
4. Survival

PERSPECTIVE ONE

Peace

- World War I: 16 million dead
- World War II: 60 million dead

Nationalism: the most deadly force in human history

Port city of Rotterdam, 14 May 1940



A "United States of Europe"



*"I WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY
about the tragedy of Europe. . .*

*The first step in the re-creation of the
European Family must be a
partnership between France and
Germany . . . We must build a kind of
United States of Europe. Therefore I
say to you:*

"Let Europe Arise!"

Zurich, 19 Sept 1946

How can war be averted?

“ . . . only one solution: we must bind ourselves inextricably to Germany. . .” Jean Monnet



Jean Monnet

The Schuman Declaration

“The French government proposes that Franco-German production of coal and steel as a whole be placed *under a common High Authority. . .as a first step in the federation of Europe. Any war between France and Germany becomes not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible.*”

Robert Schuman, 9 May 1950



Robert Schuman

Three Landmarks

- The European Coal and Steel Community (1951): Succeeded.
- European Defence Community (1954): Failed.
- The European Economic Community (1957): Succeeded.

PERSPECTIVE TWO

Democracy

It's no secret . . .

We actually know how to consolidate
democracy

Copenhagen criteria

“Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing . . .”

- 1) the rule of law, human rights and respect for, and protection of minorities
- 2) democratic institutions, including freedom of association, freedom of the press, and independent courts
- 3) a functioning market economy

EU Enlargement - Accession Explained



PERSPECTIVE THREE

Protest

no! No! **NO!**

**MINDER
IMMIGRATIE**

**MEER
VLAANDEREN**

**VLAAMS
BLOK**

www.vlaamsblok.be

**Danmarks
fremtid**



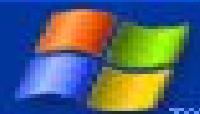
dit land - dit valg...

stem vóór



join the empire

Nederland uitschakelen



Stand-by



Uitschakelen



Opnieuw opstarten

Annuleren

Nederland is géén



Microsoft

Windows!

Klik op  Start om af te sluiten...

NEE!



NEE

Géén
liberaal verdrag
vermomd als
grondwet

JA

Wél
een sociale
en solidaire
Europese Unie

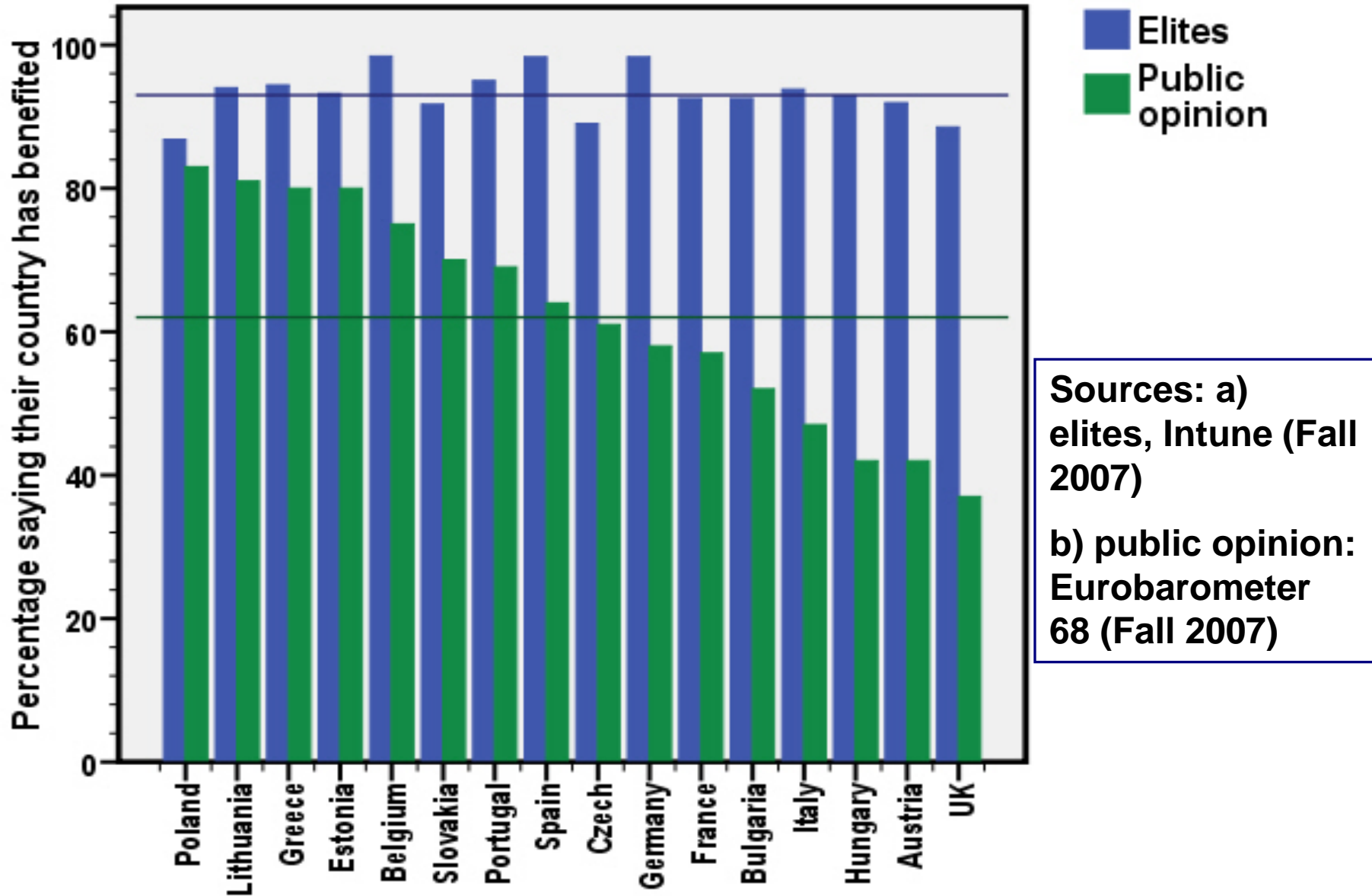
Rassembleur la gauche
populaire - antilibérale

LE PROGRAMME

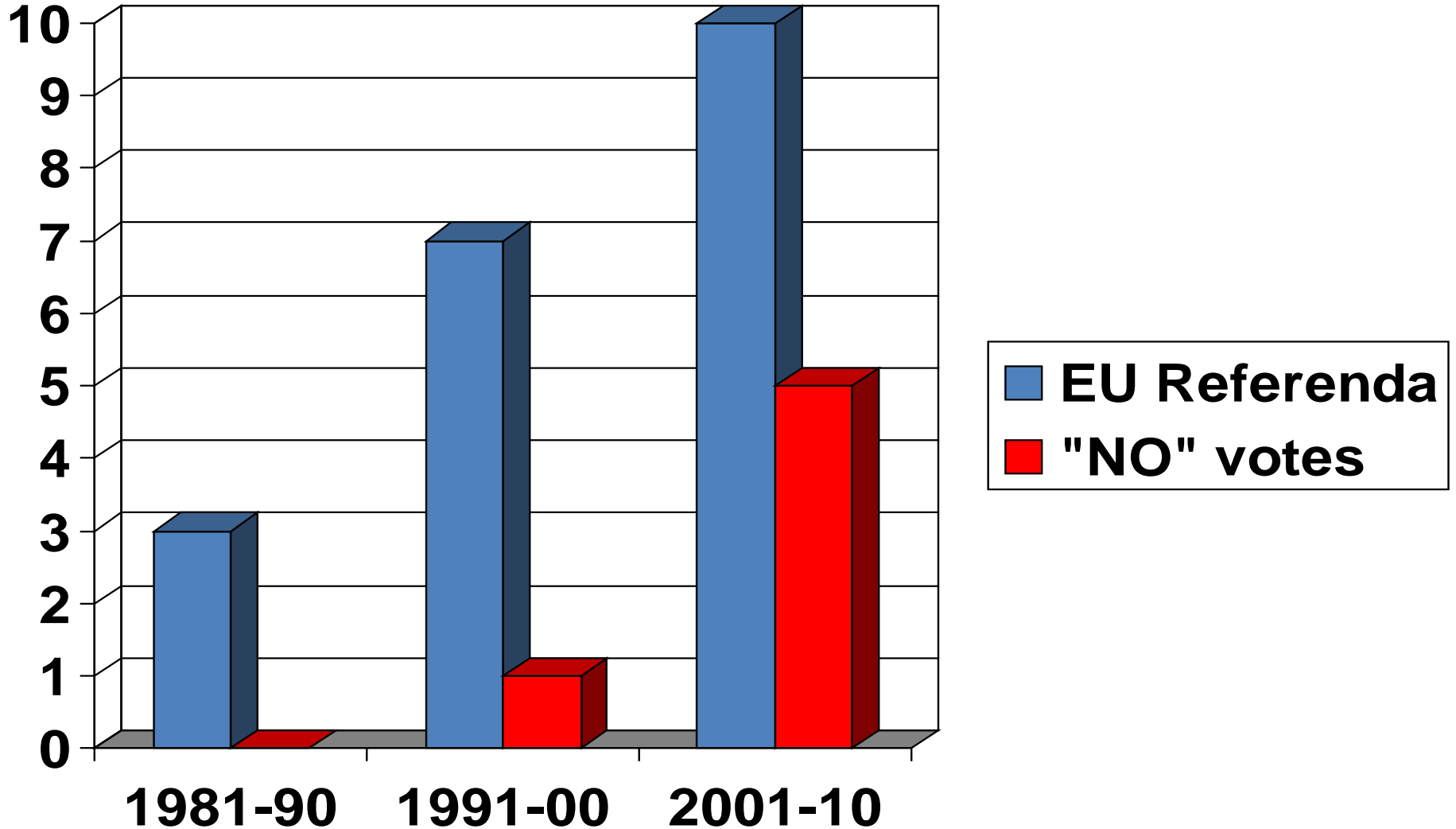
3 MOYENS CLÉS POUR RÉUSSIR :

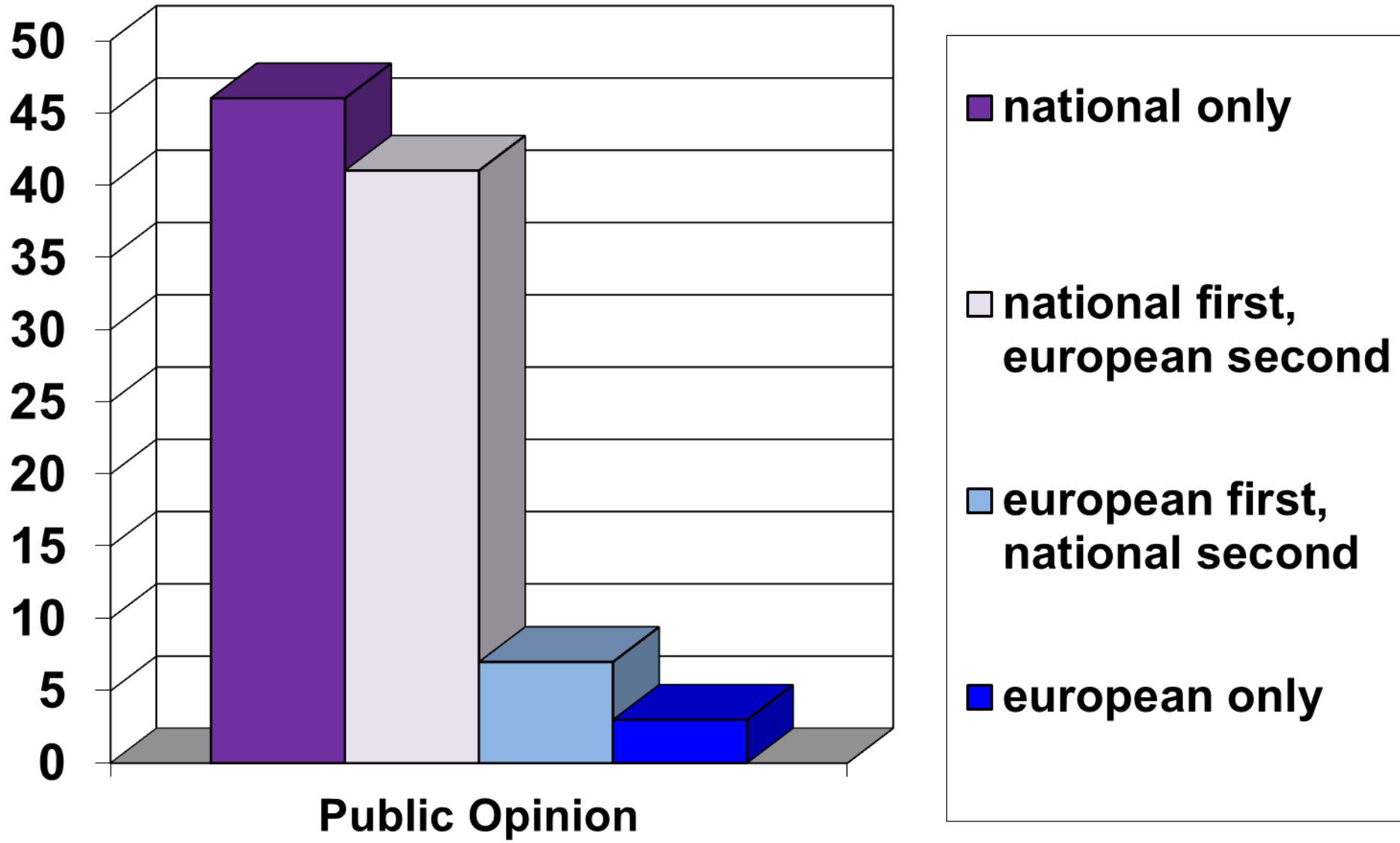
**3. CONSTRUIRE UNE AUTRE EUROPE,
AGIR POUR UN AUTRE MONDE**

Elites and public on Europe



REFERENDA ON EUROPE



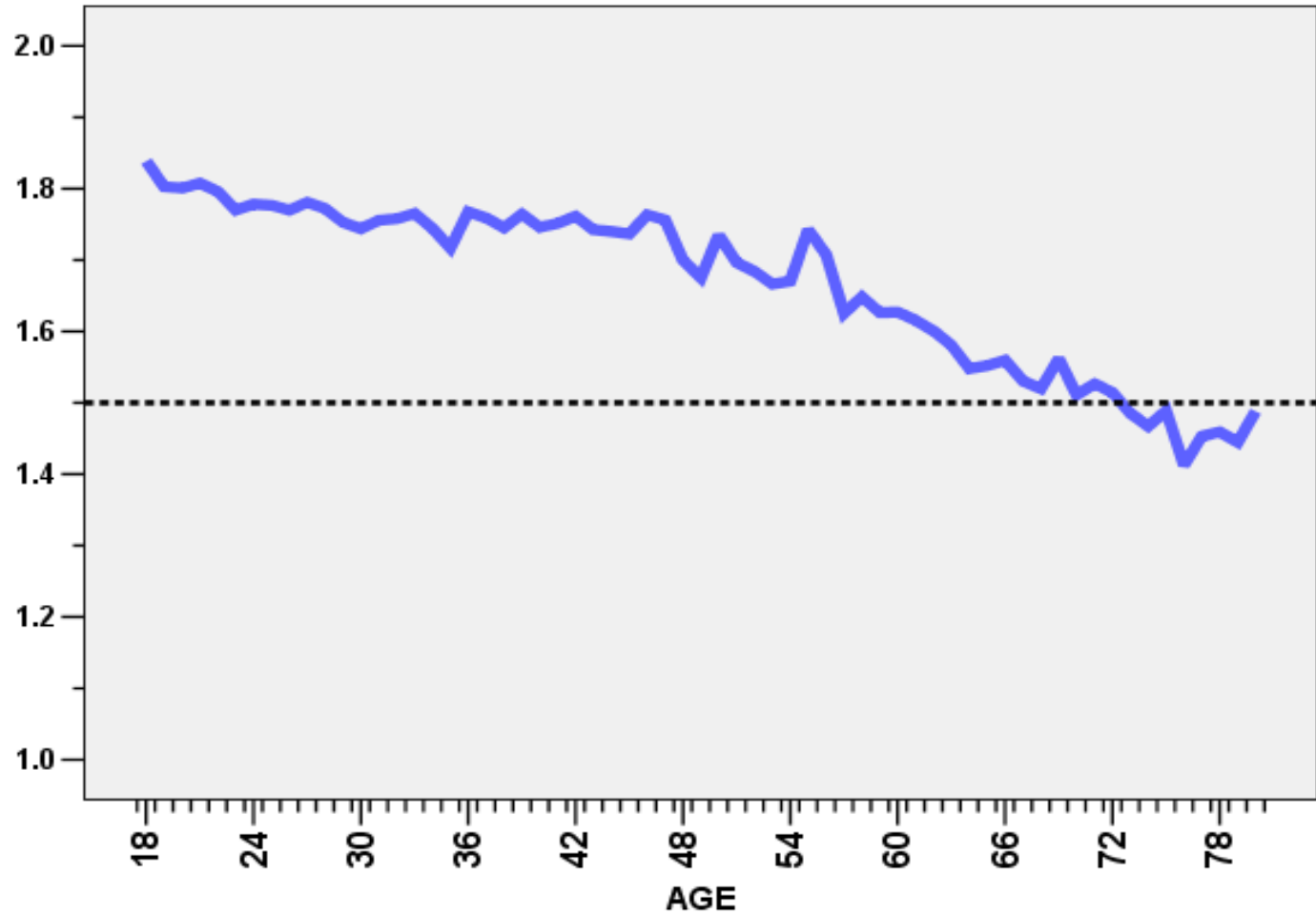


Source: Public Opinion
(Eurobarometer June 2010)

MORE EUROPEAN



MORE NATIONAL



1=exclusive national identity

2= national and european identity

Eurobarometer 1992-1998

PERSPECTIVE FOUR

Survival

Why the EU is the world's most
important experiment

A growing number of public bads are
transnational

- climate change
- nuclear proliferation
- financial regulation
- failing states
- biodiversity loss
- ocean exhaustion
- deforestation
- overfishing
- nuclear waste disposal
- refugees
- acid rain

**These are TRANSNATIONAL
problems with uneven costs**

national sovereignty is seriously suboptimal

The European Union is the world's most important experiment in creating supranational government

It is only through failure and through
experiment that we learn and grow.

Isaac Stern















MICHAEL LONG

TRUCK & CRANE HIRE

EDMOND BROS



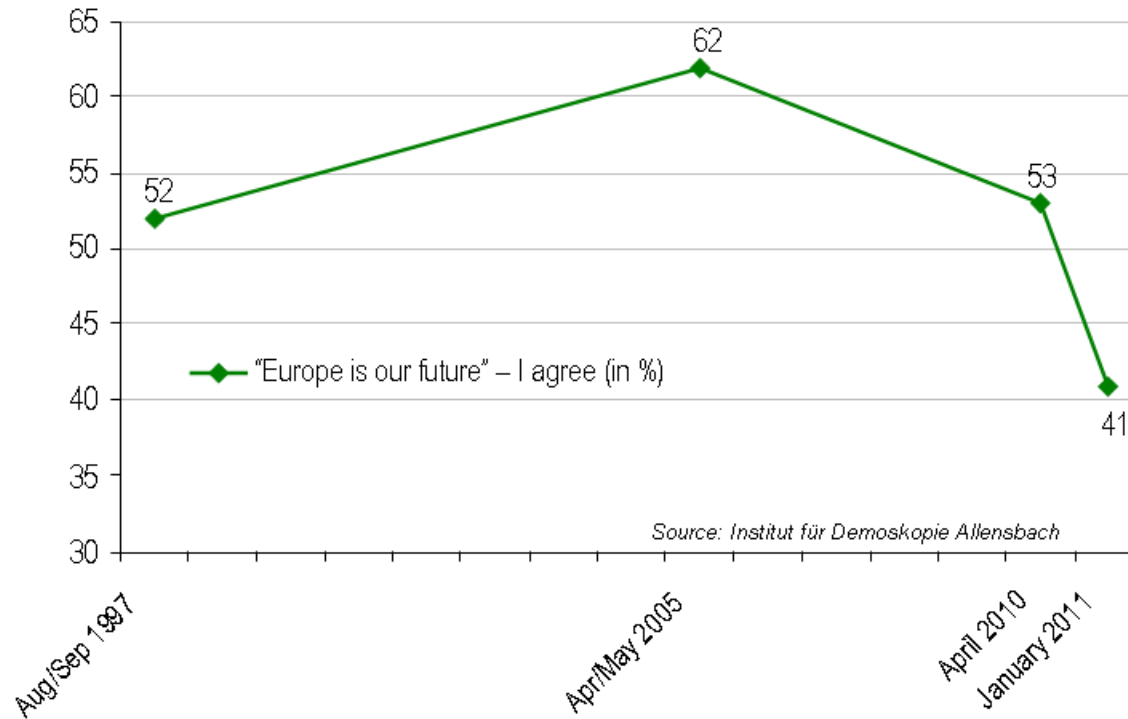




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Isaac Stern

Germans' trust in Europe is fading quickly



PERSPECTIVE FOUR

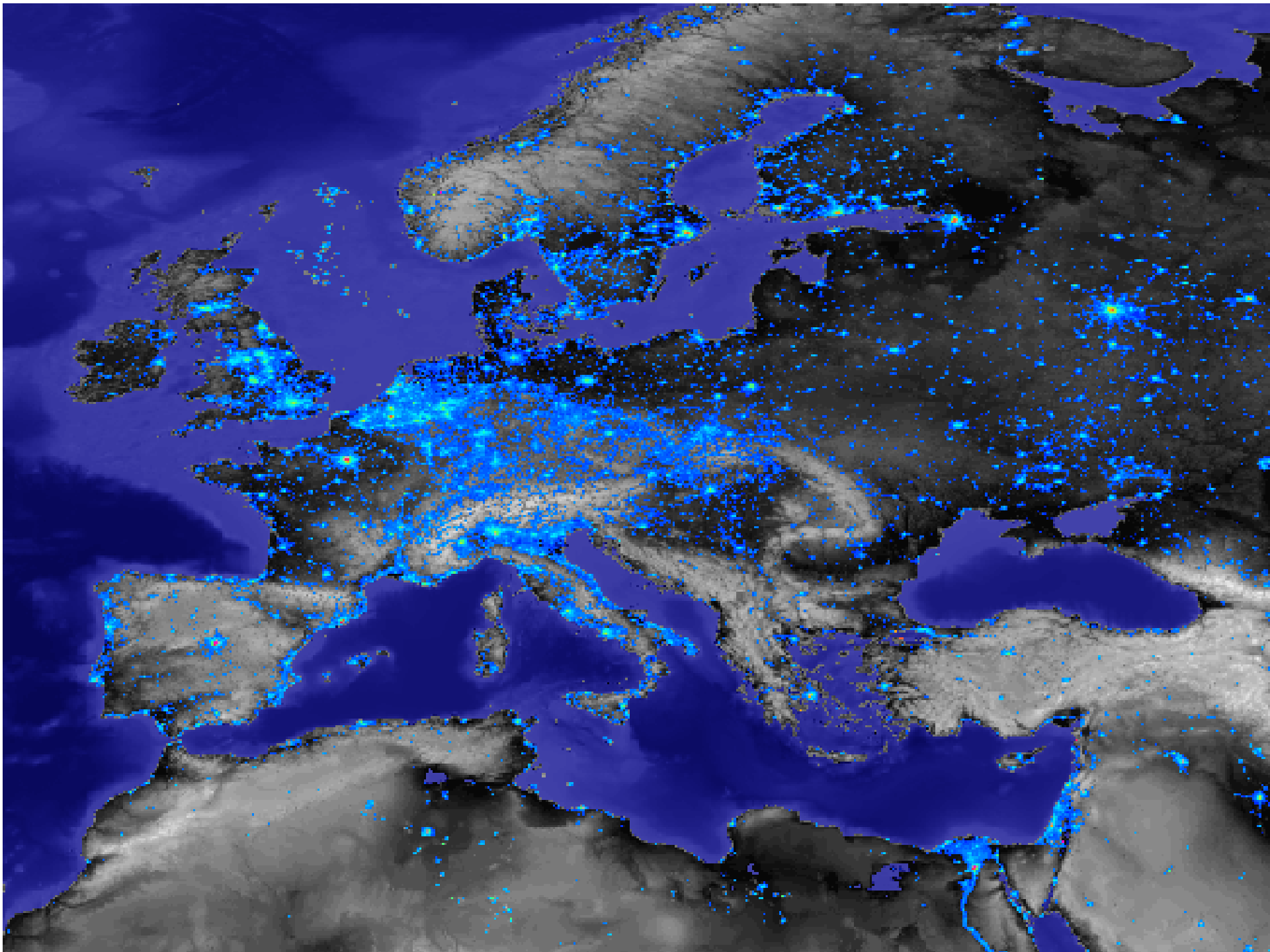
Efficiency

“Multilevel governance must be a priority.”

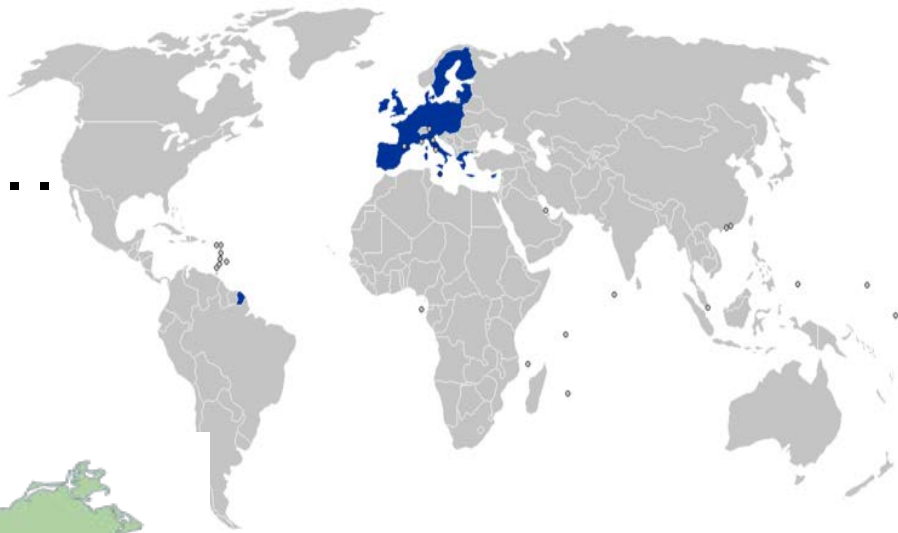
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, 2009.

“Develop as quickly as possible practical measures . . . with a view to strengthening multilevel governance.”

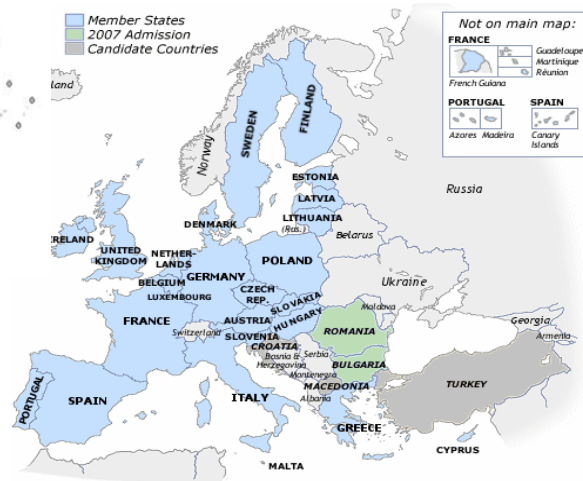
October 2008 resolution of the European Parliament



The world . . .



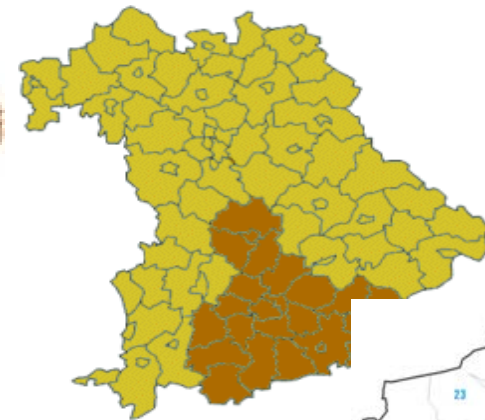
. . . Europe



Länder in Germany



Regierungsbezirke in Bayern



Kreise in Oberbayern



Bezirke in München

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

Principles of Multilevel Governance

Centralize where necessary

Decentralize where possible

Match the scale of government to the scale of problem:

- Local: garbage pickup
- Regional: urban sprawl
- National: land usage; transport network
- Continental: Rhine pollution
- Global: climate change

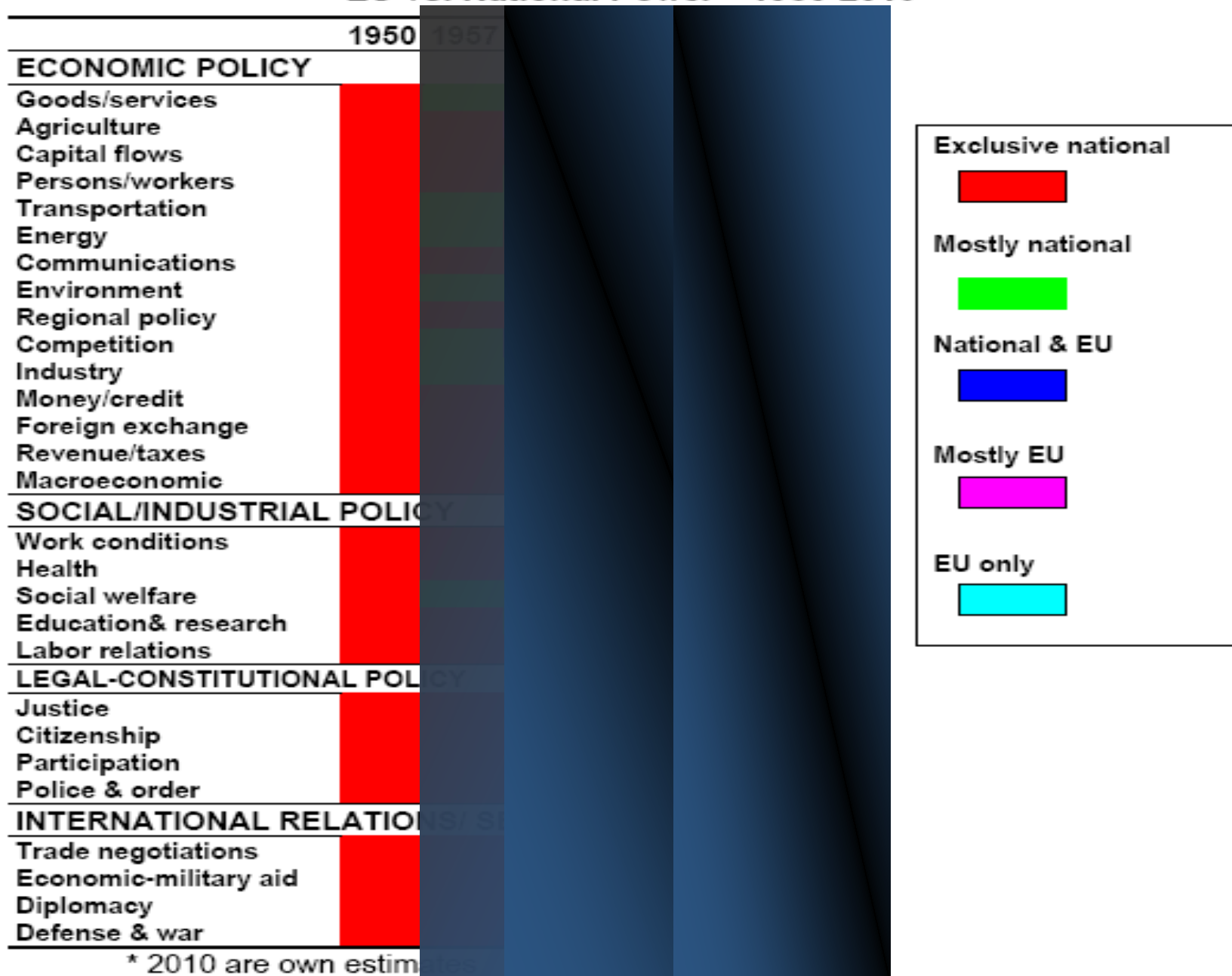
1950: sovereign national states

National legal systems, armies, taxation, parliaments, welfare health, education

Inside countries: legitimate authority, the rule of law, democracy, liberty, equality








Outside countries: no legitimate authority, no effective legal or normative order, anarchy, power politics, war

EU vs. National Power—1950-2010*



* 2010 are own estimations

Regionalization in Europe

BRITAIN		Scottish, Welsh parliaments, 1997
FRANCE		Elected regional governments, 1982
GERMANY		Federal constitution, 1949
ITALY	 	Elected regional governments, 1976. Strengthened, 1996.
SPAIN	 	Autonomous regions, 1978. Strengthened, 1993; 1998.