

Strategic Foresight: The European Experience

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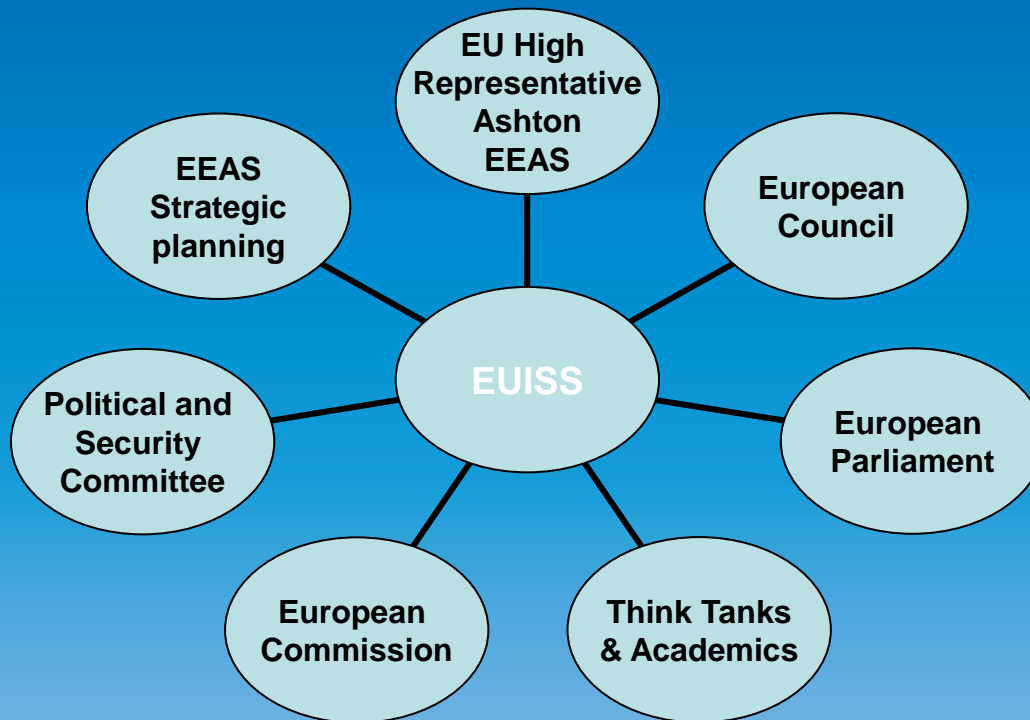
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What is the EUISS?

- An **EU agency** established by a European Council Joint Action in 2001
- Its main missions are: (i) to assist in the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP); and (ii) to contribute to Europe's strategic debate

Where we fit in



Strategic foresight in Europe: an overview I

During the Cold War, there were various long-term plans and strategies associated with European integration:

- 1950s and 1960s - Cecchini Report was the first attempt at the Community level to develop strategic foresight leading to the creation of the common market (focus on topics such as agriculture, environment, animal health)
- 1969-1971: Werner Plan for economic and monetary union
- 1980s: several long-term plans leading to the Single European Act (1986) and the Maastricht Treaty (1991)
- 1990s: focus on S&T at the EU level (DG for Research & Innovation; EU Parliamentary S&T Options Assessment; establishment of the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies in Seville)

Strategic foresight in Europe: an overview II

In the post-Cold War period, the EU enlarges the scope of strategic forecast to include security and military issues:

- 2003: European Security Strategy (ESS) – the first threat assessment ever made by the EU, identifying priorities and calling for more coherent approaches
- ESS has remained a one-off achievement – in 2008 the EU released a report on the implementation of the ESS
- There are current attempts at re-launching strategic reflection over the future of the EU (e.g. the ‘Westerwelle Group’ led by Germany; the ‘European Global Strategy’ blueprint coordinated by four national think tanks with the blessing of the foreign ministries of Sweden, Poland, Spain and Italy)

Strategic foresight in Europe: the role of Member States

- Some EU Member States have well-developed strategic foresight capabilities (e.g. Finland has put foresight at the heart of government) and have established central foresight agencies – the UK has a Foresight Office reporting directly to cabinet and France has a Centre d'Analyse et Perspective Strategique (CAPS) working directly for the prime minister; The Netherlands and Sweden have also centralised foresight activities – the latter created a Secretariat for Futures Studies in 1973, now called the Institute for Future Studies
- Other EU Member States (e.g. Finland, Italy, Germany) have more decentralised models. Berlin and some of the Nordic countries have prioritised S&T as the principal area of foresight, while the UK and France have also developed foresight of military issues

The ESPAS project

- Since 2011, the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) has started to bring together relevant expertise from all EU institutions and bodies, including expertise from Member States, with a view to promoting a joint ‘foresight’ capacity, similar to what the NIC has been doing since the mid-1990s
- ESPAS is steered by a ‘quadrilateral’ inter-institutional Task Force bringing together the European Parliament, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) of the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS)
- At the beginning of 2011, the ESPAS Task Force commissioned the EUISS to produce the first report which was published in the Spring of 2012

Citizens in an Interconnected and Polycentric World



GLOBAL TRENDS
2030

Global Trends 2030

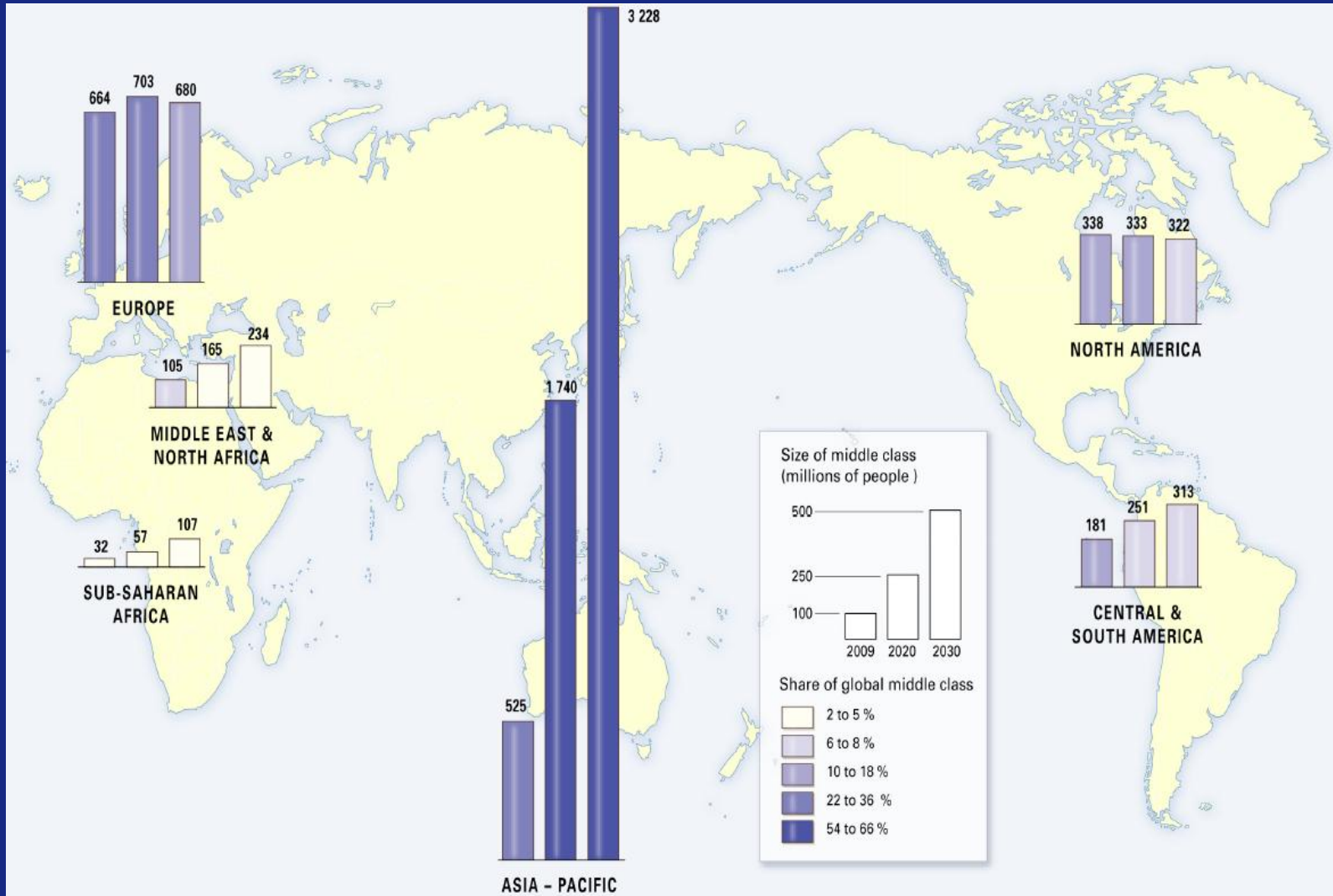
- 'Global Trends 2030 – Citizens in an Interconnected and Polycentric World' assesses the long-term political and economic environment facing the EU over the next 20 years
- Produced by a team of experts (including this speaker) led by Alvaro de Vasconcelos, former EUISS director
- Methodology:
 - - research organised by issue areas and regions
 - - preliminary findings discussed at regional conferences around the world (Cairo, Pretoria, Washington, Beijing, Sao Paulo, Moscow, Ankara, New Delhi)
 - - Focus groups with 'young leaders' held in Egypt, Pakistan, India, China, USA, Brazil, Russia and Turkey
- The ESPAS report identifies three main global trends that will shape the world in 2030. They include:

Key global trends I

1) The empowerment of the individual, which may contribute to a growing sense of belonging to a single human community

Global Expansion of the Middle Class

(Kharas & Gertz, 2010)



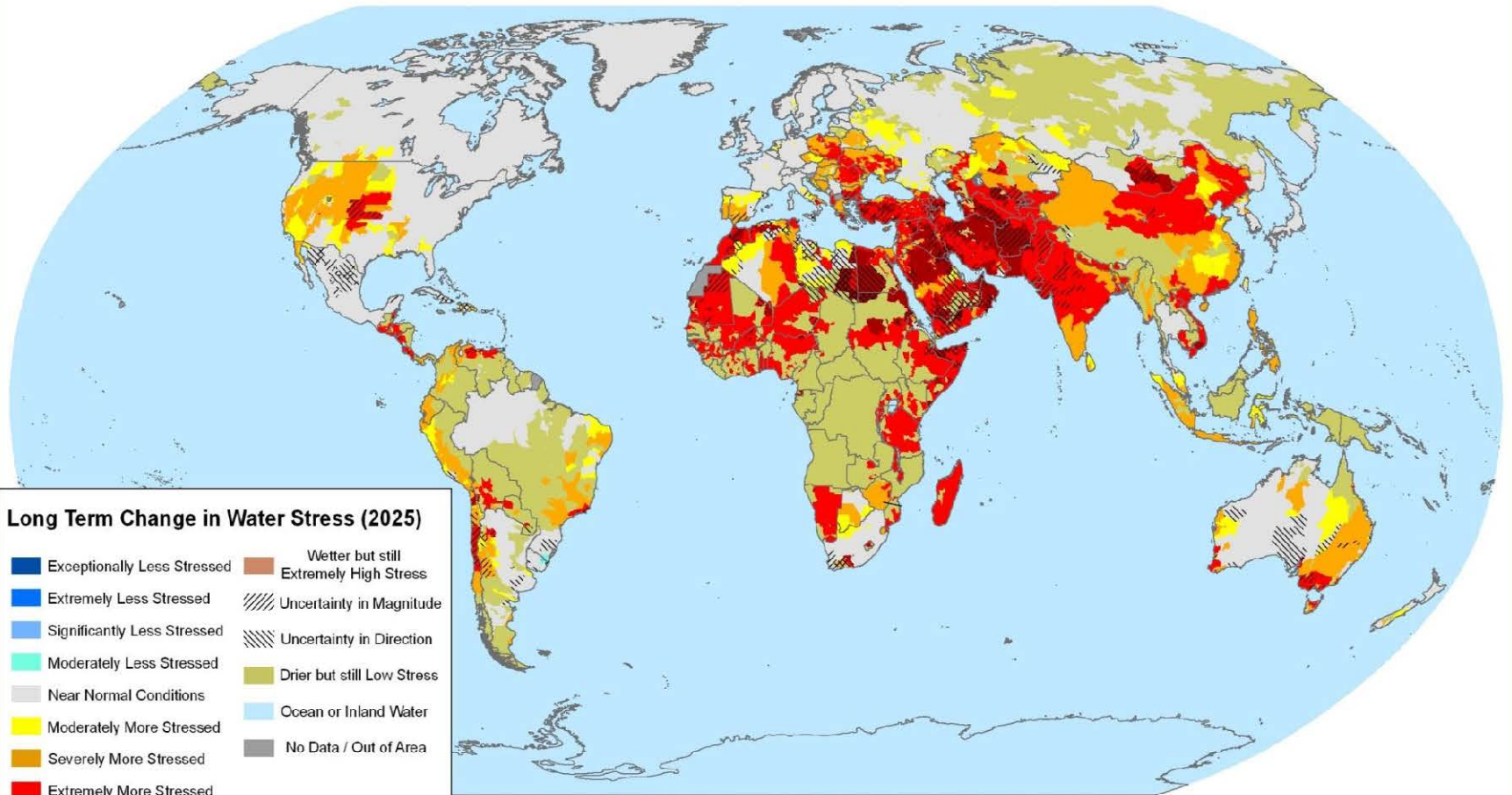
Middle Class defined as those with daily expenditures between \$10 and \$100 in constant 2005 dollars, adjusted for purchasing power parity

Key global trends II

2) Greater stress on sustainable development against a backdrop of greater resource scarcity and persistent poverty, compounded by the consequences of climate change

Water Stress Projections

(World Resources Institute, 2011)



Megacities 2030

(UN World Urbanisation Prospects, 2010)

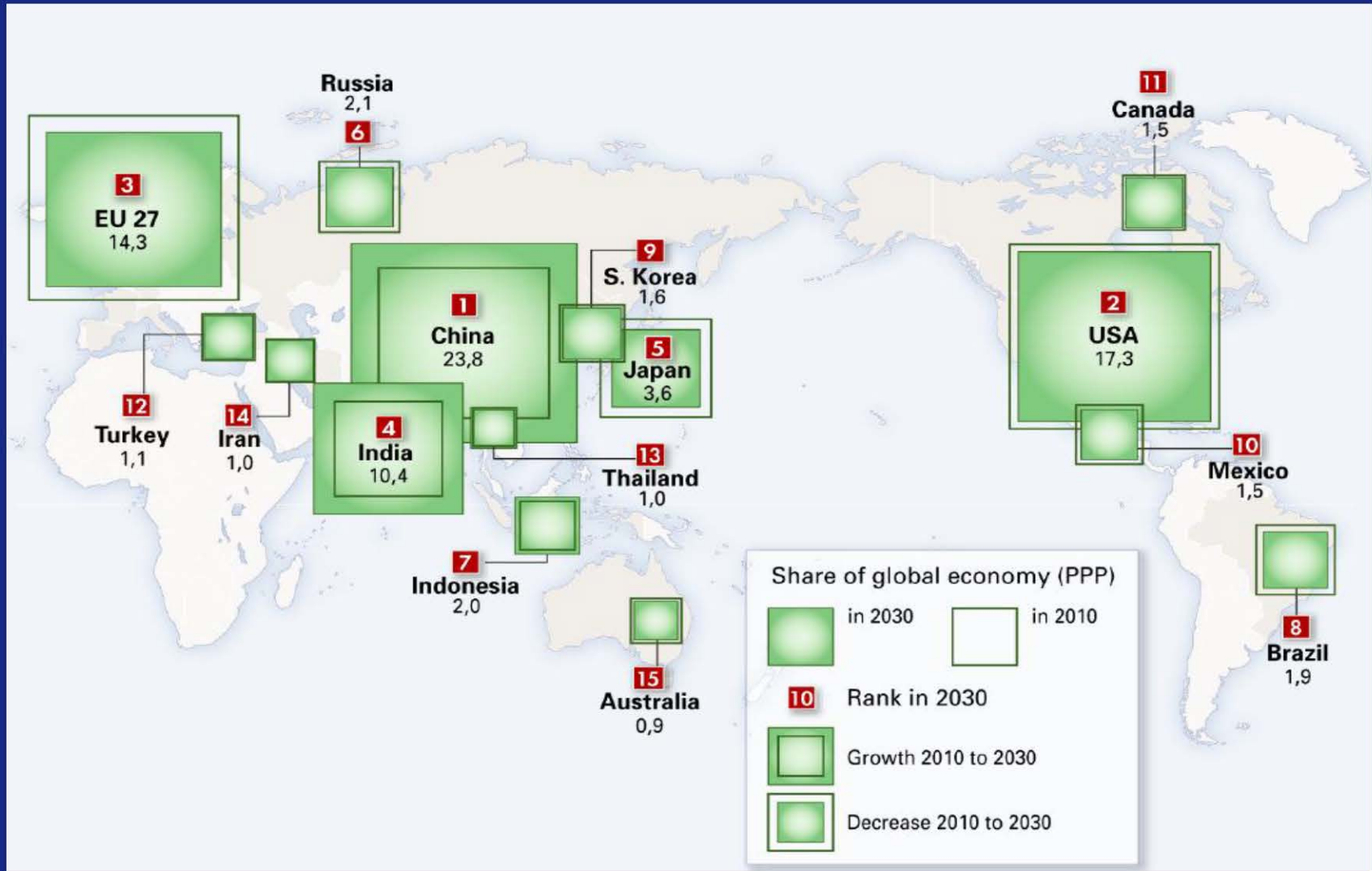


Key global trends III

3) The emergence of a more polycentric world, including a shift of power away from states and growing governance gaps as the mechanisms for inter-state relations may fail to respond adequately to global public demands

Redistribution of Economic Power

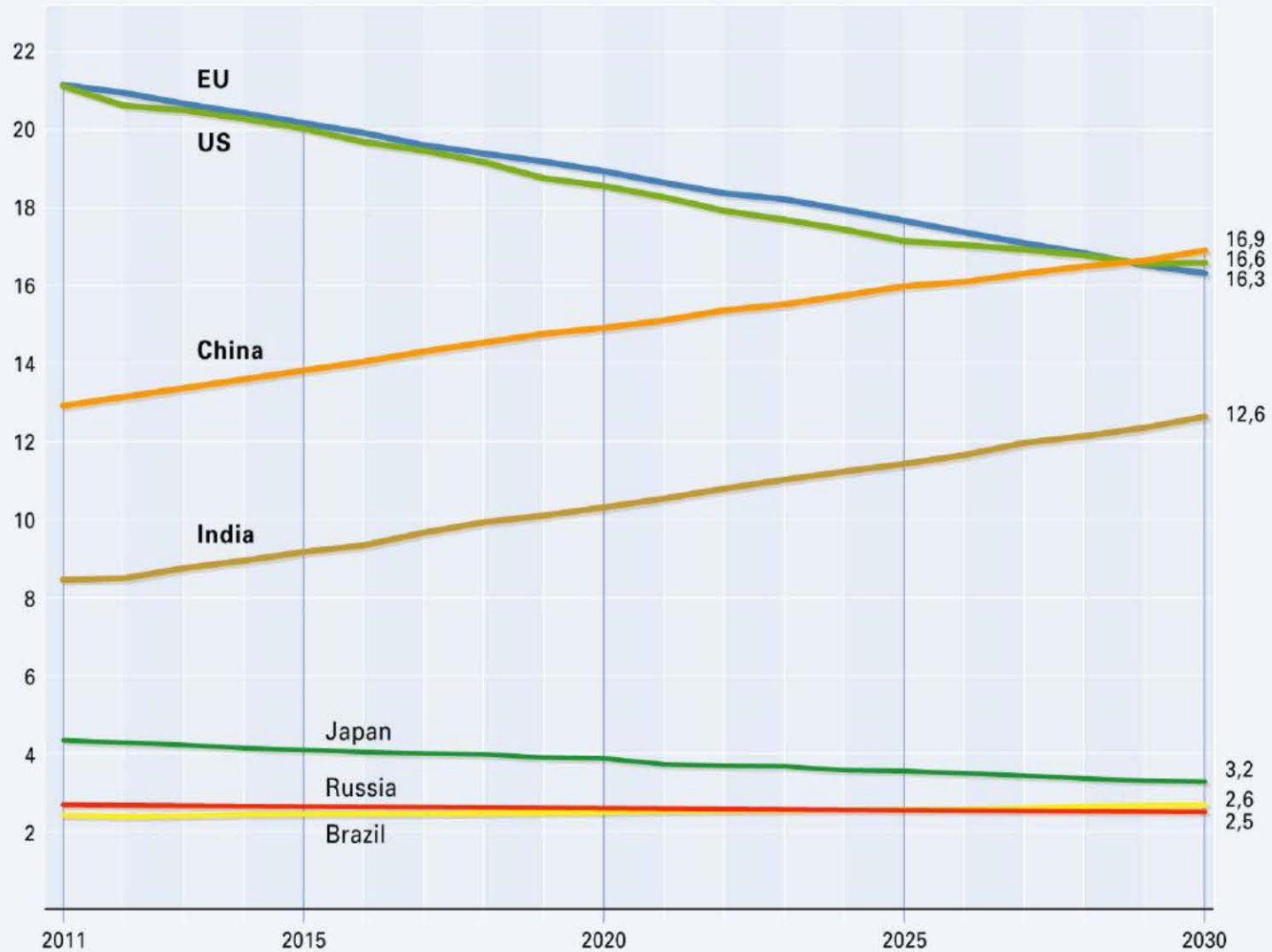
(IMF World Economic Outlook, 2010 & Maddison, 2007)



Redistribution of Material Power

(International Futures (IFs) Forecasts, 2011)

Percentage of Global Material Power



Citizens in an Interconnected and Polycentric World



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The future of ESPAS

- The European Parliament has given the go-ahead for a second stage in the project with a view to putting in place by 2014 a permanent inter-institutional system to identify and analyse long-term trends
- Currently, three ESPAS inter-institutional Working Groups are overseeing contractors, who are gathering data on the economy, society, and international governance and power in order to produce the first three interim trend reports by September 2013
- The next ESPAS Report is thus scheduled for the early part of 2014. It will identify long-term global trends and the challenges and options for the EU in the period 2014-2019
- The Report will be submitted to the incoming Presidents of the EU institutions in 2014

Conclusion

- Europe has developed strategic foresight capabilities both at the Community level and at the national level
- Since 2011, ESPAS has started to bring together relevant expertise from all EU institutions and bodies, including expertise from Member States. Aim: to build a permanent and more centralised inter-institutional system to identify and analyse long-term trends - similar to what the National Intelligence Council (NIC) does
- ESPAS is meant to lay the ground for more permanent cooperation and dialogue with research institutes and centres - both within and outside Europe - doing strategic foresight
- http://europa.eu/espas/outreach/index_en.htm

THANK YOU!

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