

Professor

Bruno Colmant

The State of the European Economy and the Expectations on the Future





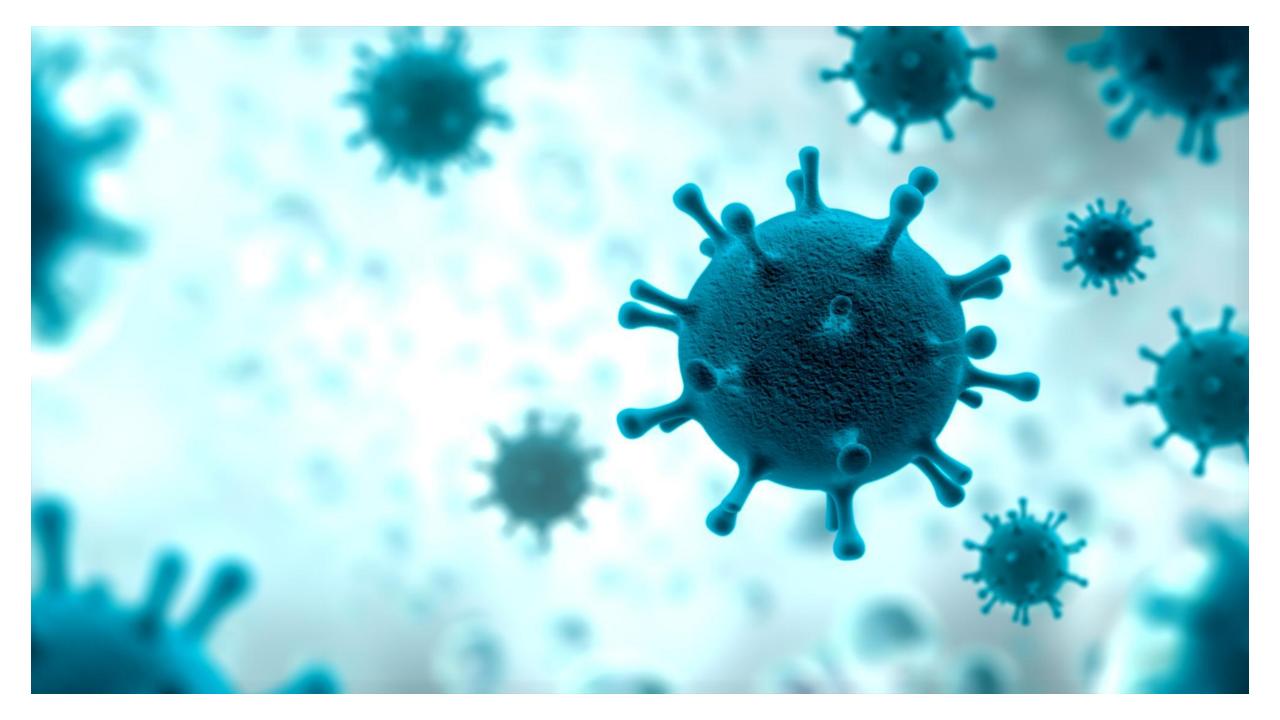
The state of the European Economy and expectations on the future

Prof. Dr. Bruno Colmant, member of the Belgian Royal Academy







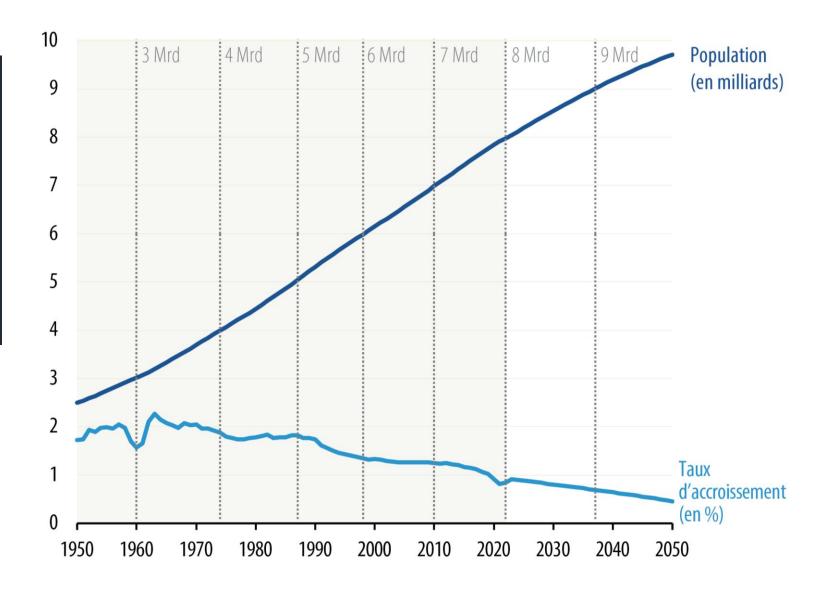


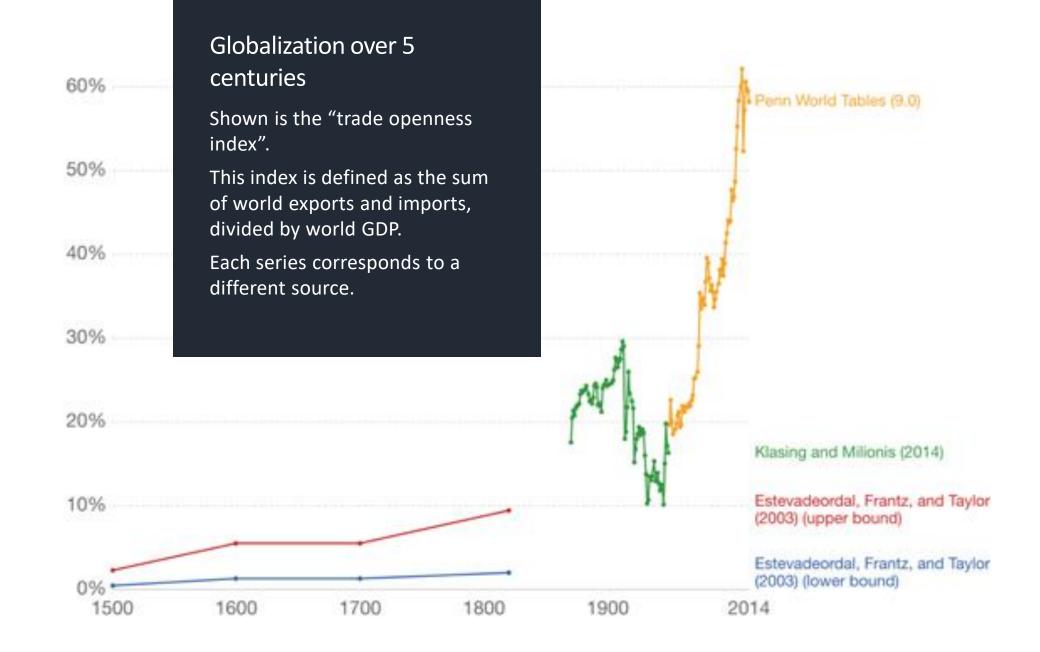




Dissipation du spectre de l'explosion démographique

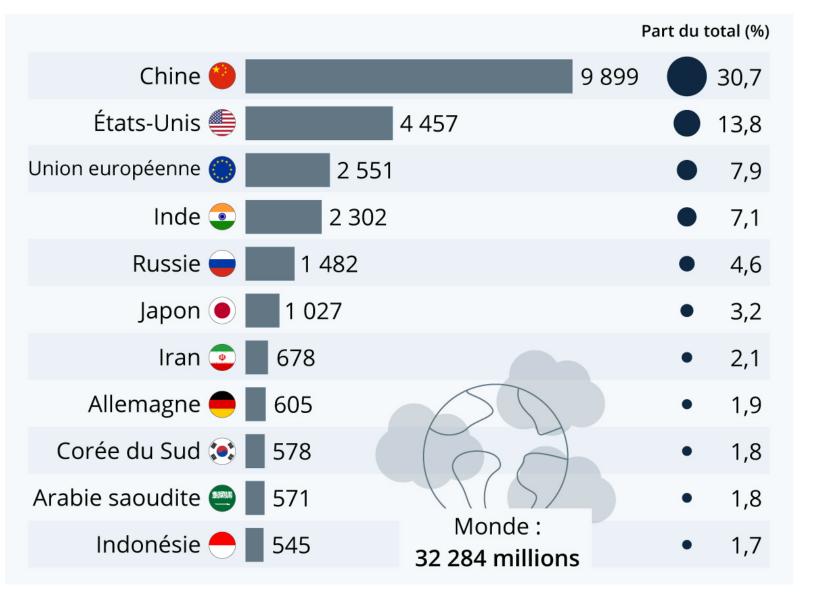
La population mondiale franchit la barre des 8 milliards, mais le taux d'accroissement continue de diminuer





Les plus gros pollueurs

Classement des pays ou region selon le volume de dioxide de carbone émis en 2020, en millions de tonnes





The European Social Model

Belgium: 2,5 millions persons >65 years /11 millions Europe as a collection of social states, different from the US and China

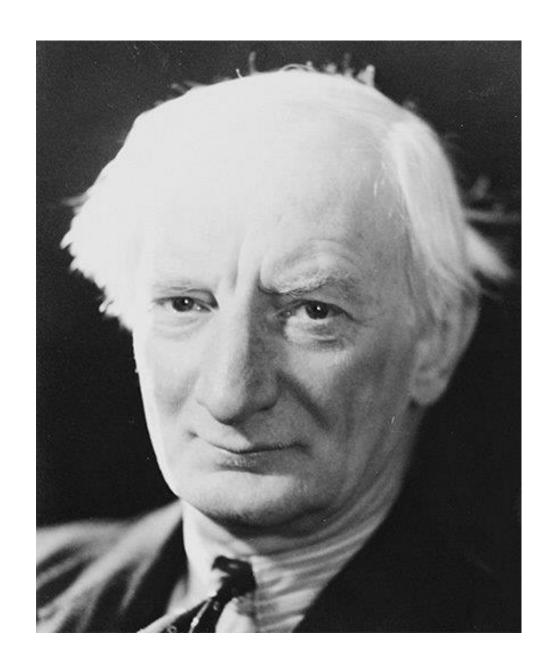
In blue: proportion of population > 65 years (23 % in Europe)

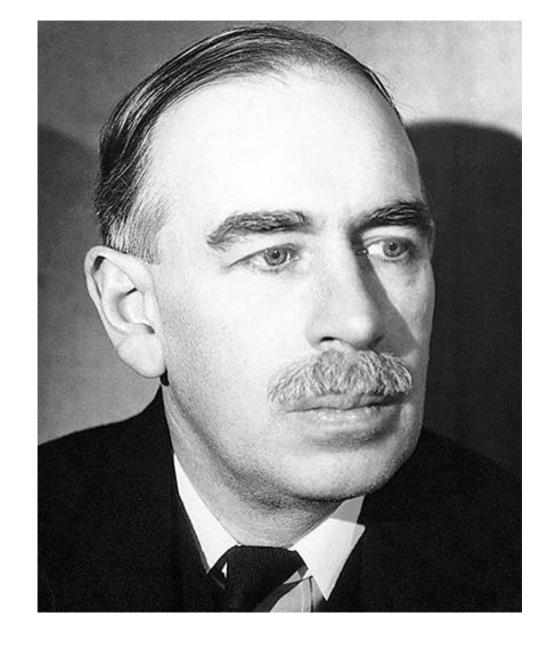
Aging population as a structural condition

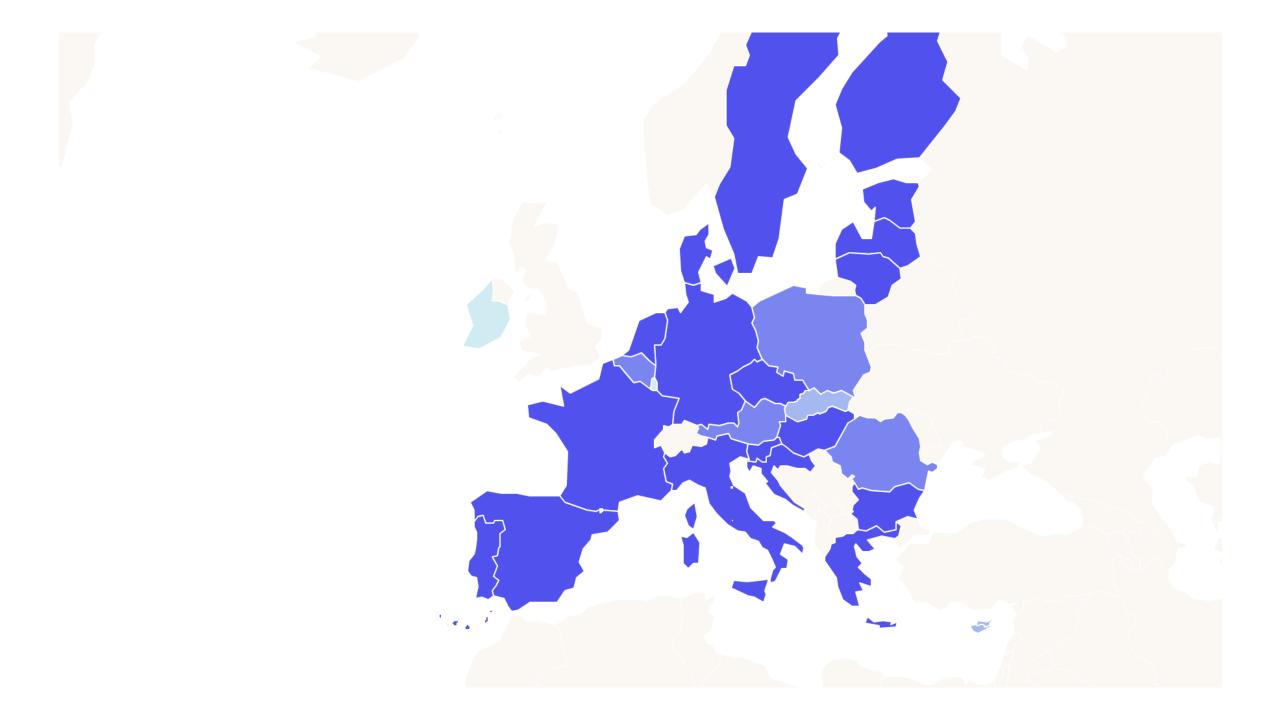
And need for huge public investments

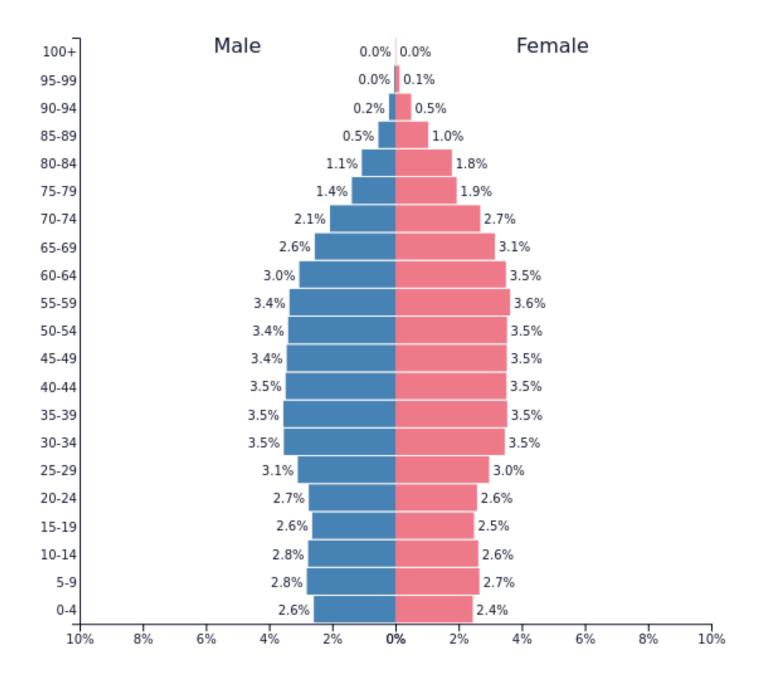
Consequences: low growth, high social spending

Competitive disadvantage due to high taxation, energy costs, etc.



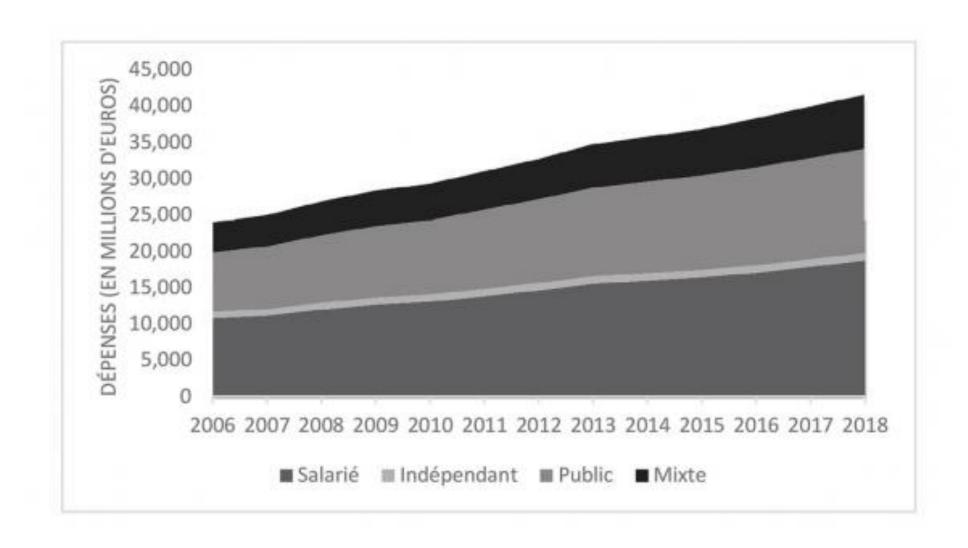


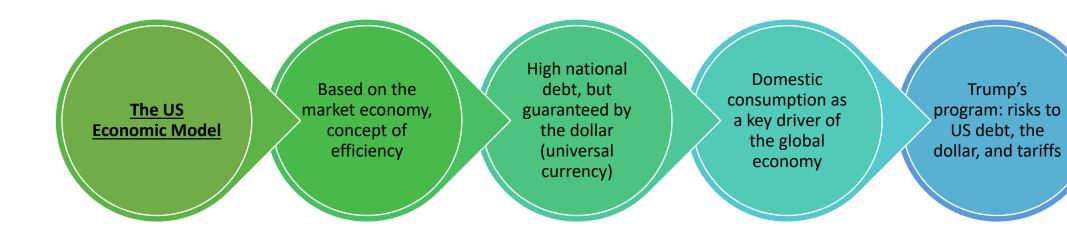




Europe 2020

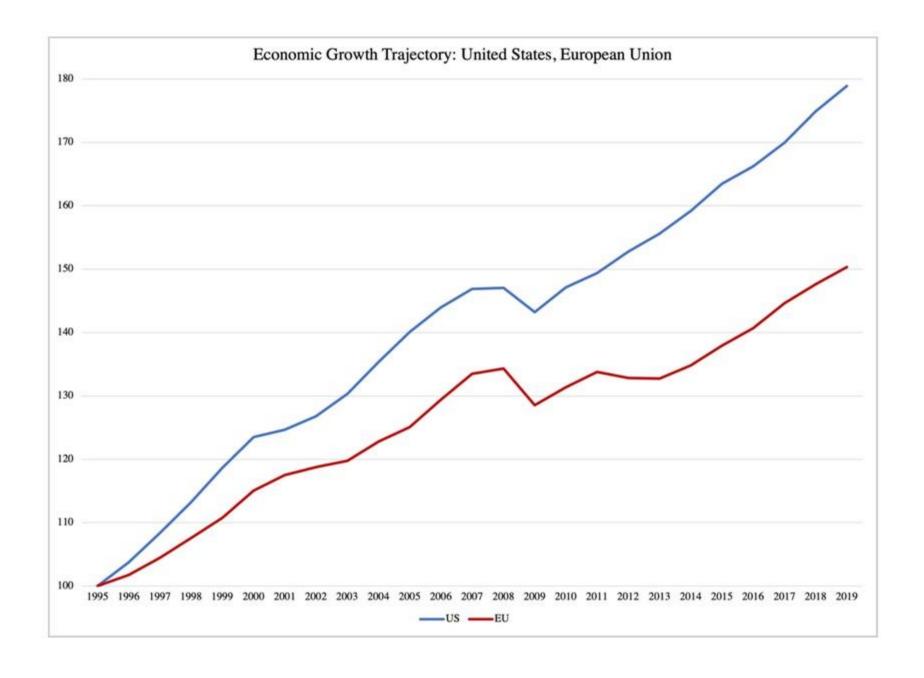
Population: **746,225,356**

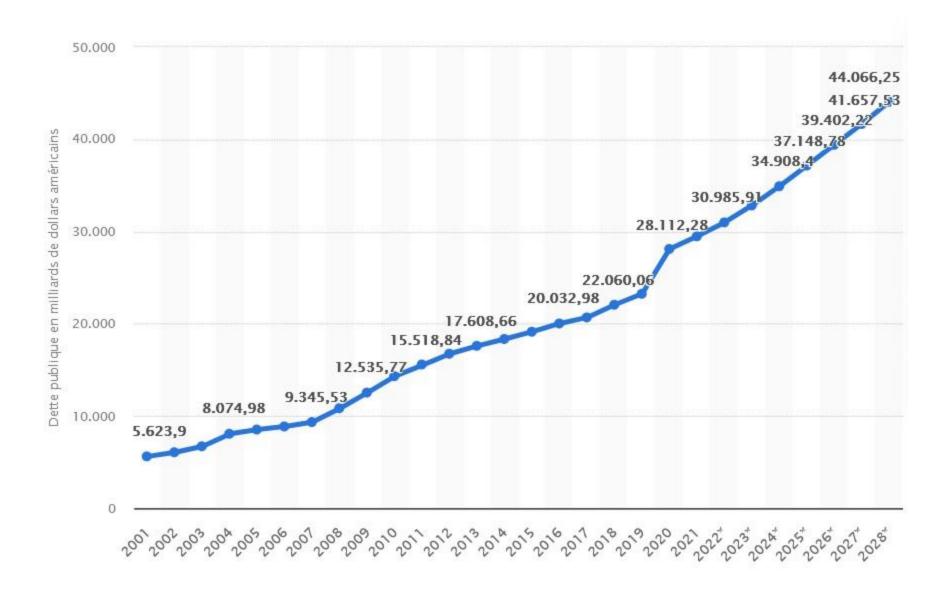




EFFICIENCY

Market Efficiency





The Growing Chinese Model

Rapid (although slower) economic growth

High dependence on export

Danger of excess production capacities

Expand on its global economic impact

What Are Europe's Growth Prospects

Growth prospects across Europe: low

Is growth homogeneous between European countries?

Labor and capital mobility: the real issue linked to social states

The euro as the foundation of Europe's economy

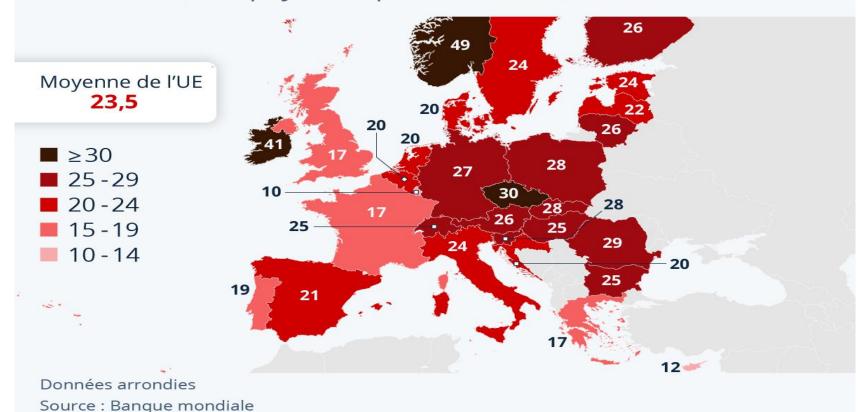
Current Challenges for Europe

- Deindustrialization issues
- High energy costs
- American protectionism and Chinese overcapacity



Le poids de l'industrie dans l'économie en Europe

Part du secteur industriel dans le produit intérieur brut (PIB) des pays européens en 2022, en %











A New European Commission

- A more right-wing commission, possibly less focused on green policies
- The absolute need to support European industry
- Responding to global economic pressures



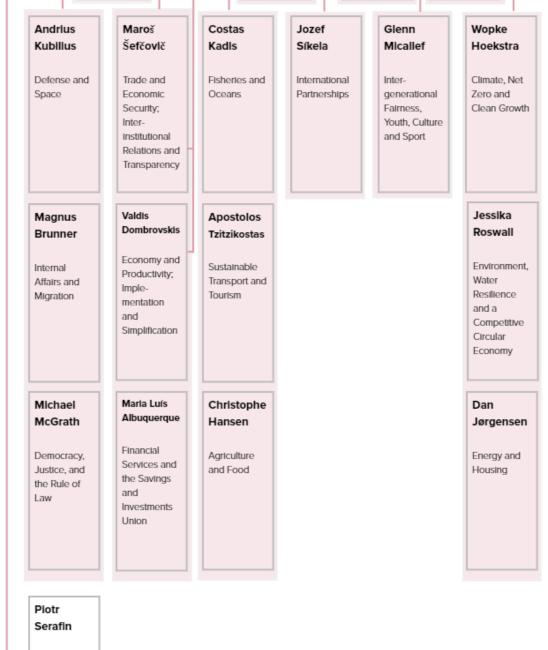


Line of command in Ursula von der Leyen's second term (Politico)

Ursula von der Leyen President of the European Commission Kaja Roxana Henna Stéphane Raffaele Teresa Fitto Kallas Ribera Séjourné Mînzatu Virkkunen Rodríguez Executive VP Executive VP Executive VP Hiah Executive VP Executive VP for Tech for Clean, Representative for People. for Prosperity for Cohesion Sovereignty, for Foreign and Reforms Skills and Just and and Industrial Security and Affairs and Preparedness Competitive Strategy Democracy Security Policy Transition and VP of European Commission Ekaterina Dubravka Olivér Marta Zaharieva Kos* Šuica Várhelyi Mediterranean Startups, Enlargement Health and Research and Animal Hadja Innovation Welfare Lahbib Preparedness, Crisis Management; Equality Andrius Maroš Costas Jozef Glenn Wopke Kubilius Šefčovič Kadis Hoekstra Síkela Micallef

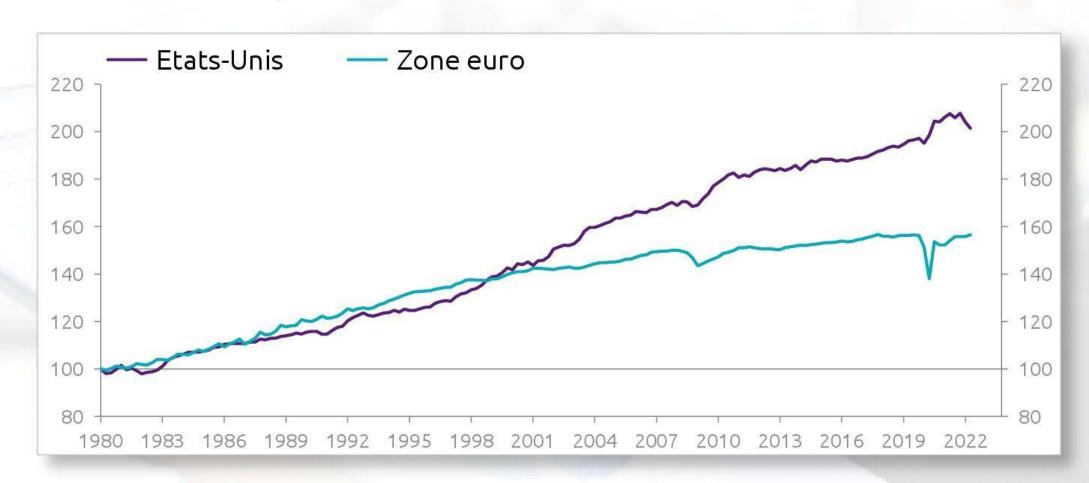
*Pending formal nomination

Line of command (continued)



Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration

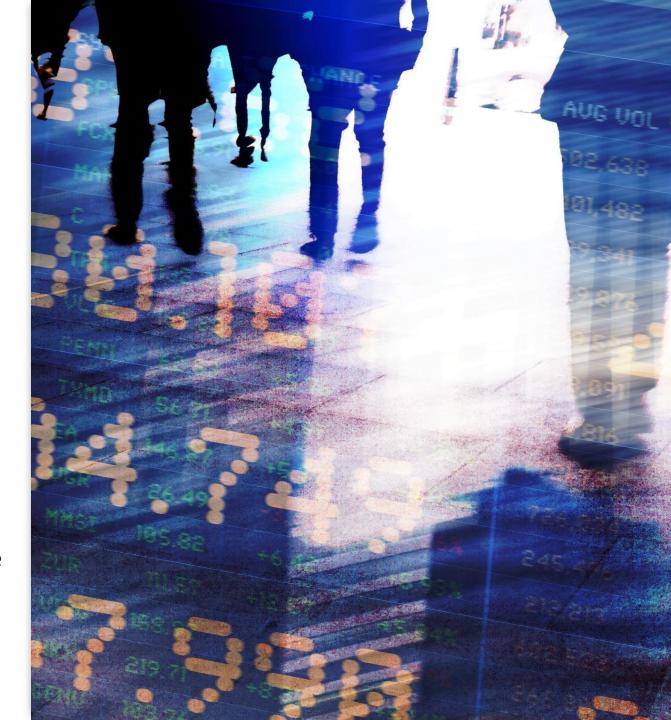
Productivité par tête (100 en 1980:1)



Sources: Refinitiv, BEA, Eurostat, NATIXIS

The Draghi Report: Innovation and Reindustrialization

- Supported by the Commission
- Proposals: innovation, defense, decarbonization
- Estimated cost: 800 billion euros per year
- How to finance it? Conflict with EU public debt reduction rules
- The contradiction between reindustrialization and the Maastricht Treaty constraints
- Aging population: an additional burden on growth prospects



The real issue

- The US and European model are not comparable
- US: based on mobility of production factors, hence no social protection, alignment of public/private sectors (technology, defense, energy, etc.)
- Europe: social states, multiples languages and models, failing continental governance, lack of political vision
- BUT EUROPE HAS MULTIPLE ASSETS, INCLUDING SOCIAL COHESION





My humble conclusion

Europe is an "old" economy

But it represents a significant part of the planet GDP with a credible currency

It has been fooled by the replication of the US model

It can restore an industrial policy and stimulate innovation, since the education level is extremely good, along with the productivity level

But it needs to make a giant leap toward integration, and accept to release budgetary constraints in order to finance public investments with a weaker currency





Break

