

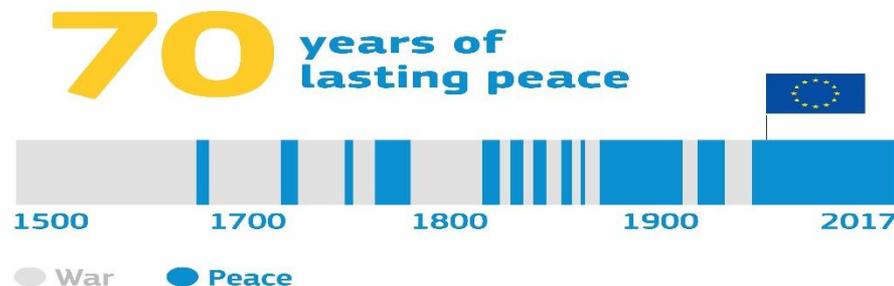
The European Union and the Rise of Euroscepticism and Populism



**Lívia Vašáková, Representation of the EC in Slovakia,
28 March 2017**

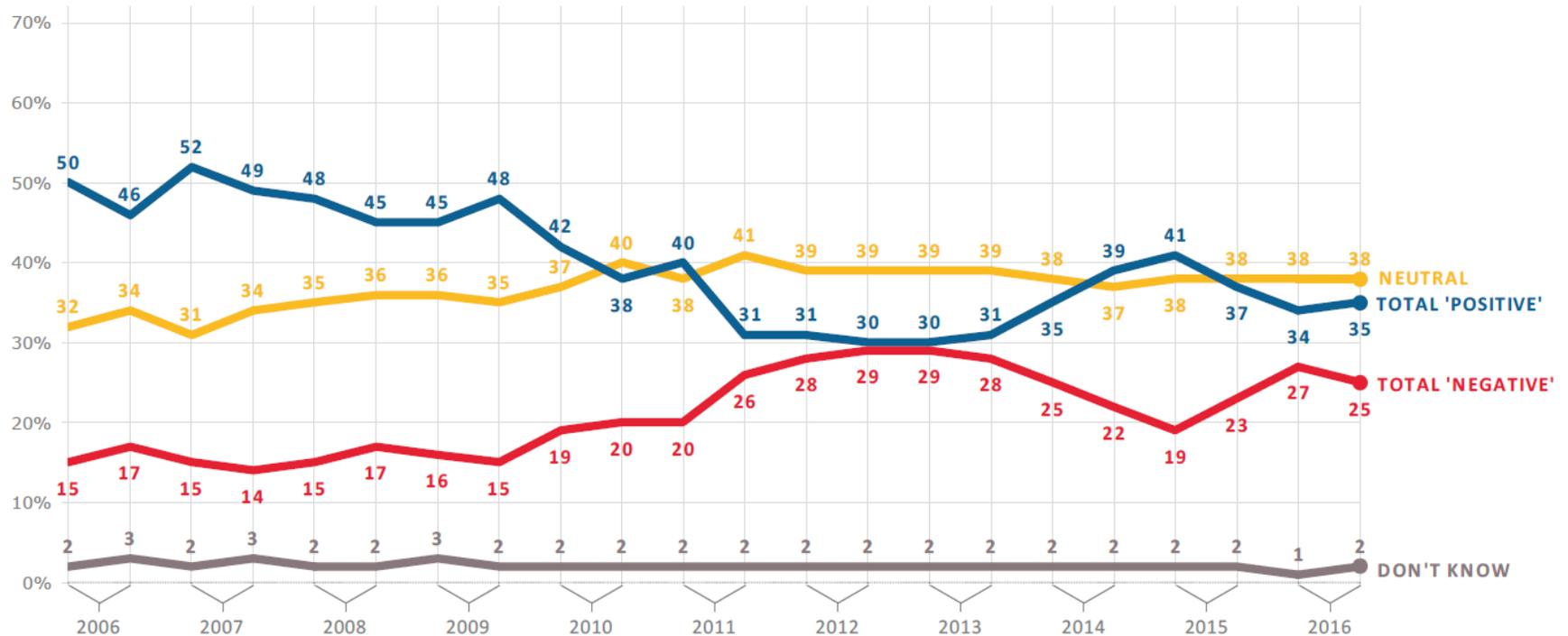
60 years of the EU

- 60th anniversary of Treaty of Rome
- EU - "success on a scale its founders could barely have imagined"
 - **guaranteeing peace and prosperity**
 - **from 6 to 28 members**
 - **a single market for over 500 mil consumers**
 - **a single currency**
 - **European Social Model**
 - ...
- However, the project has battled with crises in recent years



EU positive image has suffered by the crisis

QA9 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
(% - EU)

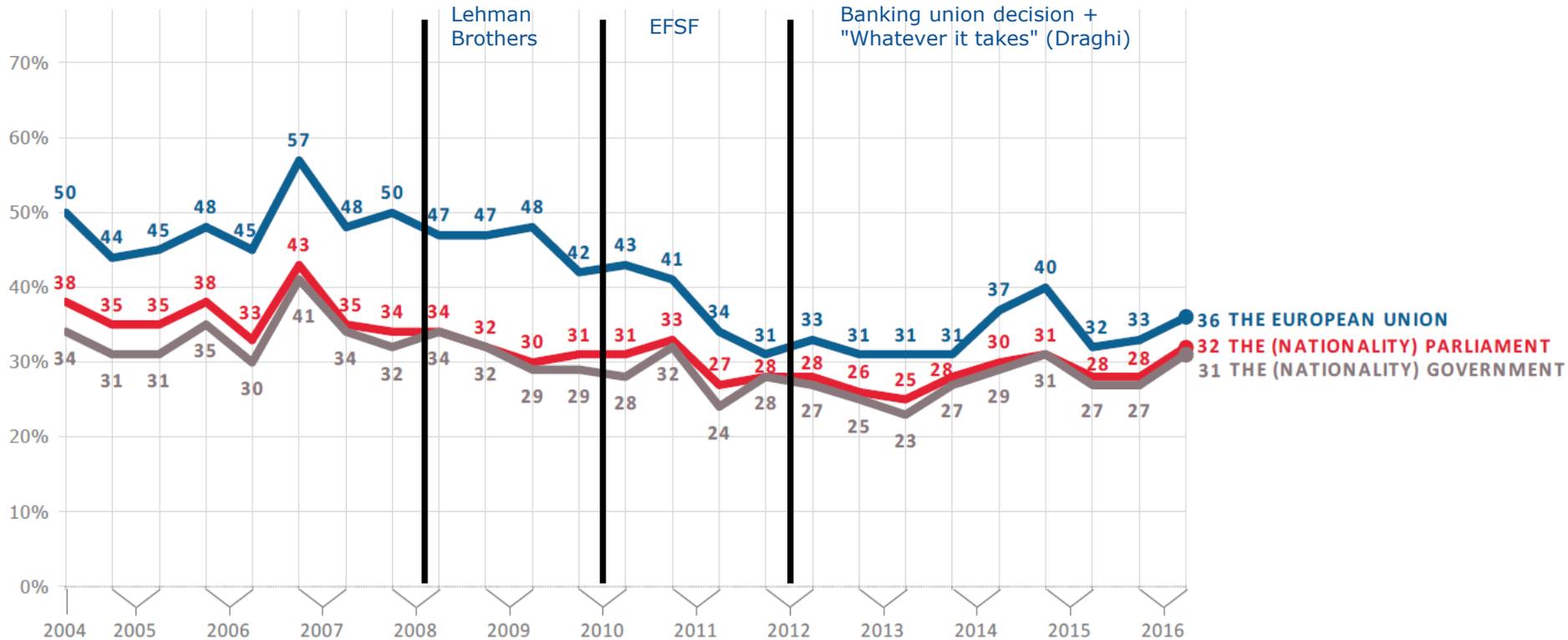


Trust in EU institutions is low.....

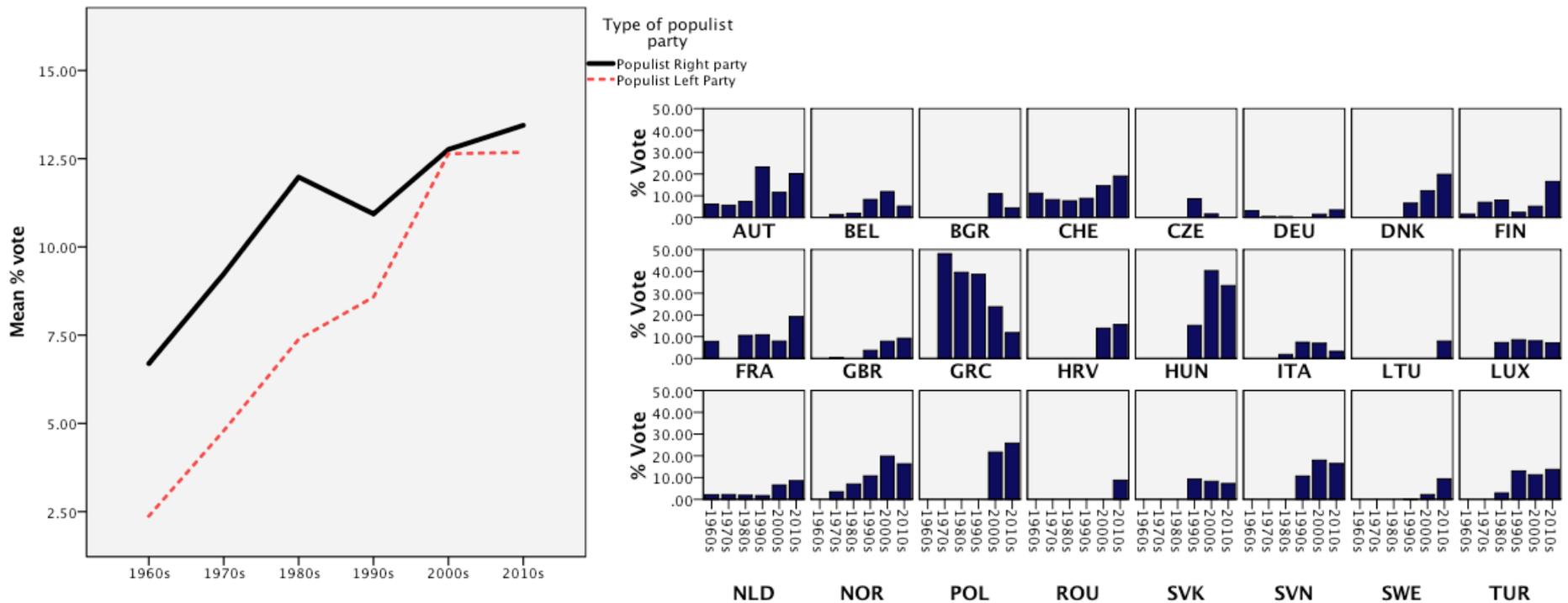
QA15 And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.
(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



...but still higher than in national institutions



Populist parties in European societies on the rise in national elections



Source: Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. "Trump, Brexit, and the rise of Populism: Economic have-nots and cultural backlash." (2016), p.37

Possible causes of populism

Economic insecurity perspective

- Rising **income and wealth inequality** as well as **economic insecurity** among left-behinds fuels popular resentment of the political elites

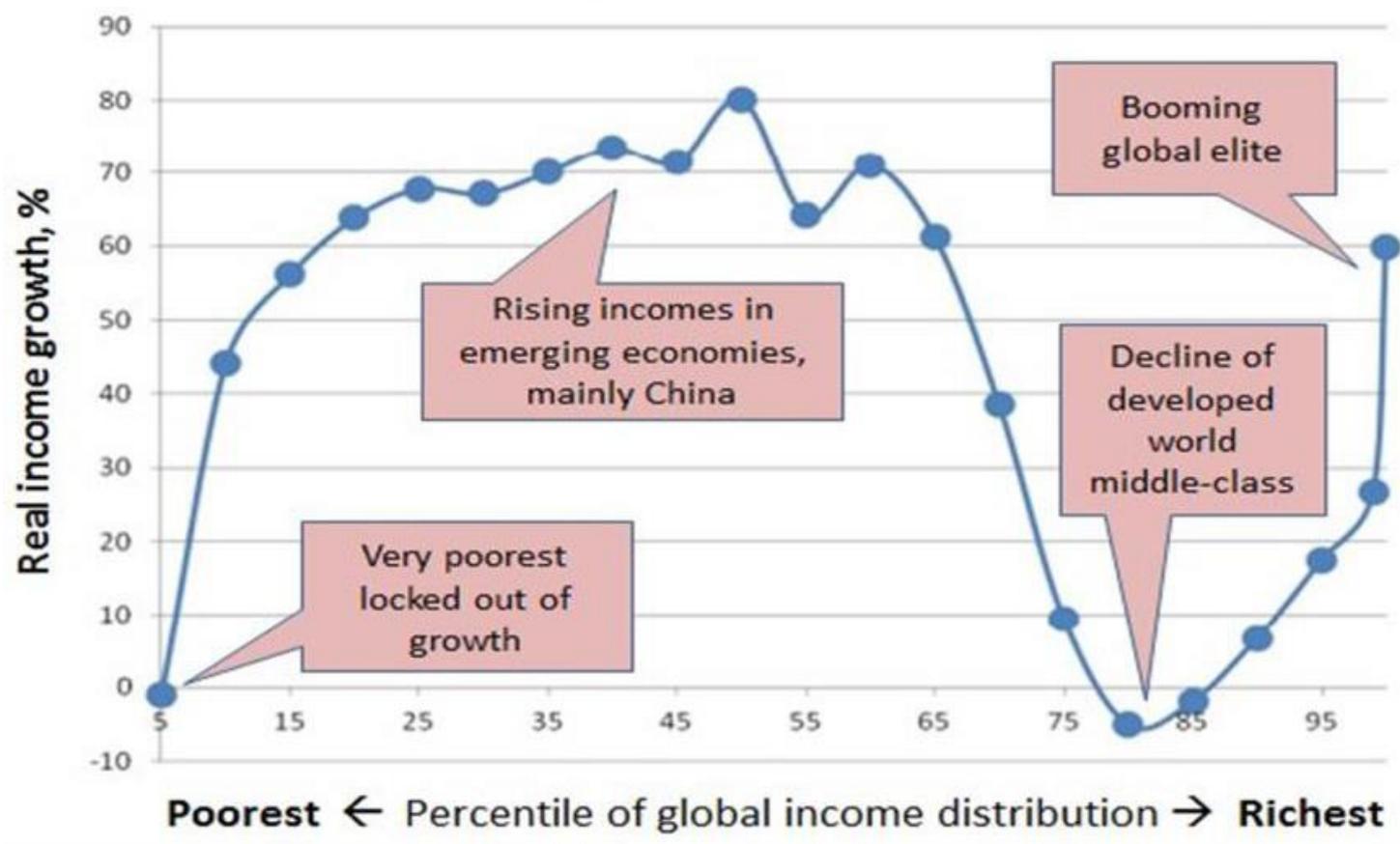
Cultural-identitarian backlash

- Reaction against **progressive cultural change** such as **cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism**

youngsters having lost hope, low-waged unskilled **workers**, long-term **unemployed**, households dependent on **shrinking social benefits** turn against neoliberal elites, globalisation, trade

less educated, older generations and right-wing authoritarians react to erosion of their privileges and societal status

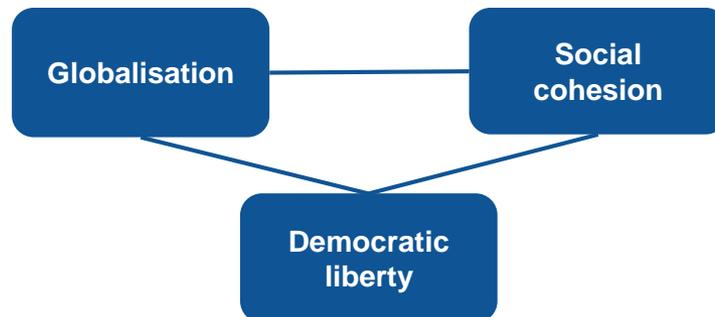
The Elephant Chart: Global income growth from 1988 to 2008



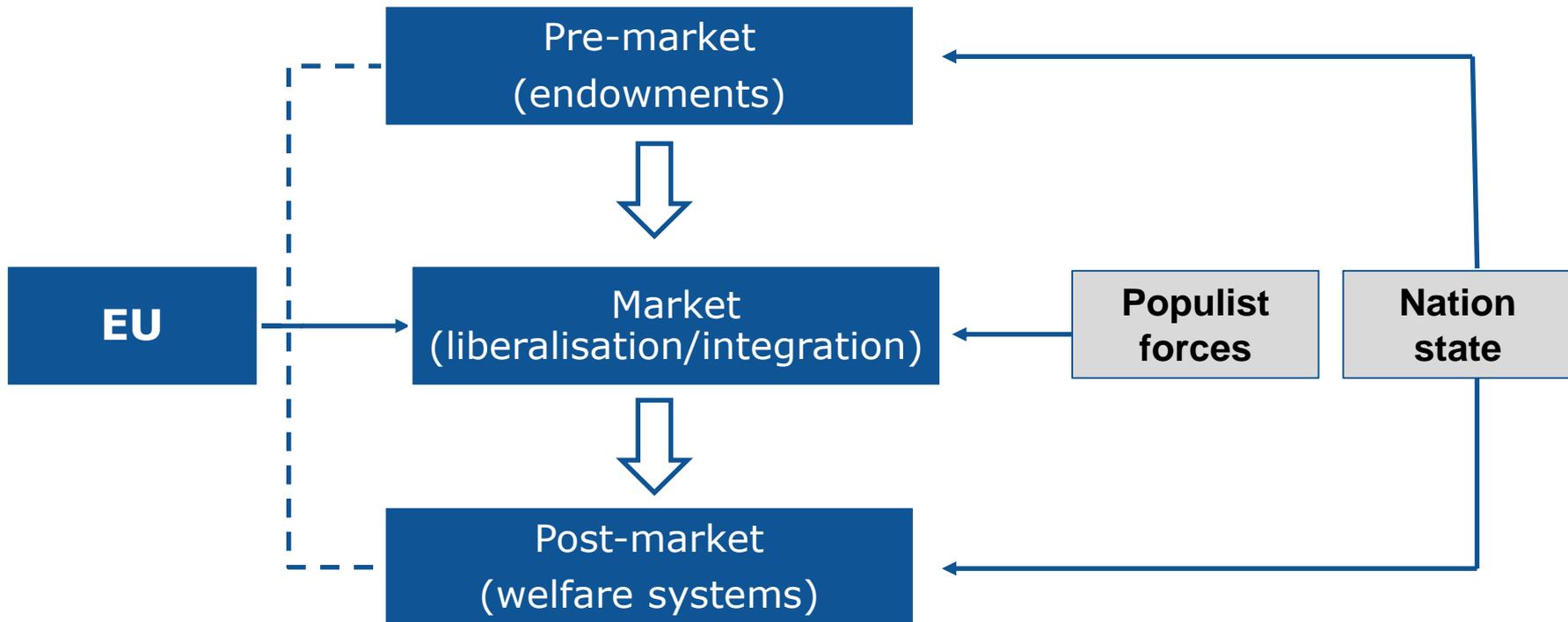
The Dahrendorf quandary

*"To stay **competitive** in a growing world economy the OECD countries are obliged to adopt measures which may inflict **irreparable damage on the cohesion** of their respective civil societies. If they are unprepared to take these measures, they must recur to **restriction of civil liberties and of political participation** bearing all the hallmarks of a new authoritarianism...The task for the first world in the next decade is to square the circle between growth, social cohesion and political freedom"*

Ralf Dahrendorf, Economic Opportunity, Civil Society and Political Liberty



Economic populism: Why against the EU?



Identitarian Populism: Why against the EU?

European Union

Populism

Convergence



Perceived as erasing national identities and specificities

Protection of minorities



Rule of the "no longer silent majority"

EU based on rules and institutions (often complex)



Direct democracy, referenda, twitter policy-making

What could be done (economic dimension)?

- Sustained period of economic and employment growth could help
- Pro-active approach to help left-behinds of globalisation (ESF)
- European Social Model, European Pillar of Social Rights - distributional aspect, social fairness
 - **European Semester (education, long-term unemployment,...)**
 - **Fight against tax avoidance**
 - **Competition policy**
 -
- Better use of EU budget
- Transparency and accountability
 - **Justification of decisions, transparent information flows (who does what and when)**
 - **At national level – a more responsible rhetoric**
 - **More decision at MS than at expert level (e.g. comitology procedure)**



European
Commission

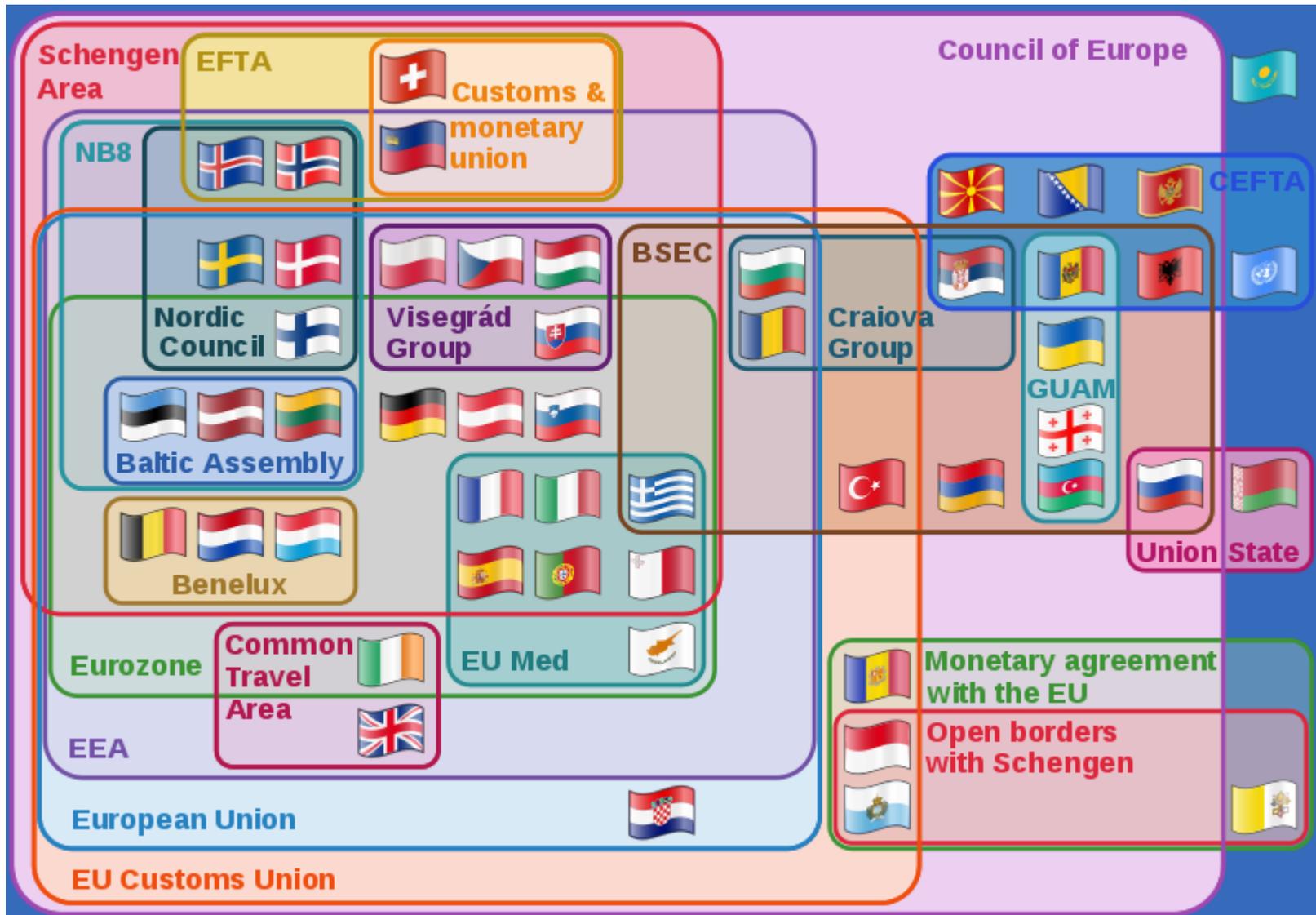


White Paper - The Future of Europe

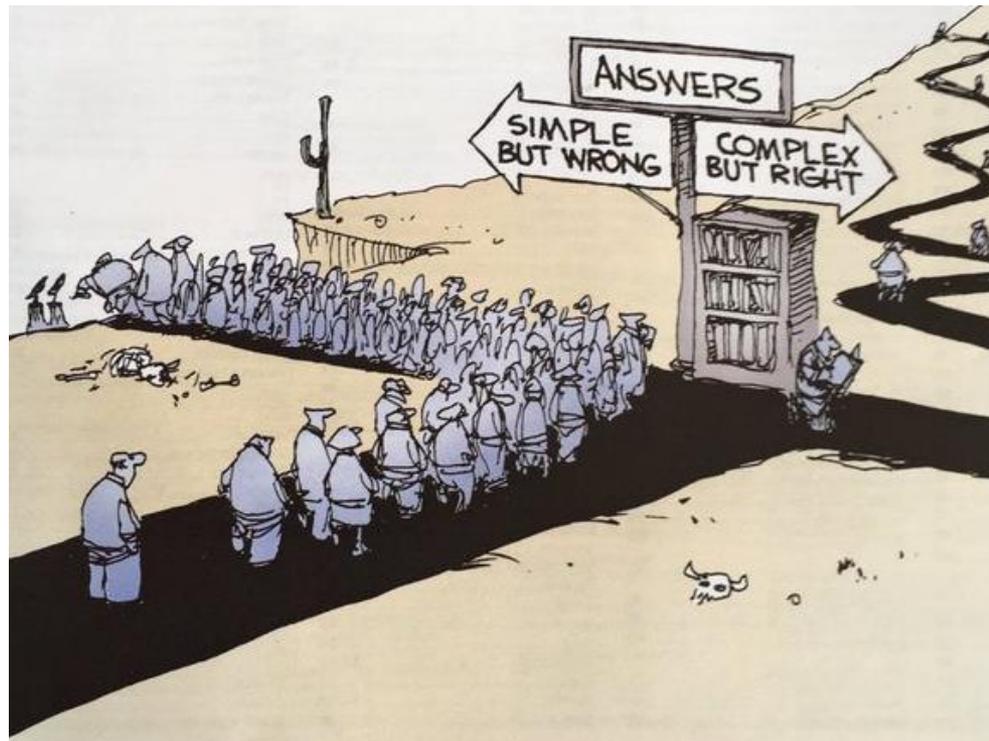
	 Carrying on	 Nothing but the single market	 Those who want more do more	 Doing less more efficiently	 Doing much more together
Single market & trade	Single market is strengthened, including in the energy and digital sectors; the EU27 pursues progressive trade agreements	Single market for goods and capital strengthened; standards continue to differ; free movement of people and services not fully guaranteed	As in “Carrying on”, single market is strengthened and the EU27 pursues progressive trade agreements	Common standards set to a minimum but enforcement is strengthened in areas regulated at EU level; trade exclusively dealt with at EU level	Single market strengthened through harmonisation of standards and stronger enforcement; trade exclusively dealt with at EU level
Economic & Monetary Union	Incremental progress on improving the functioning of the euro area	Cooperation in the euro area is limited	As in “Carrying on” except for a group of countries who deepen cooperation in areas such as taxation and social standards	Several steps are taken to consolidate the euro area and ensure its stability, the EU27 does less in some parts of employment and social policy	Economic, financial and fiscal Union is achieved as envisioned in the report of the Five Presidents of June 2015
Schengen, migration & security	Cooperation in the management of external borders stepped up gradually, progress towards a common asylum system; improved coordination on security matters	No single migration or asylum policy; further coordination on security dealt with bilaterally, internal border controls are more systematic	As in “Carrying on” except for a group of countries who deepen cooperation on security and justice matters	Cooperation on border management, asylum policies and counter-terrorism matters are systematic	As in “Doing less more efficiently”, cooperation on border management, asylum policies and counter-terrorism matters is systematic



European
Commission



Thank you for your attention



Livia.vasakova@ec.europa.eu
[@VasakovaLivia](https://twitter.com/VasakovaLivia)