



2006 EDITION

# EU integration seen through statistics

Key facts of 18 policy areas



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**'EU Integration seen through statistics' presents key statistical facts on 18 major European policy areas. The statistics show the progress the European Union has made but also the issues that remain. Subjects such as world trade, government debt, migration, environment, information society and dependency on energy imports are treated. The publication provides an overview on similarities and differences between the economies and societies of the EU. The statistical information is generally given both for the total of the European Union (EU-25 or EU-15) and for its Member States. When available, statistics are also provided for EU candidate countries, Japan, the United States and other countries.**

**Each chapter treats one European policy area, starting with a one page introduction to the policy context. Selected statistical tables and graphs then illustrate the facts. All statistics within the publication as well as a vast range of further statistics are available free of charge from the Eurostat webpage at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.**

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Its task is to gather and analyse figures from the different European statistical offices in order to provide comparable and harmonised data for the European Union to use in the definition, implementation and analysis of Community policies. Its statistical products and services are also of great value to Europe's business community, professional organisations, academics, librarians, NGOs, the media and citizens.

As part of the dissemination policy, Eurostat has developed its website. All Eurostat publications are downloadable free of charge in PDF format from the website. Furthermore, Eurostat's databases are freely available there, as are tables with the most frequently used and demanded short- and long-term indicators.

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## Preface

This publication provides you with an overview about the ongoing integration process of the European Union in 18 major policy areas covered by the statistical themes of Eurostat.

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It was established in Luxembourg in 1953 to meet the statistical requirements of the Coal and Steel Community. When the European Community was founded in 1958, Eurostat became a Directorate-General (DG) of the European Commission. In its role to supply harmonised statistics about the European Union, it collects data on the EU integration process since more than 50 years.

Measuring the progress of EU integration, its opportunities and challenges, needs a solid basis of reliable and objective data. On the one hand, decision-makers at EU level and in the Member States, be it local governments or businesses, need statistical data to make informed decisions. On the other hand, the public and media refer increasingly to statistics for an accurate picture of society.

Eurostat gets most of its data from the national statistical authorities in the Member States. It then processes, analyses and publishes that data at a European level, following common statistical concepts, methods, and standards. Eurostat defines common methodologies together with the Member States, consolidates the data collected in each country, ensures that it is harmonised and as comparable as possible, and then creates European aggregates for the 25 Member States and the euro area. It then publishes most of these data and analyses on its website and in many cases also in the form of paper publications.

The role of Eurostat has changed and developed in line with Community policies. For example, in recent years economic and monetary statistics, in particular a set of Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs), have been developed to provide a rapid flow of information covering the euro area to the Eurogroup and the European Central Bank. At the same time, Eurostat has supported and encouraged the development of statistical systems within the Candidate countries, Western Balkans, and European Neighbourhood Policy countries, driving a process of statistical harmonisation.

I hope you will find this publication useful and that it will encourage you to look for further information about Eurostat and about available statistics. Please consult our website, which offers you free access to nearly all of Eurostat's data as well as to methodological information and to all Eurostat statistical publications in PDF format, at <http://ec.europa.eu>

Hervé Carré, Director-General







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## List of abbreviations and acronyms

### Member States

<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EU/EC</b>	European Union / European Community or Communities
<b>EU-25</b>	the 25 Member States of the European Union
<b>EU-15</b>	the 15 Member States of the European Union until 30.4.2004
<b>EU/EC-9</b>	the 9 Member States of the European Union (BE, DK, DE, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, UK)
<b>EU/EC-6</b>	the 6 Member States of the European Union (BE, DE, FR, IT, LU, NL)
<b>Euro area</b>	EUR-11 (BE, DE, ES, FR, IE, IT,LU, NL, AT, PT, FI) until 31.12.2000 EUR-12 from 1.1.2001
<b>EUR-12</b>	the euro area with 12 countries participating (BE, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, AT,PT, FI)
<b>BE</b>	Belgium
<b>CZ</b>	Czech Republic
<b>DK</b>	Denmark
<b>DE</b>	Germany
<b>EE</b>	Estonia
<b>EL</b>	Greece
<b>ES</b>	Spain
<b>FR</b>	France
<b>IE</b>	Ireland
<b>IT</b>	Italy
<b>CY</b>	Cyprus
<b>LV</b>	Latvia
<b>LT</b>	Lithuania
<b>LU</b>	Luxembourg
<b>HU</b>	Hungary
<b>MT</b>	Malta
<b>NL</b>	Netherlands
<b>AT</b>	Austria
<b>PL</b>	Poland
<b>PT</b>	Portugal
<b>SI</b>	Slovenia
<b>SK</b>	Slovakia
<b>FI</b>	Finland
<b>SE</b>	Sweden
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom

### Acceding\* and candidate countries

<b>BG</b>	Bulgaria (*)
<b>HR</b>	Croatia
<b>MK<sup>(2)</sup></b>	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<b>RO</b>	Romania (*)
<b>TR</b>	Turkey

(<sup>2</sup>) Provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

### Other countries and territories

<b>AR</b>	Argentina
<b>BR</b>	Brazil
<b>CA</b>	Canada
<b>CH</b>	Switzerland
<b>CN</b>	China
<b>D-W</b>	territory of the former West Germany
<b>IS</b>	Iceland
<b>JP</b>	Japan
<b>LI</b>	Liechtenstein
<b>NO</b>	Norway
<b>RU</b>	Russian Federation
<b>US</b>	United States of America



## Other abbreviations and acronyms

<b>6EAP</b>	sixth European environmental action programme
<b>AAGR</b>	average annual growth rate
<b>BMI</b>	body mass index
<b>CAP</b>	common agricultural policy
<b>CFP</b>	Common fisheries policy
<b>DG</b>	Directorate-General
<b>EAGGF</b>	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
<b>ECB</b>	European Central Bank
<b>ECHP</b>	European Community household panel
<b>EEA</b>	European Economic Area (EU + EFTA countries without Switzerland)
<b>EFTA</b>	European Free Trade Association (CH, IS, LI, NO)
<b>EPO</b>	European Patent Office
<b>ERDF</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>ERM</b>	exchange rate mechanism
<b>ESF</b>	European Social Fund
<b>Esspros</b>	European system of integrated social protection statistics
<b>EU-SILC</b>	EU statistics on income and living conditions
<b>Eurostat</b>	the Statistical Office of the European Communities
<b>Ex-GDR</b>	former German Democratic Republic
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN)
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign direct investment
<b>FIFG</b>	Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance
<b>GDP</b>	gross domestic product
<b>GHGs</b>	greenhouse gases
<b>GNI</b>	gross national income
<b>GT</b>	gross tonnage
<b>GVA</b>	gross value added
<b>HICP</b>	harmonised index of consumer prices
<b>ICT</b>	Institute of Computer Technology/information and communication technology
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>Interreg II</b>	Community initiative concerning border development, cross-border cooperation and selected energy networks
<b>ISCED</b>	international standard classification of education
<b>ISPO</b>	Information Society Promotion Office
<b>IT</b>	information technology
<b>LMP</b>	labour market policy
<b>LUZ</b>	larger urban zone
<b>NACE</b>	general industrial classification of economic activities within the European Communities
<b>n.e.c.</b>	not elsewhere classified
<b>n.e.s.</b>	not elsewhere specified
<b>NGO</b>	non governmental organisation
<b>NMVOC</b>	Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds
<b>NUTS</b>	nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (Eurostat) (NUTS 1, 2, etc.)
<b>ODA</b>	Official development assistance
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>OECD-DAC</b>	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development — Development Assistance Committee
<b>OMC</b>	open method of coordination
<b>PPS</b>	purchasing power standard
<b>R &amp; D</b>	research and development
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprise
<b>TOP</b>	tropospheric ozone precursors
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>Unctad</b>	United Nations conference on trade and development
<b>URBAN</b>	Community initiative concerning urban areas
<b>USPTO</b>	United States Patent and Trademark Office
<b>VAT</b>	value added tax
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation

## Units of measurement

<b>Bn</b>	billion (1 000 million)
<b>ha</b>	hectare
<b>Mio. t.</b>	million tonnes
<b>Mio EURO</b>	million euro
<b>tkm</b>	tonne-km





## 1. The EU in the world

The EU has grown in size with successive waves of accessions. Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom joined Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in 1973, followed by Greece in 1981, Spain and Portugal in 1986 and Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995. The European Union welcomed 10 new countries in 2004: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Bulgaria and Romania are expected to follow in 2007; while Croatia and Turkey began membership negotiations in 2005.

In economic, trade and monetary terms, the European Union has become a major world power. It has considerable influence within international organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the specialist branches of the United Nations (UN) and at world summits on the environment and development. The EU as a unit has much more economic, social, technological, commercial and political “clout” than the individual efforts of its Member States, even when taken together. There is added value in acting as one and speaking with a single voice as the European Union.

### Key facts

- The EU-25 had a population in 2004 of nearly **460 million people**, compared with just over 290 million in the US and almost 130 million in Japan. The EU-25 population corresponds to a share of **7 % of the total population in the world** (see Graph 1). However, the shares of the EU-25 are considerably higher when it comes to economic indicators like the GDP, trade and foreign investments.
- The EU-25 GDP represents almost **a third of the world GDP** (31 % in 2004), compared with 29 % for the US and 11 % for Japan (see Graph 2). Expressed in purchasing power standards (PPS), GDP per inhabitant was 55 % higher in the US in 2004 than in the EU-25 and 16 % higher in Japan.
- Excluding intra-EU trade, the EU-25 accounts for almost **a fifth** (18 % in 2004) **of the world trade in goods** and a little over **a quarter** (26 % in 2003) **of the world trade in services**. Corresponding shares for the US are 17 % and 21 % respectively and for Japan below 10 % for both indicators (see Graphs 3 and 4).
- Concerning foreign direct investment (FDI) flows (foreign investments made by the EU and investments into the EU), the EU-25 accounted for almost **40 % of the world FDI flows** in 2003, while the US had a share of 23 % and Japan 4 % (see Graph 5).
- Collectively, the EU provides more than **half** (54 % in 2003) **of worldwide official development assistance** (ODA). Around one fifth of the combined EU aid is managed by the European Commission. On average, the Member States of the EU-25 devoted 0.34 % of their GNI to ODA in 2003, compared with 0.15 % for the US and 0.20 % for Japan. Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden made the largest effort in terms of development aid, with around 0.8 % of their GNI devoted to ODA.



**Table 1: Total population in the EU, the US and Japan (millions)**

	1958	1973	1981	1986	1995	2004
<b>EU/EC</b>	168	256	271	322	371	457
<b>US</b>	175	212	230	239	262	292
<b>Japan</b>	92	109	118	122	126	127

NB: 1958: EC-6, 1973: EC-9, 1981: EC-10, 1995: EU-15, 2004: EU-25.

Source: Eurostat and US Bureau of Census.

**Graph 1: Share of world population, 2004**

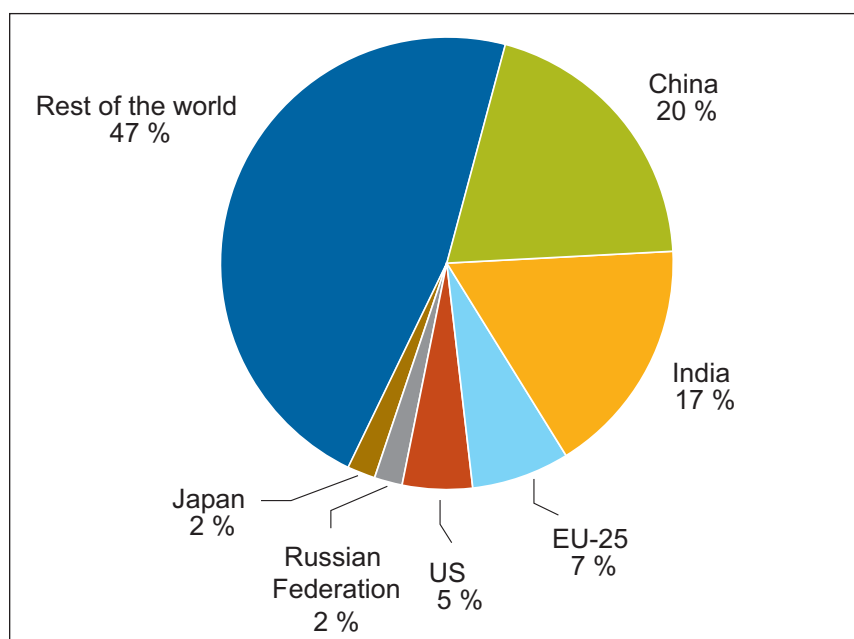


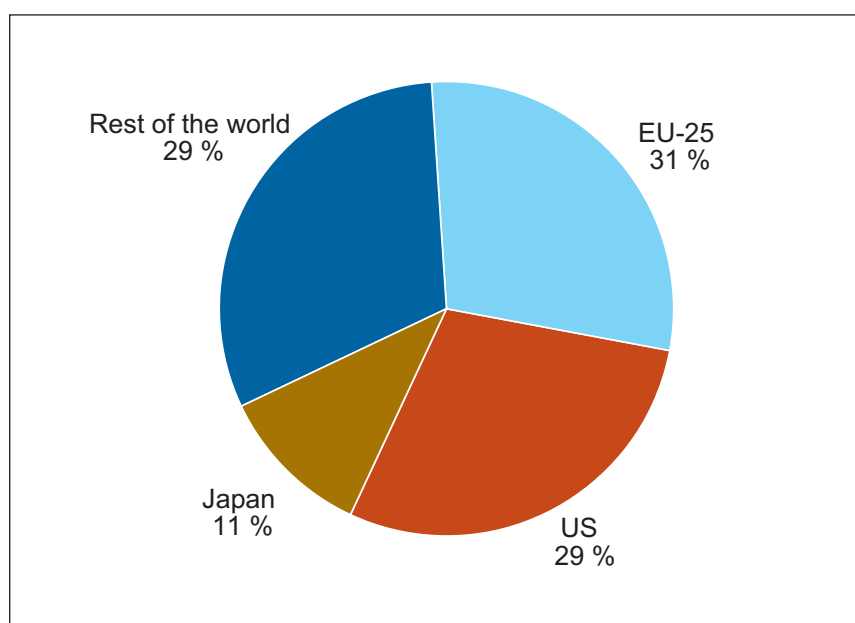
Table 2: GDP in the EU, the US and Japan (EUR 1 000 million)

	1961	1973	1981	1986	1995	2004
<b>EU/EC</b>	205	989	2 309	3 599	6 608	10 266
<b>US</b>		1 123	2 802	4 535	5 656	9 433
<b>Japan</b>			1 056	2 053	4 040	3 758

NB: 1961: EC-6, 1973: EC-9, 1981: EC-10, 1995: EU-15, 2004: EU-25.

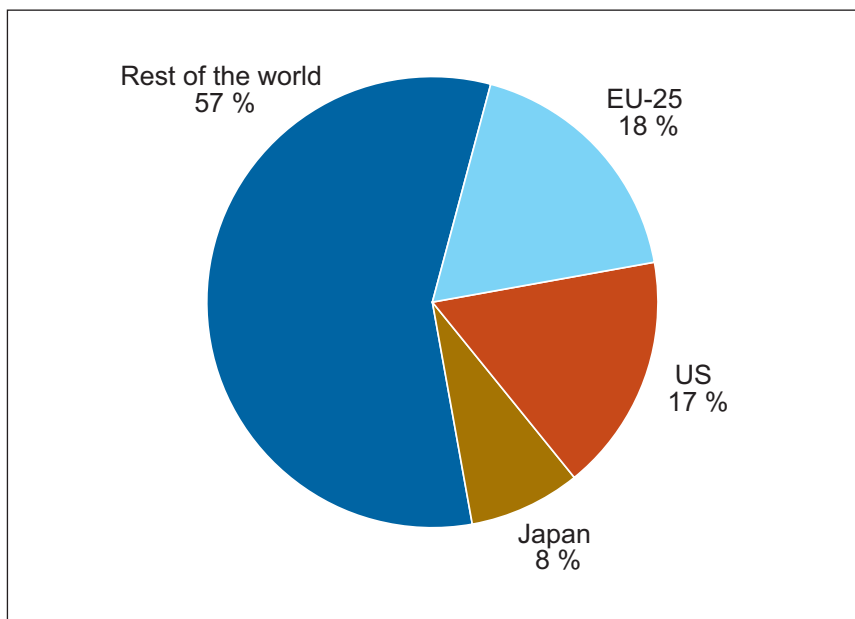
Source: Eurostat and World Bank.

Graph 2: Share of world GDP, 2004



Source: Eurostat and World Bank.

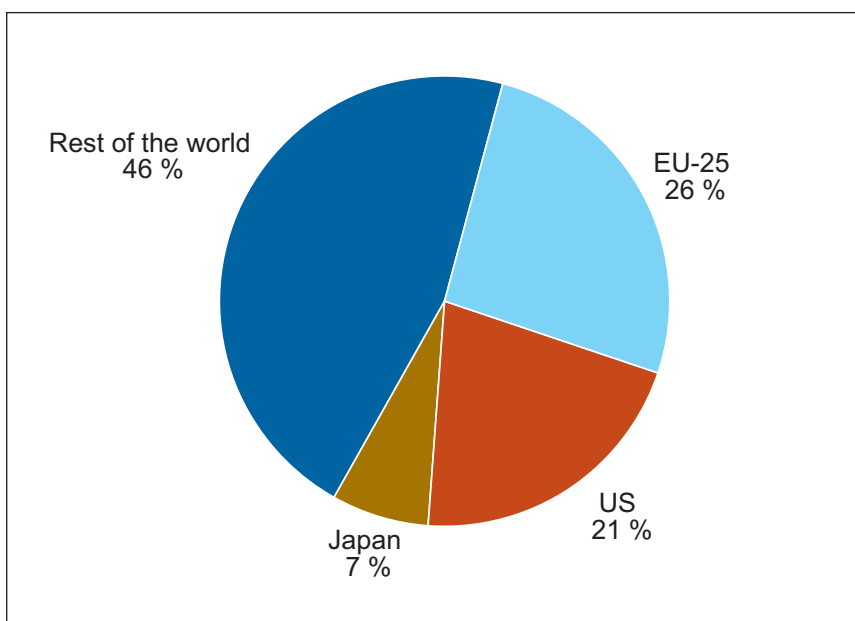
**Graph 3: Share of world trade in goods, 2004**



NB: Excluding intra-EU trade.

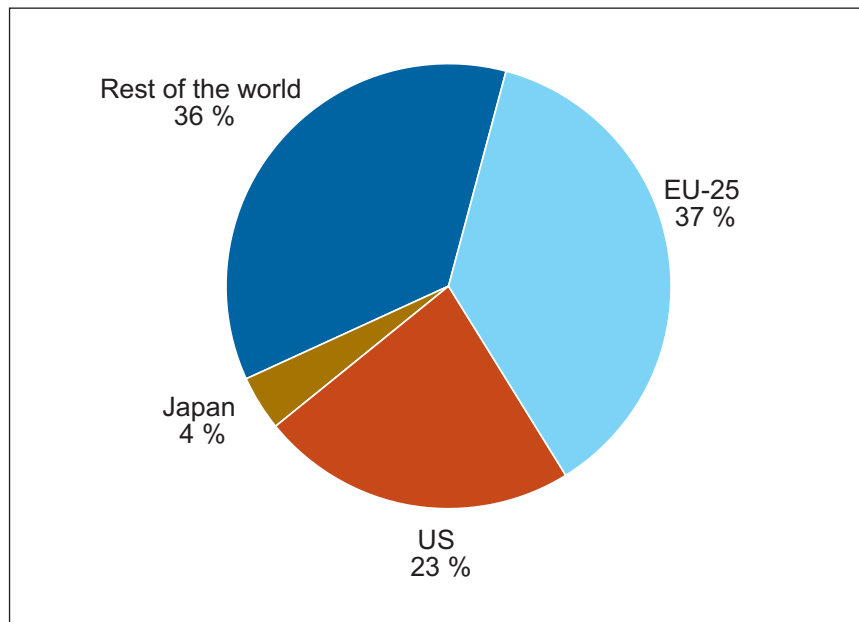
Source: Eurostat and United Nations.

**Graph 4: Share of world trade in services, 2003**



NB: Excluding intra-EU trade.

Source: Eurostat and IMF, Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook, 2004.

**Graph 5: Share of world foreign direct investment, 2003**

NB: Intra-EU transactions are excluded.

Source: Eurostat and Unctad, *World investment report*, 2004.

## 2. Sound economic policy

One of the basic objectives of the European Union is to promote economic and social progress which is balanced and sustainable, in particular through the creation of an area without internal frontiers, through the strengthening of economic and social cohesion and through the establishment of economic and monetary union, including a single currency.

To achieve this objective, it is necessary to promote throughout the Community a harmonious and balanced development of economic activities, leading to a sustainable and non-inflationary growth which respects the environment. The Member States are to regard their economic policies as a matter of common concern and to conduct their economic policies with a view to the objectives of the Community. Therefore, Member States coordinate their economic policies within the Council.

The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 established the convergence criteria to be fulfilled as a precondition for fully taking part in economic and monetary union, that is, adopting the single currency: these criteria are used to determine whether countries have achieved a high degree of sustainable convergence, as measured by their performance in terms of sound public finances (defined against reference values for fiscal deficits and public debt), low inflation and long-term interest rates, and exchange rate stability in the context of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) II.

In conducting their economic policies the Member States should aim at achieving and maintaining their medium-term objective for their budgetary position. The Stability and Growth Pact, adopted in 1997 and reformed in 2005, aims at further enforcing the fiscal discipline in the Member States and improving the sustainability of public finances. The rationale behind is that sound budgetary positions will create more favourable conditions for price stability and for strong and sustainable growth, conducive to employment creation. By improving sustainability, sound budgetary positions will place countries in a better position to face the impact of ageing populations on the public finances. Regarding monetary policy, the European Central Bank (ECB) has the primary objective to maintain price stability. The ECB has defined this price stability as a year-on-year increase in the harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) for the euro area which stays below but close to 2 % over the medium term.

### Key facts

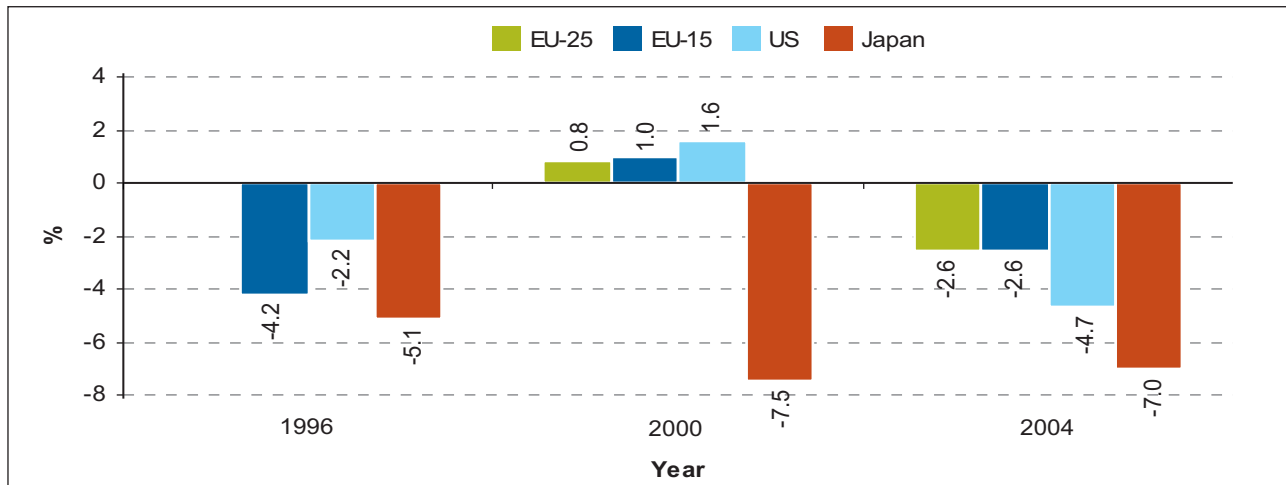
Even though the development varies from one Member State to another, as to the 15 Member States (EU-15) the objectives of the Community have materialised up to a certain degree even though not fully.

- **The annual budget deficit of the EU-15 has narrowed** from the level of 4.2 % in 1996 to 2.6 % in 2004 (Graph 1). This overall improvement reflects differentiated behaviour of individual countries. Budget deficits higher than the 3 % of GDP reference value in 2004 led to six countries being placed under excessive deficit procedure. At the same time, four countries recorded budgetary surpluses in 2004 compared with only one in 1996. (Table 2). The budget deficits in the US and Japan deteriorated from 2.2 % of GDP to 4.7 % of GDP, and from 5.1 % to 7.0 % respectively.
- **The level of the government debt of the EU-15 has fallen** from 70.8 % of GDP in 1995 to 64.3 % of GDP in 2004, in other words, closer to the reference value of 60 % of GDP. As to the individual Member States, in 2004, six countries had government debt exceeding the reference value and three of them around 100 % of GDP (Table 2). During the same period, the government debt in the US followed a similar trend as in the EU-15, decreasing from 74.2 % of GDP to 63.4 % of GDP while the Japanese government debt deteriorated from 87.1 % to 164.0 % of GDP.
- **The inflation rate at the EU-15 level has declined**, from 2.8 % in 1995 to 2.0 % in 2004 (Graph 3). This compares with an annual inflation of 2.7 % in the US and zero inflation in Japan. In the EU-15, inflation differences between Member States have been reduced, although not completely. In 2004, the highest inflation rate was 3.2 % and the lowest 0.1 %. The introduction of the euro on 1 January 2002 is estimated to have led to an increase of between 0.12 % and 0.29 % in HICP inflation.

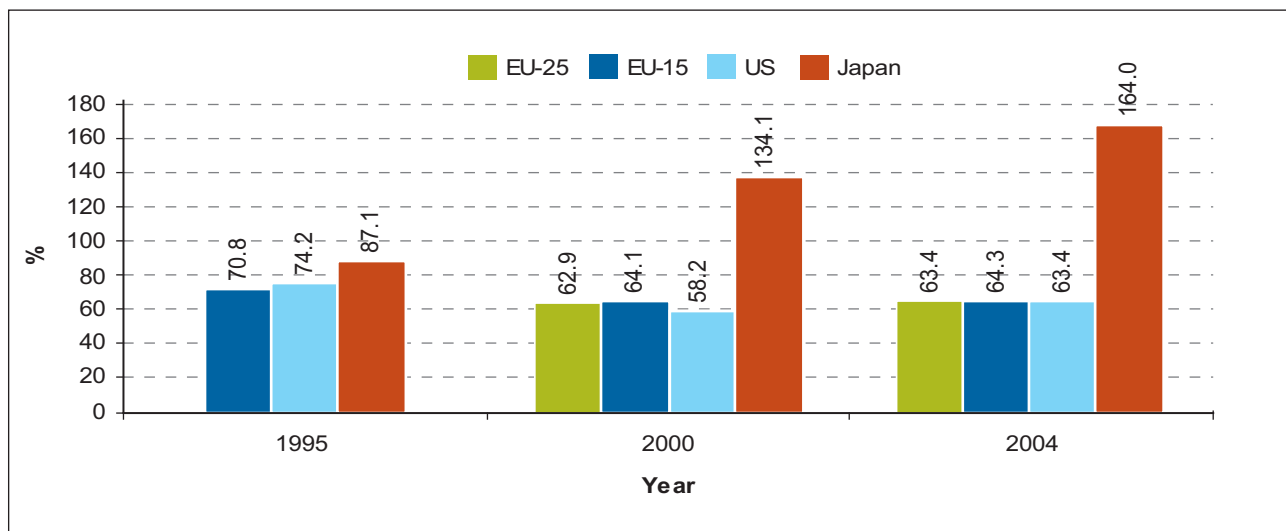


- **Long-term interest rates in the EU-15 have more than halved**, from 8.87 % in 1995 to 4.26 % in 2004. Long-term interest rates in euro area Member States have further converged, ranging between 4.04 % and 4.26 % in 2004 (Graph 5 and Table 2). This compares with a long-term interest rate of 4.26 % in the US and 1.50 % in Japan.
- **The GDP growth of the EU-15 has been positive.** From 1995 to 2004 the real growth of GDP was 22.4 %, exceeding that of Japan (9.8 %) but lagging behind the US growth of 33.9 % (Graph 6).

**Graph 1: General government deficit — Net lending(+)/borrowing(-) (% of GDP)**



**Graph 2: General government consolidated debt (% of GDP)**



**Graph 3: HICP (% change on previous year)**

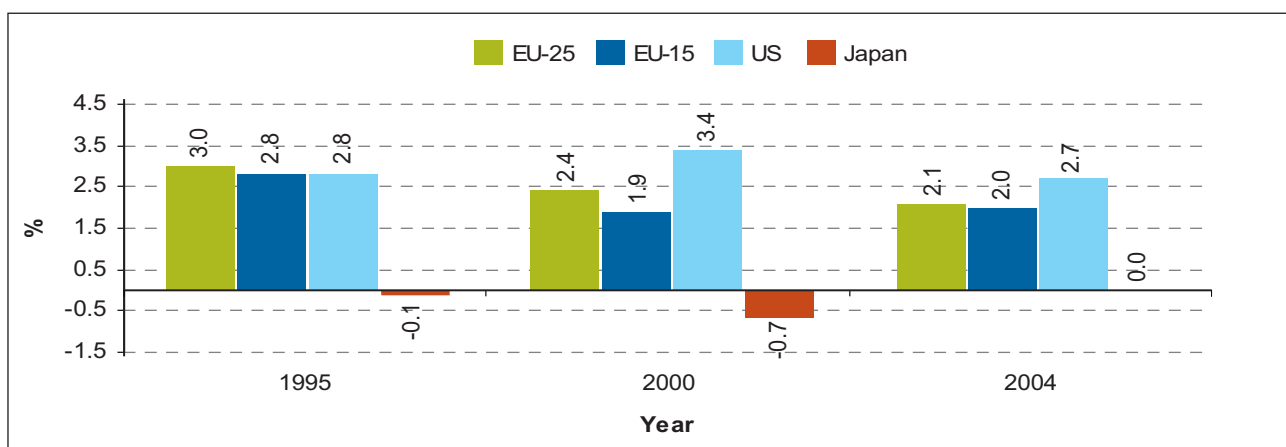
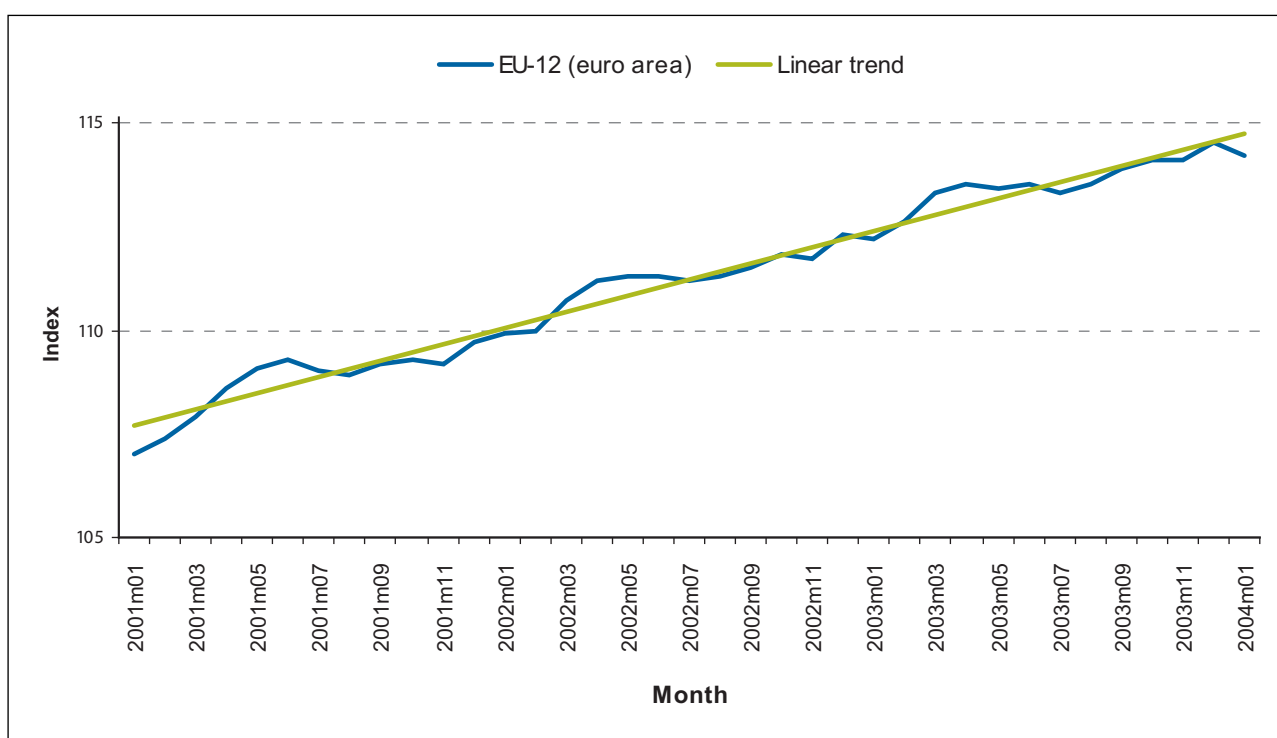


Table 1: HICP — annual change in selected product groups

	Food and non-alcoholic beverages			Clothing and footwear			Household appliances			Audiovisual, photographic and information processing equipment		
	1995	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004
EU-25	3.2	1.8	1.4	1.8	-0.2	-0.3	:	-1.0	-1.1	:	-7.1	-7.8
EU-15	3.0	1.0	0.9	1.7	-0.5	-0.2	:	-1.2	-1.1	:	-7.3	-8.0
Euro area	2.5	1.2	1.0	:	0.8	0.7	:	-0.7	-1.0	:	-7.1	-7.0

Graph 4: HICP(all items) — monthly index and linear trend



Graph 5: Long-term interest rates

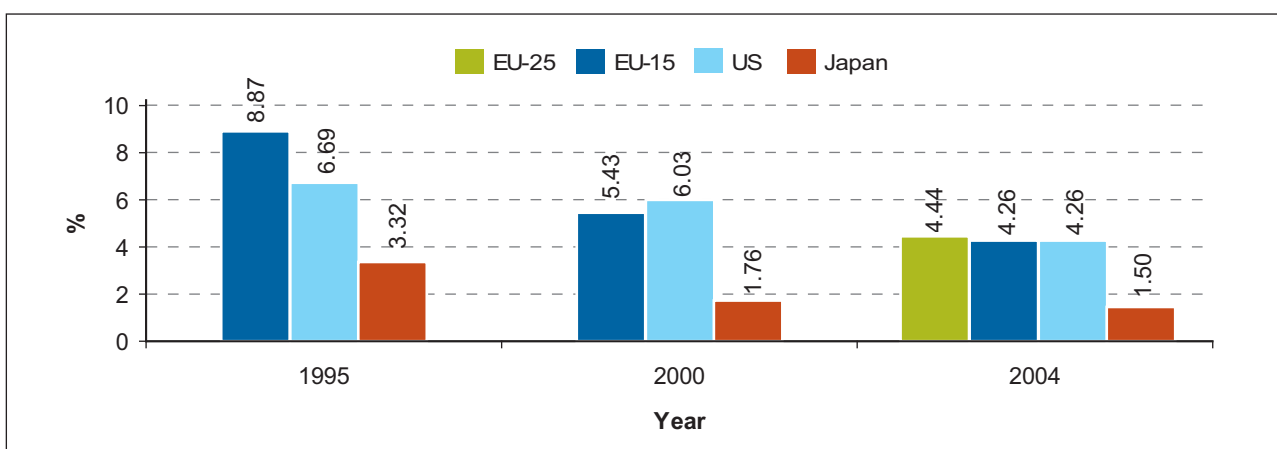
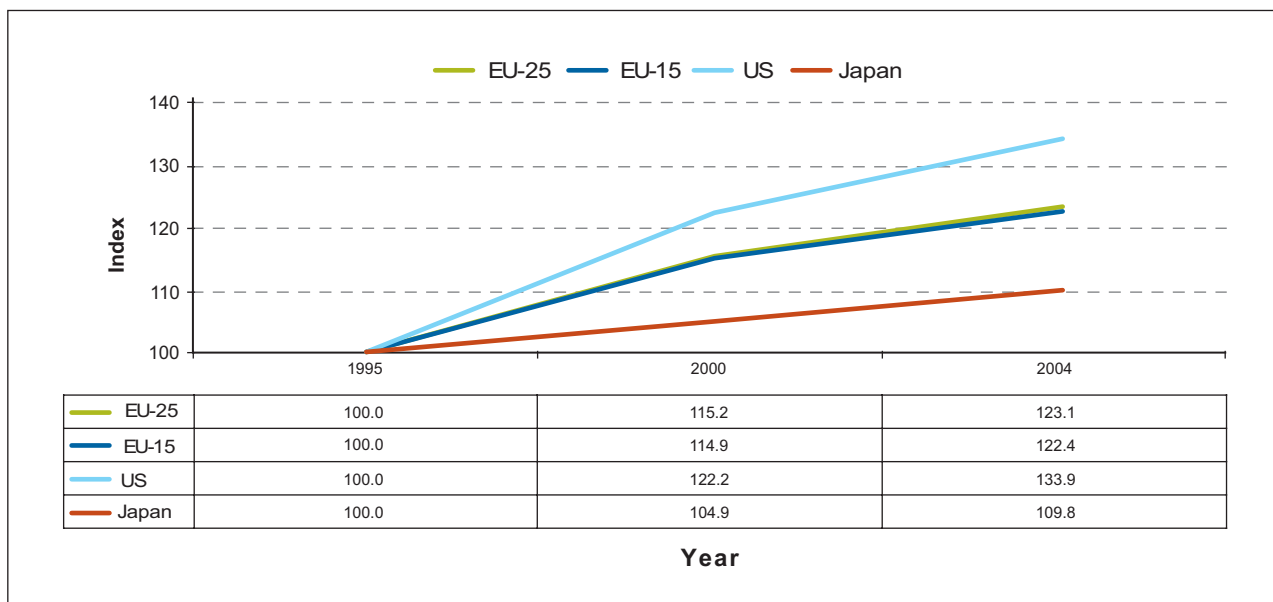


Table 2: Data on individual countries

	General government net lending(+)/ borrowing(-) (% of GDP)			General government consolidated debt (% of GDP)			HICP — annual change			Long-term interest rate (measured as Maastricht criterion)		
	1996	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004	1995	2000	2004
<b>EU-25</b>	:	0.8	-2.6	:	62.9	63.4	3.0	2.4	2.1	:	:	4.44
<b>EU-15</b>	-4.2	1.0	-2.6	70.8	64.1	64.3	2.8	1.9	2.0	8.87	5.43	4.26
Belgium	-3.8	0.2	0.0	134.0	109.1	95.7	1.3	2.7	1.9	7.48	5.59	4.15
Czech Rep.	:	-3.7	-3.0	:	18.2	36.8	:	3.9	2.6	:	:	4.75
Denmark	-1.9	1.7	2.9	73.2	52.3	43.2	2.0	2.7	0.9	8.27	5.64	4.30
Germany	-3.4	1.3	-3.7	57.0	60.2	66.4	:	1.4	1.8	6.85	5.26	4.04
Estonia	:	-0.6	1.7	:	4.7	5.5	:	3.9	3.0	:	10.48	4.39
Greece	-7.4	-4.1	-6.6	108.7	114.0	109.3	:	2.9	3.0	17.02	6.10	4.26
Spain	-4.9	-0.9	-0.1	63.9	61.1	46.9	4.6	3.5	3.1	11.27	5.53	4.10
France	-4.1	-1.4	-3.7	54.6	56.8	65.1	1.8	1.8	2.3	7.54	5.39	4.10
Ireland	-0.1	4.4	1.4	81.8	38.3	29.8	:	5.3	2.3	8.25	5.51	4.08
Italy	-7.1	-0.6	-3.2	124.3	111.2	106.5	5.4	2.6	2.3	12.21	5.58	4.26
Cyprus	:	-2.4	-4.1	:	61.6	72.0	:	4.9	1.9	:	:	5.80
Latvia	:	-2.8	-0.9	:	12.9	14.7	:	2.6	6.2	:	:	4.86
Lithuania	:	-2.5	-1.4	:	23.8	19.6	:	1.1	1.2	:	:	4.50
Luxembourg	1.9	6.0	-1.2	6.7	5.5	6.6	:	3.8	3.2	7.23	5.52	4.18
Hungary	:	-3.0	-5.4	:	55.4	57.4	:	10.0	6.8	:	:	8.19
Malta	:	-6.2	-5.1	:	56.4	75.9	:	3.0	2.7	:	:	4.69
Netherlands	-1.8	2.2	-2.1	77.2	55.9	53.1	1.4	2.3	1.4	6.90	5.40	4.10
Austria	-3.9	-1.5	-1.0	67.9	67.0	64.3	1.6	2.0	2.0	7.14	5.56	4.15
Poland	:	-0.7	-3.9	:	36.8	43.6	:	10.1	3.6	:	:	6.90
Portugal	-4.0	-2.8	-3.0	64.3	53.3	59.4	4.0	2.8	2.5	11.47	5.59	4.14
Slovenia	:	-3.5	-2.1	:	27.4	29.8	:	8.9	3.6	:	:	4.68
Slovakia	:	-12.3	-3.1	:	49.9	42.5	:	12.2	7.5	:	:	5.03
Finland	-3.2	7.1	2.1	57.1	44.6	45.1	0.4	3.0	0.1	8.79	5.48	4.11
Sweden	-2.7	5.1	1.6	73.7	52.8	51.1	2.7	1.3	1.0	10.24	5.37	4.42
UK	-4.3	3.8	-3.2	51.8	42.0	41.5	2.7	0.8	1.3	8.36	5.33	4.93
US	-2.2	1.6	-4.7	74.2	58.2	63.4	2.8	3.4	2.7	6.69	6.03	4.26
Japan	-5.1	-7.5	-7.0	87.1	134.1	164.0	-0.1	-0.7	0.0	3.32	1.76	1.50

Graph 6: Real GDP growth (1995 = 100)



## Methodological note

General government net borrowing/net lending (deficit/surplus), and general government debt are based on annual national accounts of the general government, derived primarily from administrative and other records of general government, and on official estimates particularly from ministries of finance.

EU long-term interest rates are based on central government bond yields on the secondary market, gross of tax, with a residual maturity of around 10 years.

Harmonised indices of consumer prices are used for the comparisons of consumer price inflation in the EU. They are based on the consumer price indices of each EU Member State. US and Japanese data on consumer prices might be based on slightly different methodology.

NB: Some of the figures are preliminary or forecasts.

### 3. External trade

The internal market has allowed larger businesses to benefit from enormous economies of scale. Meanwhile, new export markets have been opened up to small and medium-sized businesses which previously would have been prevented from exporting by the cost and hassle.

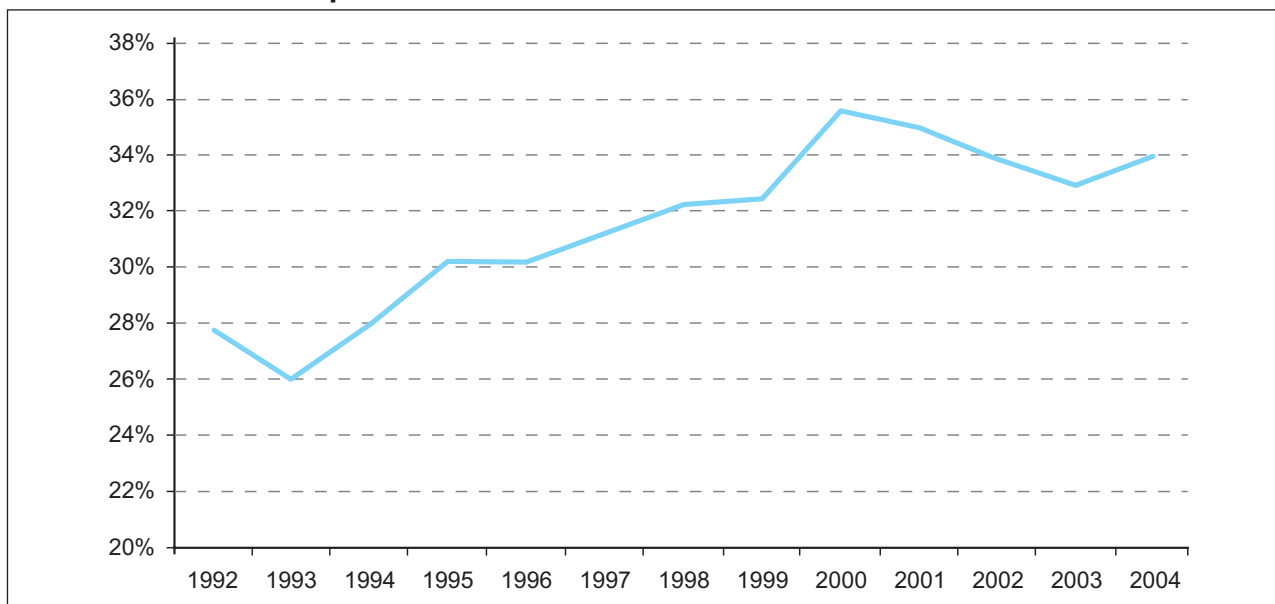
The EU external trade is based on a common EU policy. In other words, where trade, including WTO matters, are concerned, the EU acts as one single actor, where the European Commission negotiates trade agreements and represents the European interests on behalf of the Union's 25 Member States.

#### Key facts

- The internal market has tied the European economies more closely together and **trade between the Member States has expanded strongly**. Since 1993, intra-EU-15 trade has grown faster than EU-15 GDP (Graph 1).
- **Intra-EU-25 trade accounted for two thirds of total trade in 2004** (Graph 2) and reveals the major importance of trade between the 25 Member States compared with trade with the rest of the world. In 2004, intra-EU trade accounted from 56 % (United Kingdom) to 83 % (Czech Republic) of total trade according to the Member State.
- **In 2004, the EU-25 accounted for approximately one fifth of world trade in goods**. The EU is one of the main players in world trade (Graph 3): in 2004, nearly one fifth of all imports and exports either arrived in or left the EU. The EU is the world's leading exporter of goods and the second-largest importer after the US: in 2004, 18 % of all exports were of Community origin and 18 % of all imports came into the EU. The EU direct competitor is the US followed, but some way behind, by China, Japan and Canada. Together, the EU-25, the US, China, Japan and Canada account for more than half of the world trading of goods.
- **After a strong growth at the turn of the millennium, the EU-25 trade flows remained nearly stable** (Graph 5). Between 2000 and 2003, the EU recorded only a slight growth in exports and a small decrease in imports. The trade started to grow again in 2004. The EU trade is characterised by a permanent but generally limited trade deficit. In 2004, the deficit reached EUR 61 500 million which was slightly higher than in the previous year but only about half of the record level of 2000.
- **The US has traditionally been the most important trading partner of the EU-25 contributing to 20 % of its trade in 2004 but trade has not grown in recent years** (Graph 6). The most notable feature of EU-US trade over recent years has been the continued growth in the EU surplus due to a decrease in the level of imports from the US. In 2004, 24 % of EU exports went to the US (compared with 28 % in 1999) while 15 % of EU imports came from the US (compared with 21 % in 1999). **Except for the US, the other main trading partners of the EU-25 are China** (9 % of total trade in 2004), **Switzerland** (7 %), **Russian Federation and Japan** (both 6 %). One of the most significant features of economic relations between the EU and China over recent years has been the rapid growth of trade. EU trade with China has more than doubled since 1999. China ranks now second among the trading partners of the EU, after passing Switzerland and Japan in 2003. Since 2000, the EU has recorded the largest bilateral deficit in trade with China. The EU posts the only large-scale trade surplus in trade with the US.
- **The majority of EU exports are manufactured products**: their share has annually been around 87 % of total trade (Graph 7). The core of exports is machinery and vehicles which account for almost half of exports. Other manufactured goods (26 % in 2004) and chemical products (16 %) are other key product groups. Around two thirds of the imports are manufactured goods. The breakdown diverges from exports: machinery and vehicles and chemical products account for a smaller share while the other manufactured goods are more important.
- **Germany is the main contributor to both extra-EU exports and imports** (Table 1). In 2004, it accounted for 27 % of extra-EU exports well ahead of France (13 %), the United Kingdom and Italy (both 12 %). Germany is also the largest importer, accounting for 20 % of extra-EU imports, followed by the United Kingdom (16 %), the Netherlands (12 %), France and Italy (both 11 %).

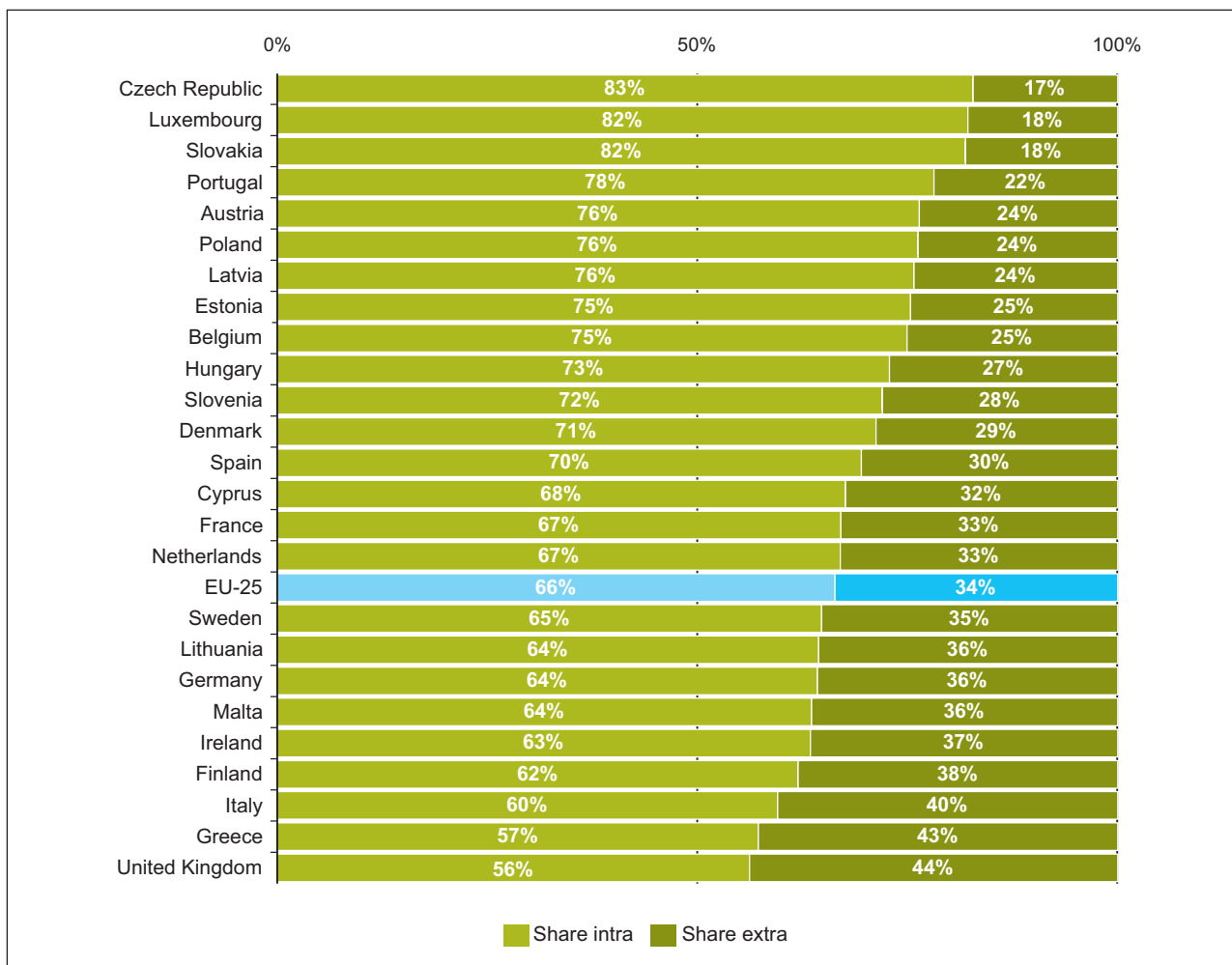
### Intra-European Union trade

Graph 1: Share of intra-EU-15 trade in EU-15 GDP



Source: Eurostat.

Graph 2: Share of intra-EU-25 trade in total trade for each Member State, 2004

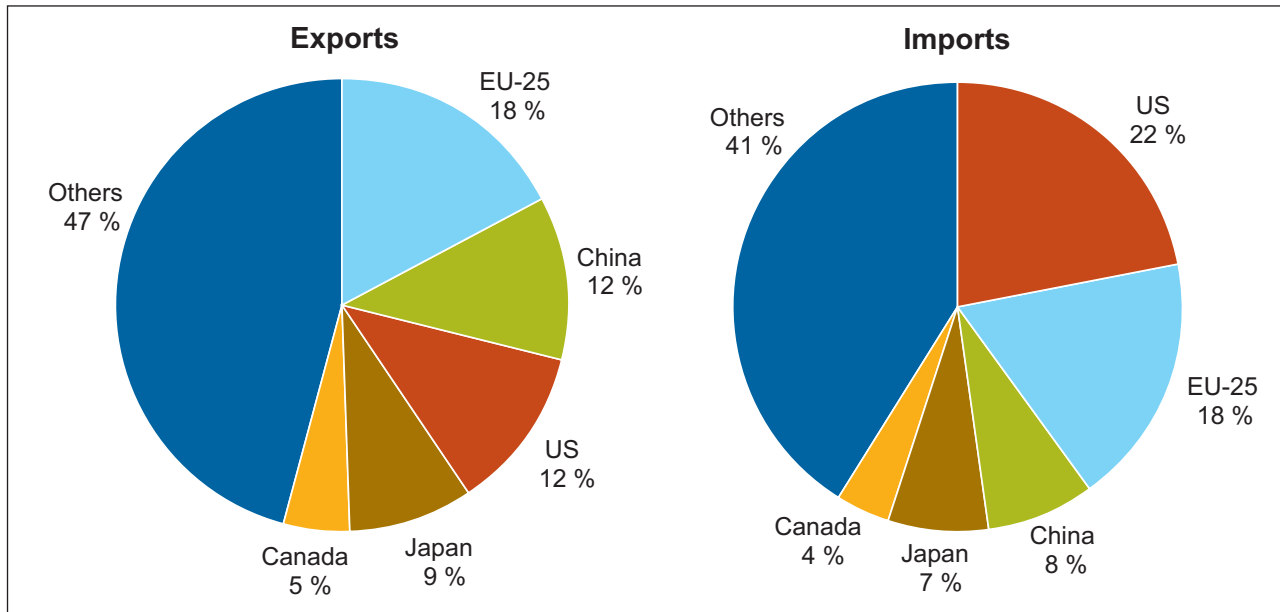


Source: Eurostat.

**European Union and world trade**

**Graph 3: Main players in the world goods' market — Share in world trade, 2004**

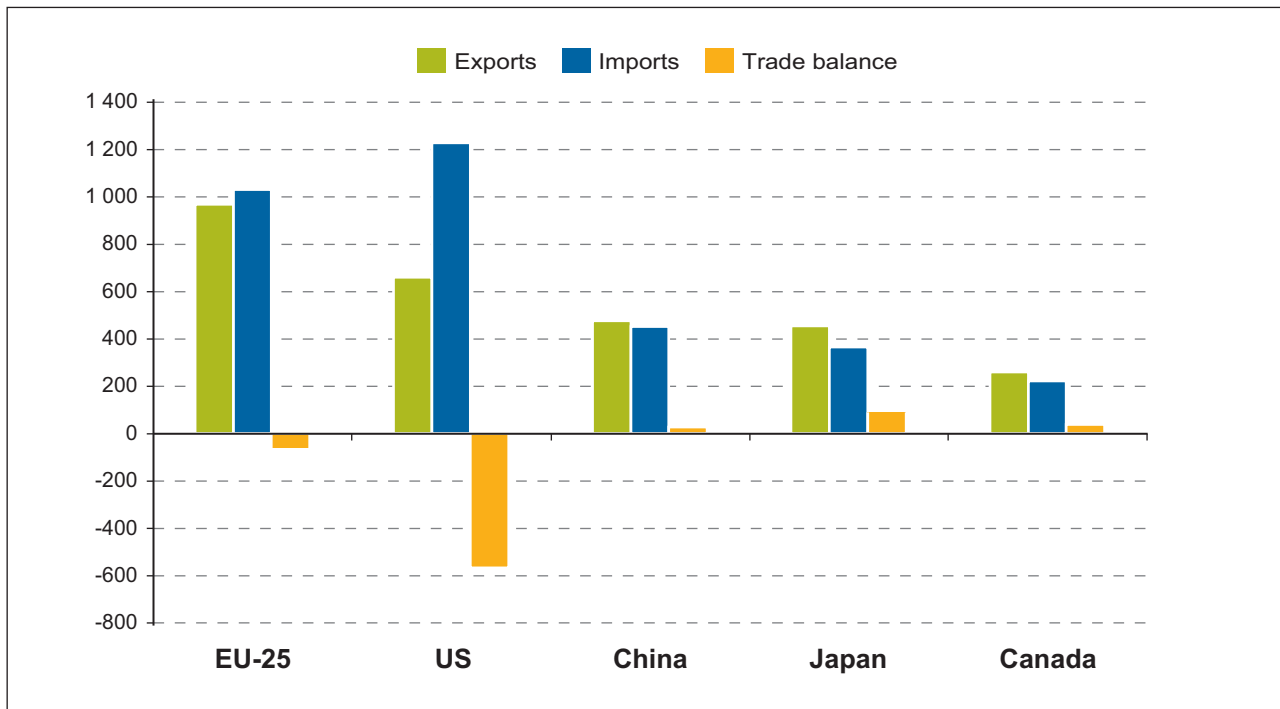
(Trade exchanges in EUR 1 000 million, 2004)



Source: Eurostat and WTO.

**Graph 4: Main players in the world goods' market - Trade exchanges in value, 2004**

(Trade exchanges in EUR 1 000 million, 2004)

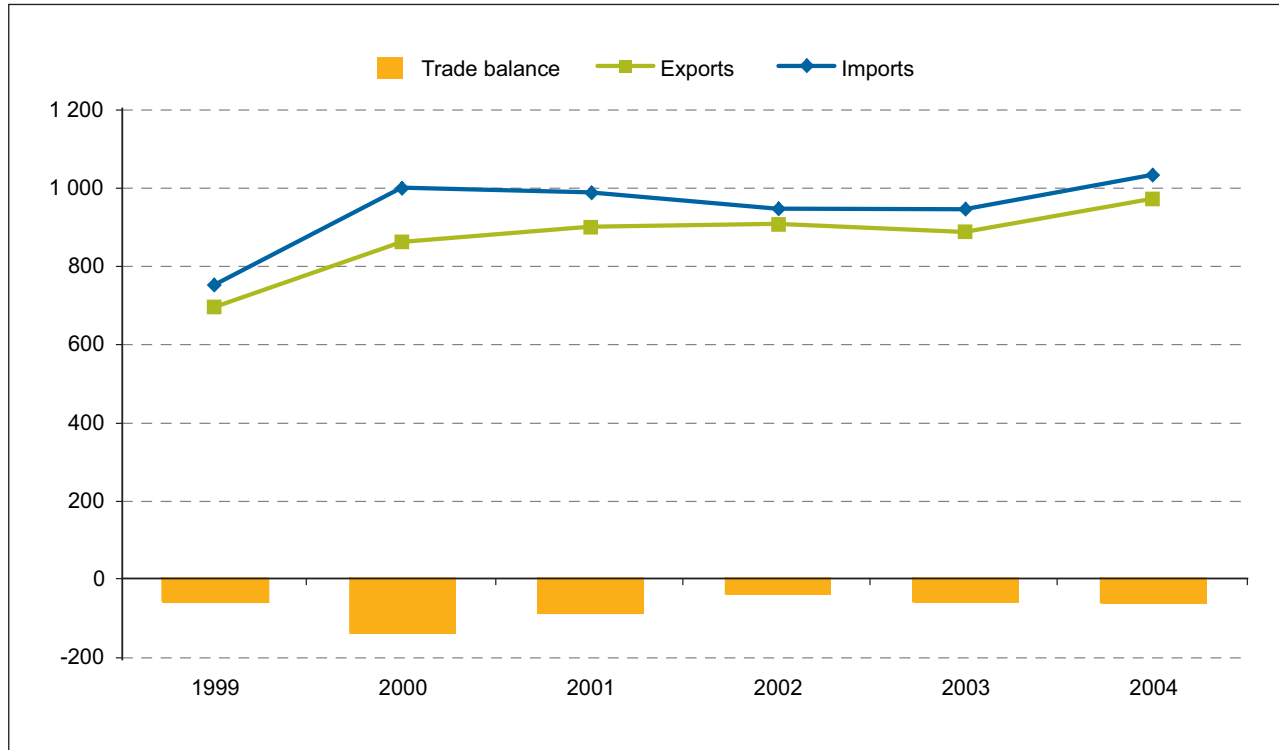


Source: Eurostat and WTO.

### European Union trade with the rest of the world

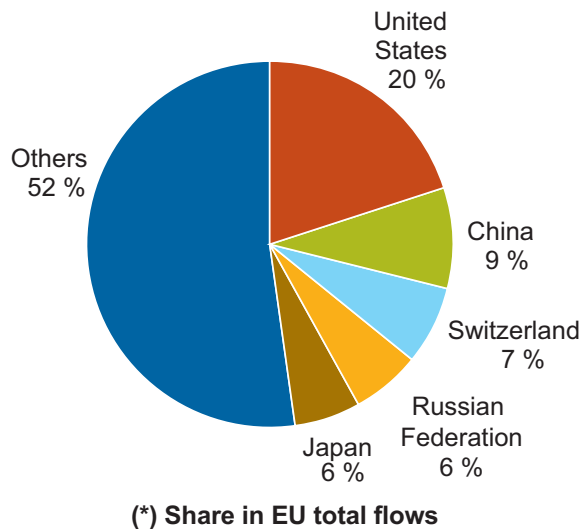
**Graph 5: Extra-EU-25 trade, 1999–2004**

(in EUR 1 000 million)

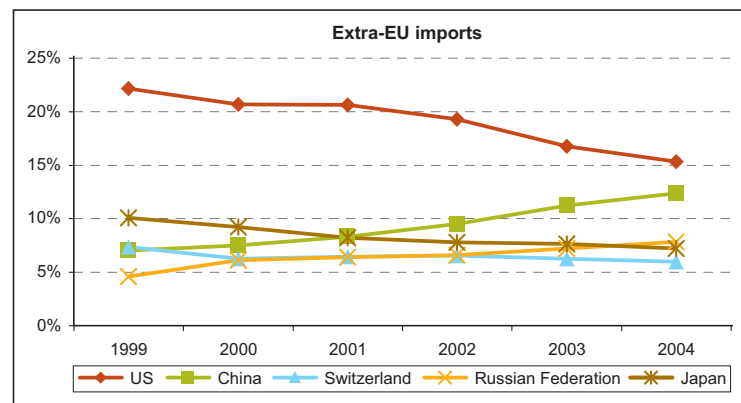
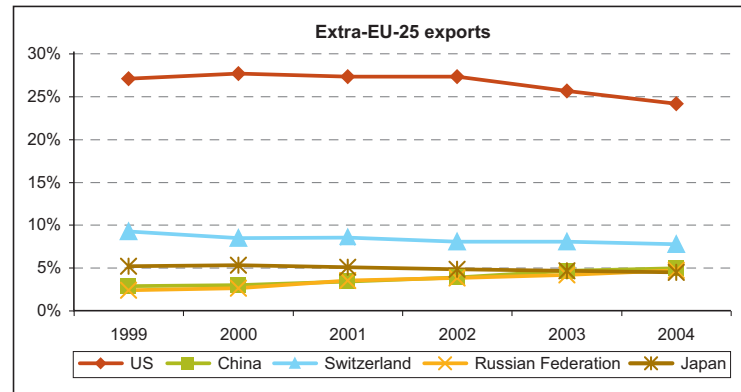


Source: Eurostat.

**Graph 6: Share of the main EU trading partners in 2004, and evolution of trade exchanges since 1999 (\*)**

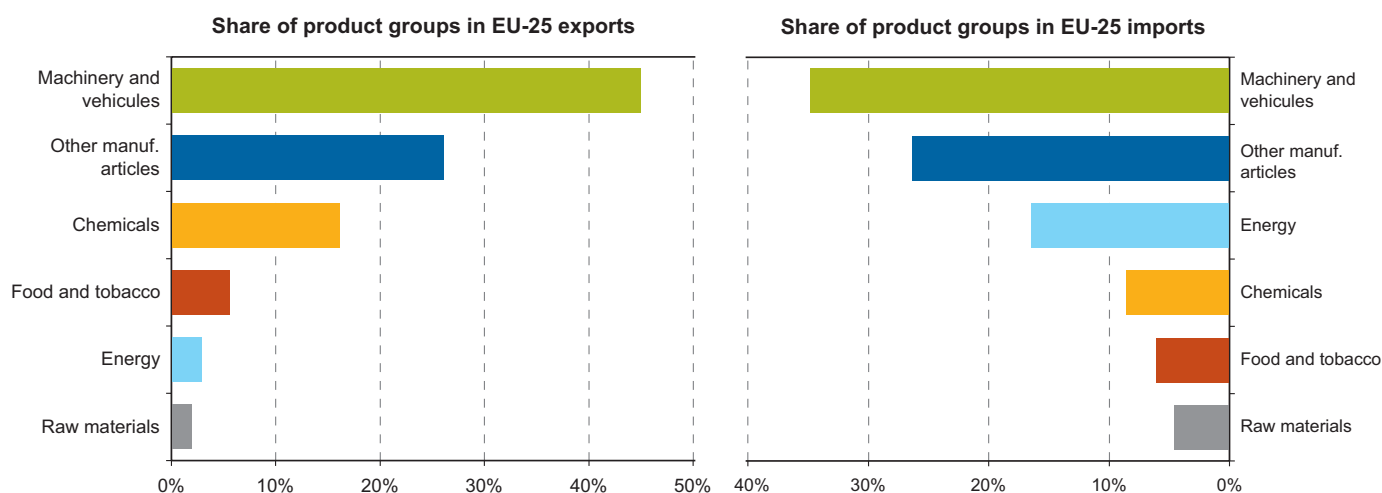


Source: Eurostat.





Graph 7: Extra-EU-25 trade by main product groups, 2004



Source: Eurostat.

Table 1: EU-25 Member States' contribution to extra-EU-25 trade, 2004

(according to harmonised Community concepts)

	EXPORTS		IMPORTS		Trade balance
	1 000 million EUR	Share	1 000 million EUR	Share	1 000 million EUR
<b>EU-25</b>	<b>967.5</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1 029.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-61.5</b>
Belgium	56.9	5.9%	62.2	6.0%	-5.3
Czech Republic	7.8	0.8%	11.3	1.1%	-3.6
Denmark	17.8	1.8%	15.7	1.5%	2.1
Germany	264.8	27.4%	202.1	19.6%	62.6
Estonia	0.9	0.1%	2.0	0.2%	-1.0
Greece	5.5	0.6%	17.8	1.7%	-12.3
Spain	37.9	3.9%	66.6	6.5%	-28.6
France	125.3	13.0%	116.5	11.3%	8.8
Ireland	31.4	3.2%	17.0	1.7%	14.4
Italy	114.4	11.8%	113.1	11.0%	1.3
Cyprus	0.3	0.0%	1.4	0.1%	-1.1
Latvia	0.7	0.1%	1.4	0.1%	-0.7
Lithuania	2.5	0.3%	3.7	0.4%	-1.2
Luxembourg	1.3	0.1%	3.9	0.4%	-2.6
Hungary	9.2	0.9%	15.7	1.5%	-6.6
Malta	1.0	0.1%	0.8	0.1%	0.2
Netherlands	59.0	6.1%	120.3	11.7%	-61.2
Austria	26.9	2.8%	17.7	1.7%	9.2
Poland	12.9	1.3%	18.3	1.8%	-5.4
Portugal	5.8	0.6%	10.1	1.0%	-4.4
Slovenia	4.5	0.5%	3.0	0.3%	1.5
Slovakia	3.3	0.3%	5.0	0.5%	-1.7
Finland	20.8	2.1%	13.5	1.3%	7.3
Sweden	40.6	4.2%	22.2	2.2%	18.3
United Kingdom	116.2	12.0%	167.8	16.3%	-51.6

Source: Eurostat.

## 4. Regional development

Regional policy puts into practice the solidarity between the peoples of Europe mentioned in the preamble to the Treaty on European Union. It helps to achieve one of the fundamental objectives laid down in the Treaty: the strengthening of the EU's economic and social cohesion by reducing developmental disparities between its regions. It has a significant impact on the competitiveness of the regions and on the living conditions of their inhabitants, mainly by co-financing multi-annual development programmes.

These programmes are supported by four Structural Funds: the **European Regional Development Fund** (ERDF) for infrastructures and investments, generating jobs and SMEs; the **European Social Fund** (ESF) for training, social integration and employment; the **European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund** (EAGGF, Guidance Section) for rural development and aid to farms; and the **Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance** (FIFG) for the adaptation of the fisheries sector. The **Cohesion Fund** supports environmental and transport projects in the least prosperous Member States.

The Structural Funds concentrate on three priority objectives: catch-up for regions lagging behind in development (**Objective 1**), socioeconomic conversion of industrial, urban or rural zones or zones which are dependent on fisheries (**Objective 2**), and improved training and job opportunities (**Objective 3**). Aid is also granted by four **Community initiatives** which encourage cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation throughout the EU (Interreg III), the regeneration of cities and neighbourhoods in crisis (URBAN II), equality in the labour market (EQUAL) and the development of rural areas (Leader+). And finally, the **innovative actions** support experimental regional programmes.

The Structural Funds absorb approximately one third of the EU budget. Their allocation for the 2000–06 period is EUR 195 000 million for the EU-15, plus EUR 15 000 million for the new Member States between 2004 and 2006. The Cohesion Fund receives EUR 25 600 million for the EU-25.

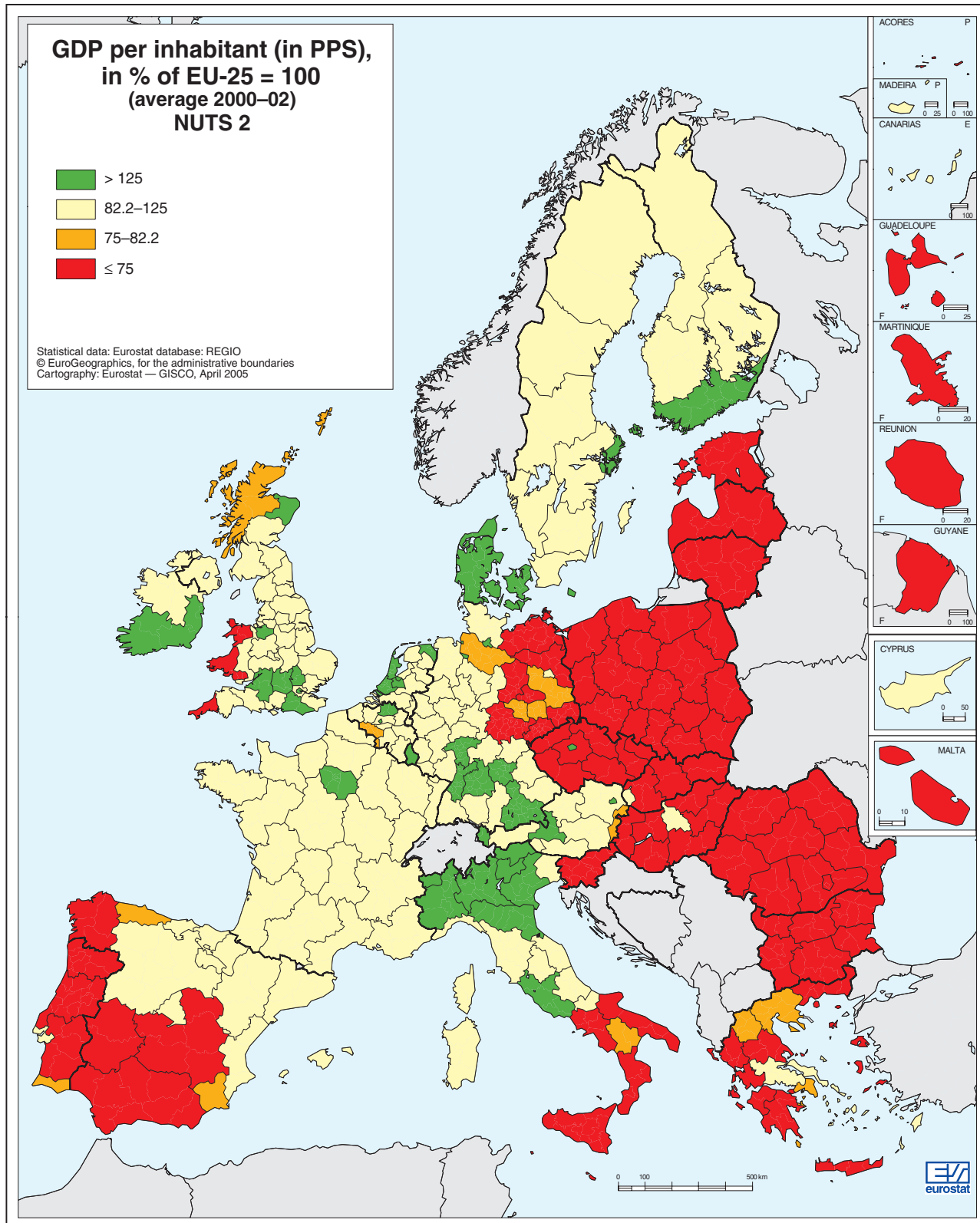
For the 2007–13 period, the Commission proposes to concentrate its priorities in three areas, with a global budget of approximately EUR 336 000 million. “**Convergence**” will stimulate growth and employment in the less developed regions (principally the new Member States) which will continue to benefit from the Cohesion Fund. “**Competitiveness**” will anticipate changes in the rest of the EU. This will include a regional component, for which each Member State will select the beneficiary zones, and a national component based on the European employment strategy. “**Cooperation**” will draw on the experience acquired by Interreg to encourage harmonious development throughout the EU territory.

### Key facts

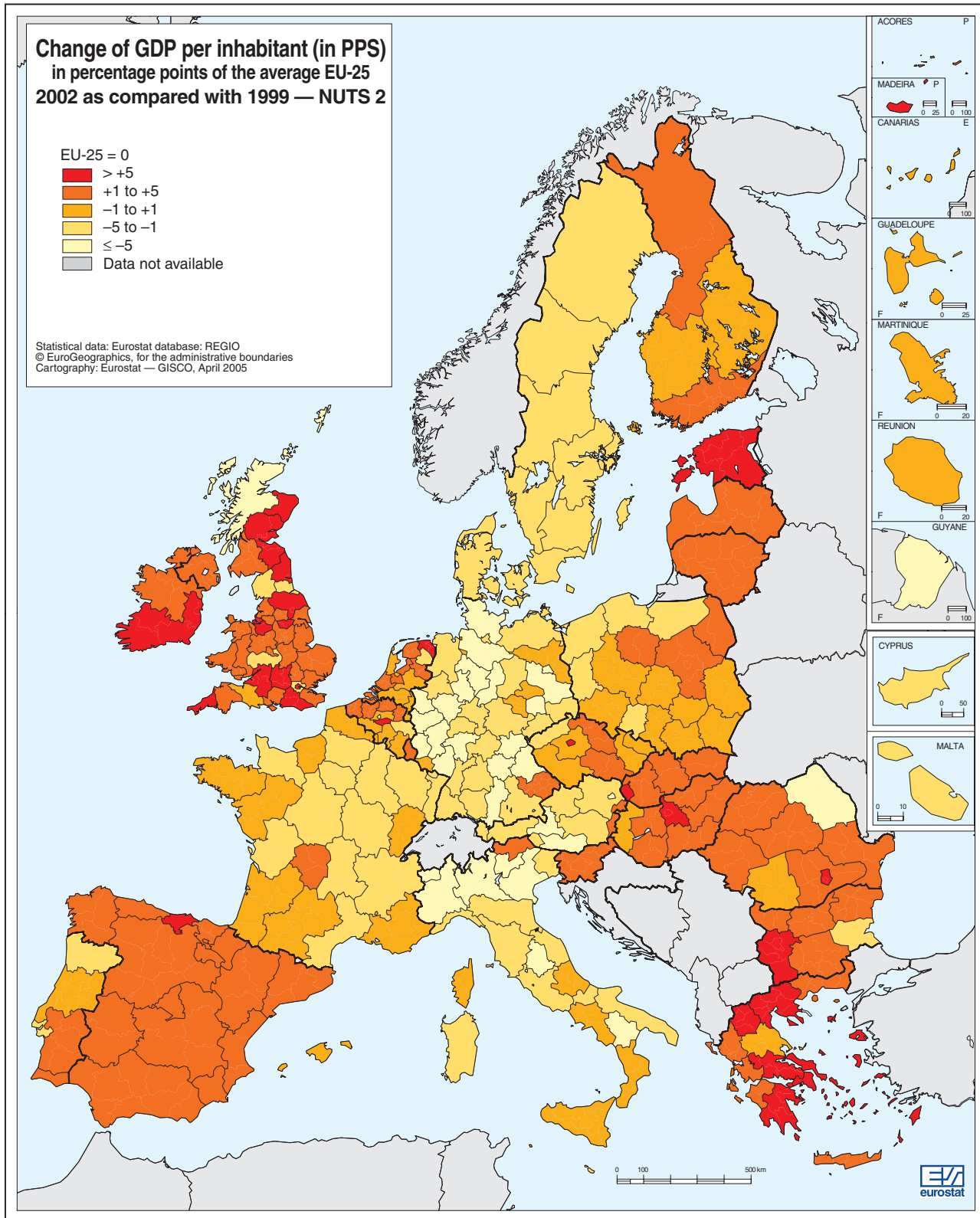
- **The average level of per capita GDP (in PPS) for the years 2000 to 2002** (Map 1) is of particular importance because it is used in deciding which regions are to receive EU funding under the Structural Funds during the 2007–13 programming period. The so-called “less-developed regions”, are those with a three-year average of per capita GDP of below 75 % of the EU-25 level.
- **Change in per capita GDP between 1999 and 2002 by comparison with the EU-25 average** (expressed in percentage points of the EU-25 average) (Map 2) show the economically most dynamic regions (whose per capita GDP increased by more than 1 percentage point when compared with the average) and the less dynamic regions (those with a relative fall of more than 1 percentage point).
- **Data on primary income in the EU-25 regions (Map 3)** show clear centres of prosperity in the south of England, Paris, Brussels, northern Italy, Vienna, Madrid, the western Netherlands, Stockholm. The north–south divide is clearly visible in both Italy and Spain, and the east–west divide in Germany. In the new Member States, the primary income of households in most regions is still less than half the EU average.
- **Regional employment rates** of the age group 15–64 (Map 4) and **regional unemployment rates** (Table 1) are used, among other indicators, for the allocation of Structural Funds to Objective 2.

- The **URBAN audit** collects information on the living conditions in 258 large and medium-sized cities within the European Union and the candidate countries. Around 21 % of the 457 million EU inhabitants live in the participating cities. Over-reliance on cars can reduce city efficiency and increase pollution. As an example, the **transport modes for journeys to work** in the core city and in the larger urban zone (LUZ) for selected cities are illustrated in Graph 1.

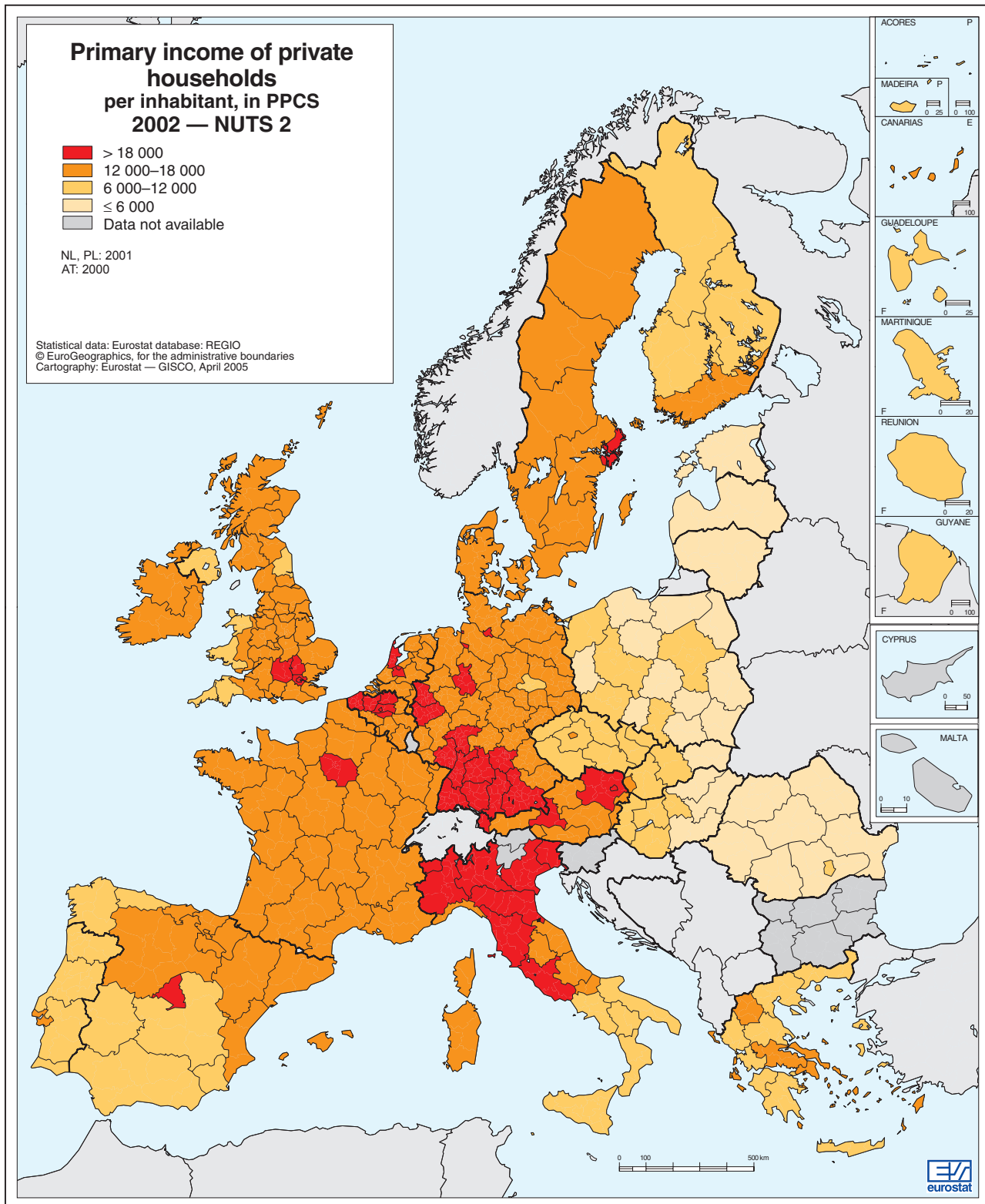
Map 1: GDP per inhabitant (in PPS)



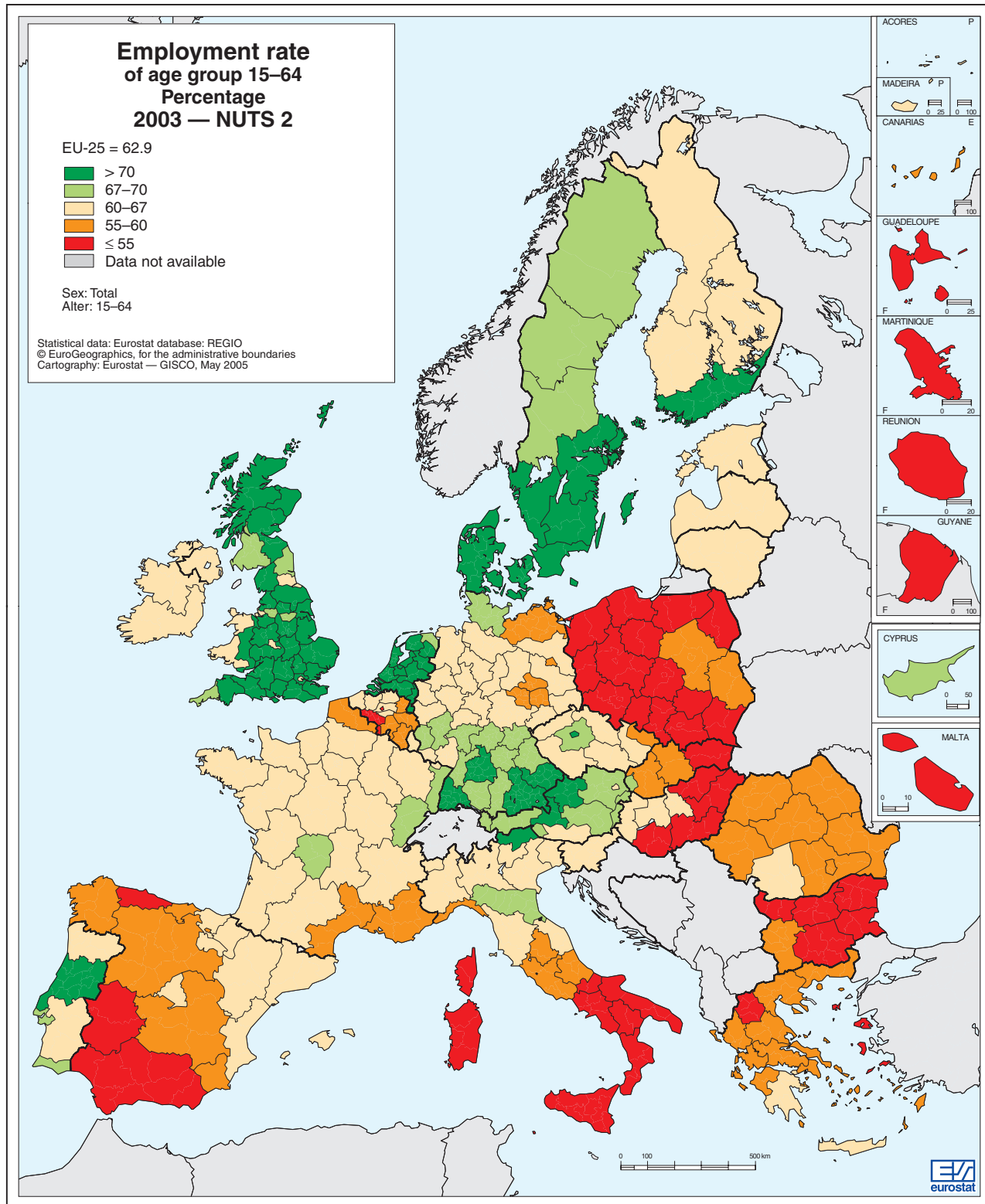
Map 2: Change of GDP per inhabitant (in PPS)



Map 3: Primary income of private households per inhabitant, 2002



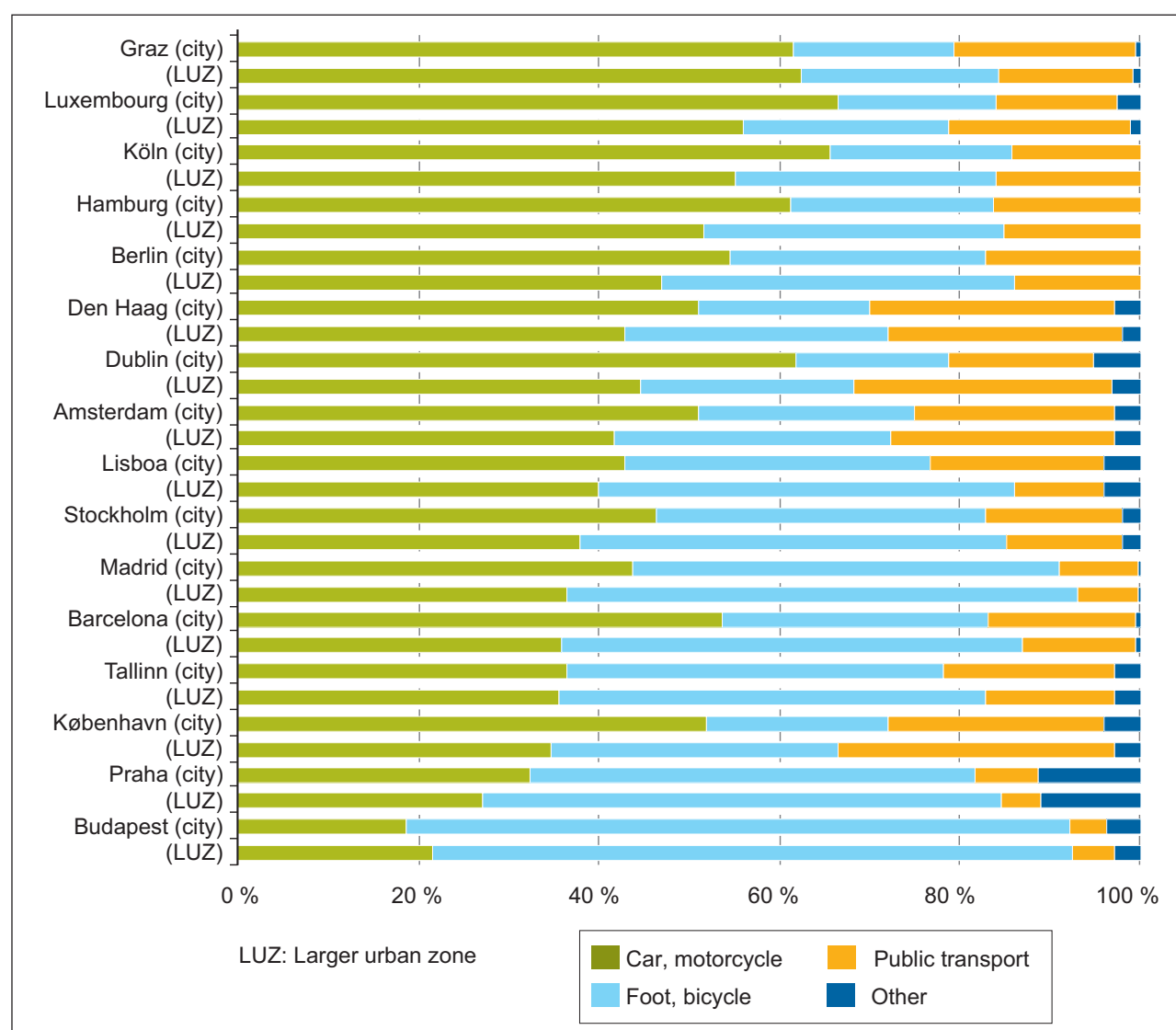
Map 4: Employment rate of age group 15–64 (%), 2003



**Table 1: EU-25 regions with lowest/highest unemployment in 2004 and the unemployment level in 2003**

Region	Employed persons aged 15 and over			Unemployed persons aged 15-74			Unemployment rate persons aged 15 and over		
	2003 in thous.	2004 in thous.	difference between 2004 and 2003 in thous.	2003 in thous.	2004 in thous.	difference between 2004 and 2003 in thous.	2003 in thous.	2004 in thous.	difference between 2004 and 2003 in percen. points
Dorset and Somerset (UK)	571.1	586.3	15.2	18.4	14.4	-4.0	3.1	2.4	-0.7
North Yorkshire (UK)	373.7	372.8	-0.8	10.5	9.9	-0.6	2.7	2.6	-0.1
Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	227.7	221.9	-5.8	4.7	6.0	1.4	2.0	2.7	0.6
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste (IT)	55.1	55.5	0.4	2.3	1.7	-0.6	4.1	3.0	-1.1
Cheshire (UK)	474.0	470.2	-3.7	16.2	15.2	-1.1	3.3	3.1	-0.2
Herefordshire, Worces. and Warwick. (UK)	604.4	611.7	7.3	24.1	20.1	-4.0	3.8	3.2	-0.7
Provincia Autonoma Trento (IT)	201.2	216.4	15.2	6.0	7.1	1.1	2.9	3.2	0.3
Tirol (AT)	321.2	326.6	5.4	8.3	11.1	2.8	2.5	3.3	0.8
Hampshire and Isle of Wight (UK)	903.9	903.9	0.0	31.9	30.9	-1.0	3.4	3.3	-0.1
Surrey, East and West Sussex (UK)	1 267.7	1 262.5	-5.1	44.3	43.6	-0.7	3.4	3.3	0.0
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DE)	716.8	690.7	-26.1	183.2	189.0	5.8	20.4	21.2	0.8
Kujaw sko-Pomorskie (PL)	775.3	764.9	-10.3	216.4	216.9	0.4	21.8	22.1	0.3
Stredné Slovensko (SK)	519.3	512.7	-6.6	134.2	145.5	11.3	20.5	22.1	1.6
Warmińsko-Mazurskie (PL)	459.6	467.1	7.5	144.6	134.2	-10.4	23.9	22.3	-1.6
Dessau (DE)	208.2	200.2	-8.0	58.2	60.3	2.1	21.8	22.9	1.0
Lubuskie (PL)	356.5	377.5	21.0	115.6	113.9	-1.7	24.5	23.2	-1.3
Halle (DE)	327.6	318.4	-9.1	91.8	98.2	6.4	21.9	23.4	1.5
Zachodniopomorskie (PL)	546.3	547.6	1.3	186.9	170.9	-16.0	25.5	23.8	-1.7
Východné Slovensko (SK)	564.8	555.8	-9.0	157.3	177.6	20.3	21.8	24.2	2.4
Dolnośląskie	895.1	949.2	54.1	315.1	314.6	-0.5	26.0	24.9	-1.1

**Graph 1: Transport modes of the journeys to work — city and the larger urban zone**



## 5. Environment

A clean and healthy environment is essential for achieving the prosperity and quality of life that EU citizens want. To make the best use of natural resources and emerging technologies, future economic growth and social development needs to be based on sound environmental principles. In a recent (autumn 2004 <sup>(1)</sup>) survey, 85 % of respondents felt that “policymakers should consider the environment to be as important as economic and social policies” and 88 % felt that environmental concerns should be taken into account when making decisions in other areas such as the economy and employment.

Over the last 30 years or so, major progress has been made in establishing a comprehensive range of environmental legislation in the EU. The current (sixth) EU environmental action programme 2001–10 (6EAP) gives a new sense of purpose and direction to the Community’s environmental policy. It sets out the objectives for the decade and determines the actions required if these goals are to be achieved. The programme identifies four priority areas:

- climate change
- nature and biodiversity
- environment and health and quality of life
- natural resources and waste.

The 6EAP calls upon the active involvement and accountability of all sections of society in the search for innovative, workable and sustainable solutions to environmental problems. It provides the environmental component of the Community’s overall strategy for sustainable development.

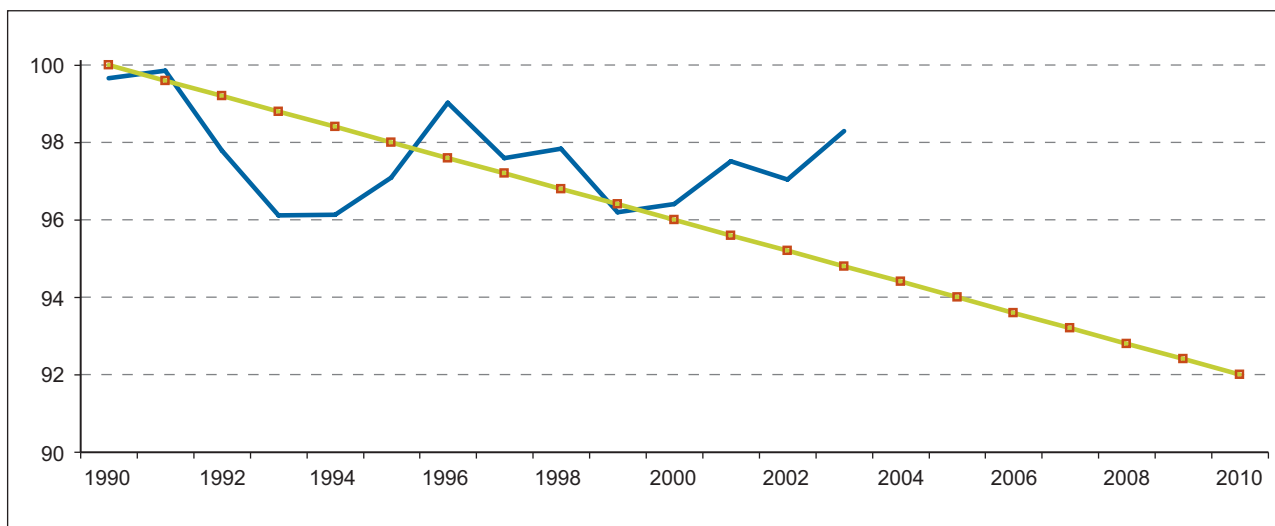
### Key facts

- **Emissions of greenhouse gases** (GHGs), were in 2003, 1.7 % lower than in the Kyoto Protocol base year (1990), although they have been on the increase since the year 2000. The Kyoto target for the EU-15 is – 8 %, to be reached by 2008–12 (Graph 1).
- The structural indicator on **population trends of farmland birds** is presently the best available proxy for a general biodiversity index. It shows no definite trend in the period 1990–2003. Comparing the general level with the level in 1980 for the subset of countries where data are available shows a substantial drop in the 1980s, and no sign of recovery is evident in recent years (Graph 2).
- **Bad air quality**, in particular exposure to particulate matter, significantly affects public health, reducing average life expectancy in Europe by eight months. While still more needs to be done, the partial success in this field due to policies and technological advancement can be demonstrated in 50 % reduction of the emission of tropospheric ozone precursors (TOP), affecting human health and generating acid rain, over the last 15 years (Graph 3).
- **Municipal waste** generation in the EU-25 grew at a rate of about 2 % per year between 1995 and 2004, rising from 461 kg/person to 537 kg/person (Graph 4). The amount of this waste which was recycled, composted or incinerated (from which energy can be generated) has increased by two thirds, while the amount of waste which was disposed of by landfill has fallen by 16 %.
- The **discharge of non-treated wastewater** is an important contribution to the pollution of surface waters and some coastal areas. Improved wastewater treatment has helped reducing pollutant discharges to these waters. However, there are still large differences in the percentage of population served by modern wastewater treatment plants among EU countries (Graph 5).
- **Environmental taxes** (taxes paid by users of natural resources to reflect the adverse environmental impact of their activities) decreased in the majority of EU-15 countries between 1995 and 2002 when measured as a proportion of total taxes and social contributions. The drop is mainly due to the decrease in energy-related taxation (Graph 6).

(1) <http://europa.eu.int>

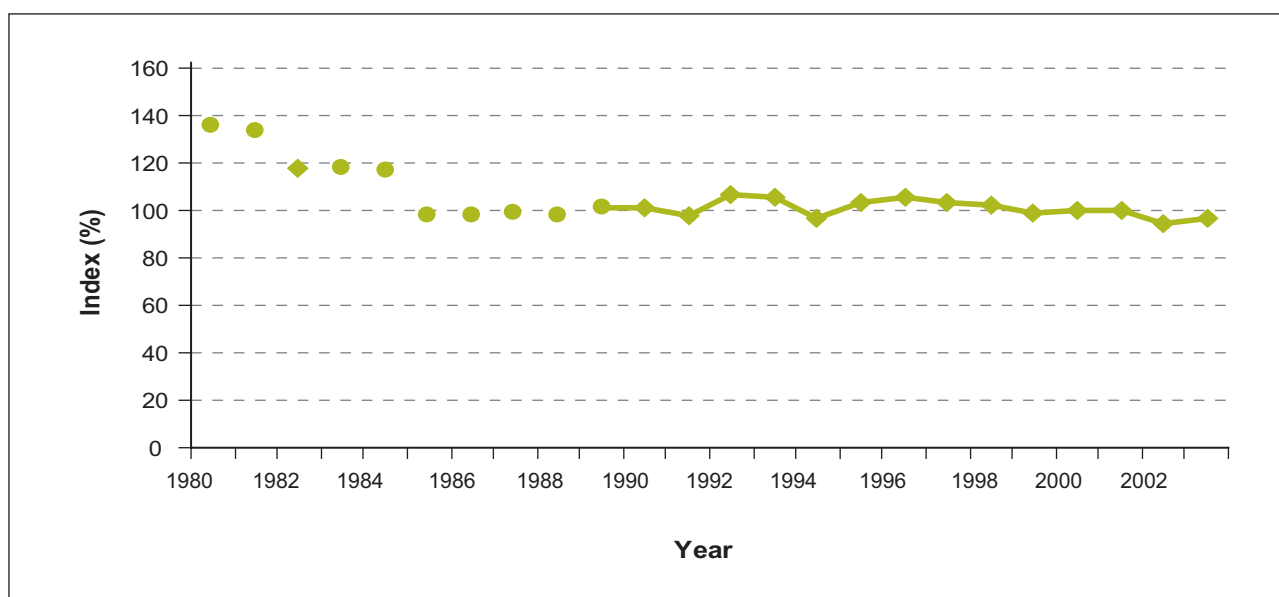


**Graph 1: EU-15 total GHG emissions and target according to Kyoto Protocol for 2008-12 (% of base year emissions)**



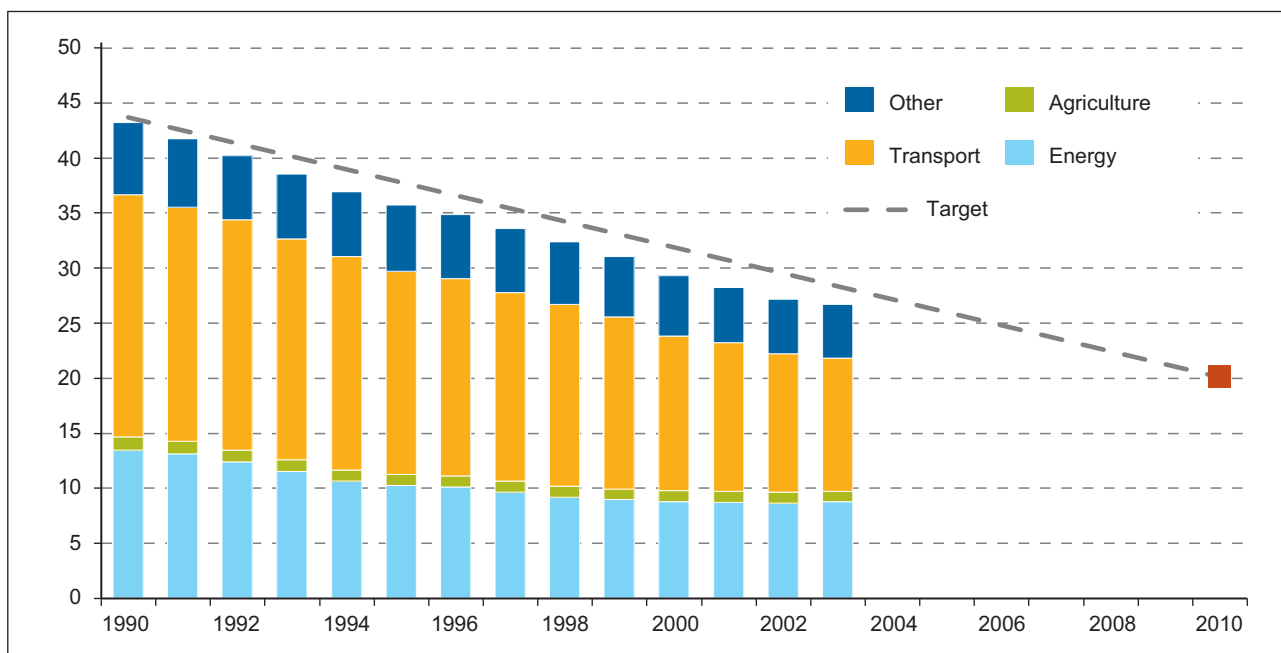
Source: European Environment Agency.

**Graph 2: Population trends of selected farmland bird species in Europe (2000 = 100)**



Source: EBCC/RSPB/BirdLife/Statistics Netherlands.

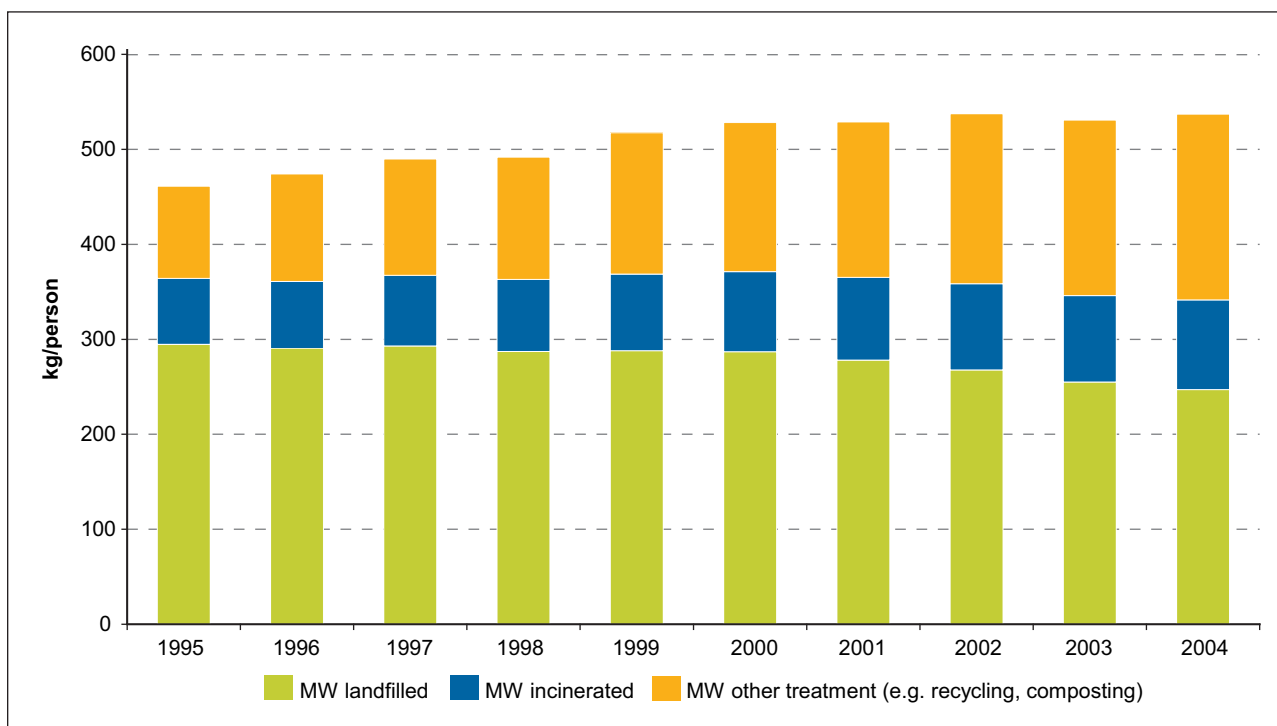
**Graph 3: EU-25 weighted emissions of ozone precursors (million tonnes NMVOC equivalents)**



Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants.

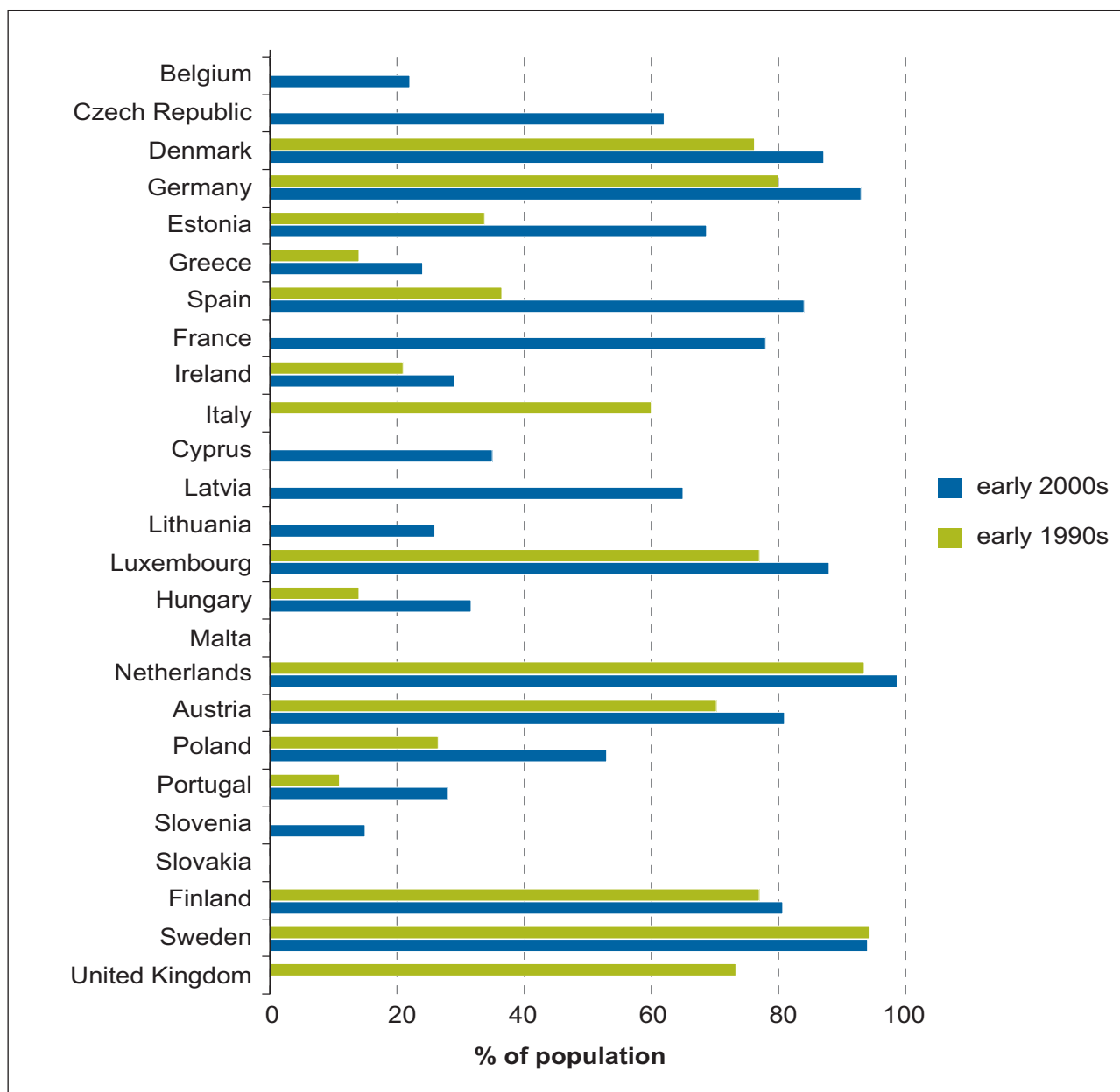
Source: European Environment Agency.

**Graph 4: EU-25 municipal waste (MW) generated and treated (kg/person)**



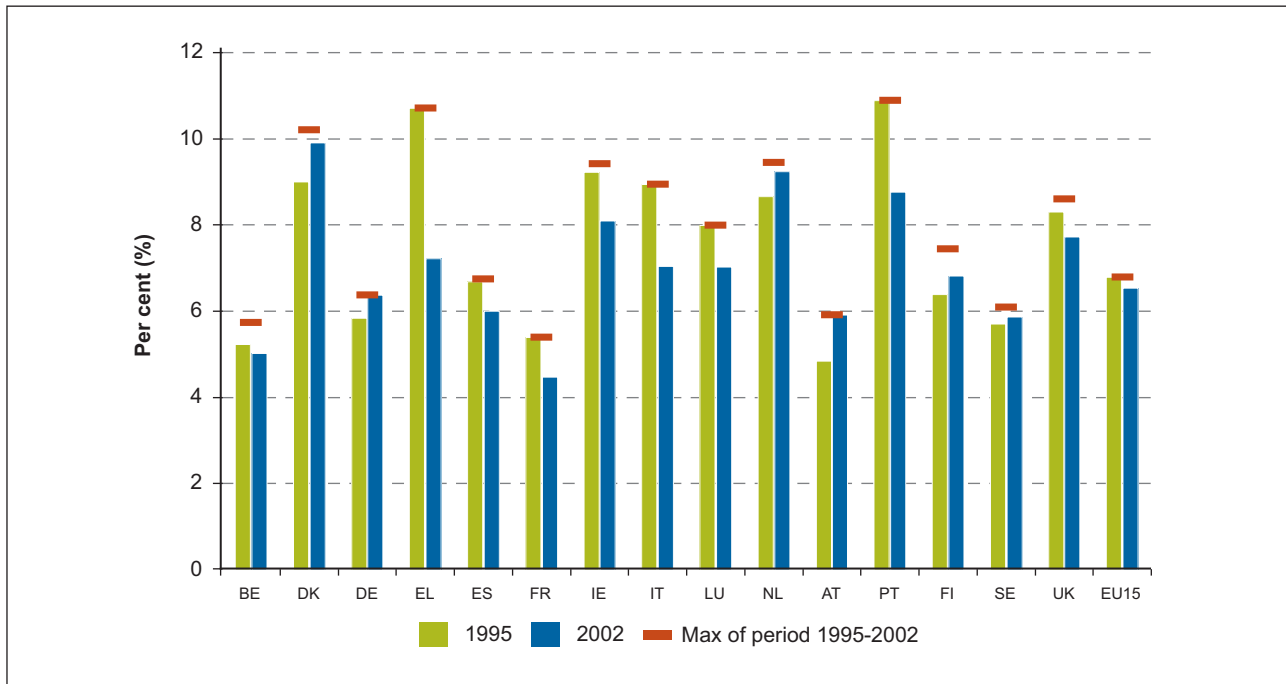
Source: Eurostat.

**Graph 5: Population connected to wastewater treatment systems with at least secondary treatment (%)**



Source: Eurostat.

Graph 6: Environmental taxes as percentage of total taxes and social contributions



Source: Eurostat.

## 6. Demography and migration

Demographic trends will have economic and social consequences in a number of areas, particularly for pension and healthcare systems. Given the economic integration of the European Union, there is an evident need for common efforts to help the societies of the Member States to cope with this huge challenge and to avoid austerity.

In its Green Paper, "**Faced with demographic change, a new solidarity between the generations**" (COM 2005, 94 final), the Commission concludes that in order to face up to demographic change, Europe should pursue three essential priorities:

- to return to demographic growth;
- to ensure a balance between the generations, in the sharing of time throughout life, in the distribution of the benefits of growth, and in that of funding needs stemming from pensions and health-related expenditure;
- to find new bridges between the stages of life, particularly between economic activity and inactivity. Young people still find it difficult to get into employment. An increasing number of "young retirees" want to participate in social and economic life. Study time is getting longer and young working people want to spend time with their children.

In recent years, **migration** has become the main factor behind demographic growth in the EU. The Treaty of Amsterdam established Community competence in the fields of **immigration and asylum**. The Tampere European Council in 1999 called for the development of partnership with countries of origin, a common European asylum system, fair treatment of third country nationals and management of migration flows. The Hague programme (2005–10) will continue the work on increased harmonisation of immigration and asylum systems and policies.

### Key facts

- During the last four decades, the population of the 25 countries of today's European Union has grown from over 376 million persons (1960) to almost **457 million persons** (2004).
- Development and composition of the population growth in Europe has varied significantly over the years. Until the end of the 1980s, the "**natural increase**" (live births minus deaths) was by far the major component of population growth. However, there has been a sustained decline of the "natural increase" since the early 1960s. On the other hand, international **migration** has gained importance to become the major force of population growth from the beginning of the 1990s onwards (Graph 1).
- A major reason for the slowdown of the "natural increase" of the population is the fact that, on average and over time, the inhabitants of the EU have fewer children. In the 25 countries that today form the European Union, the **total fertility** rate has declined from a level of above 2.5 in the early 1960s to a level of about 1.5 in 1995, where it has remained since (Graph 2). For comparison: in the more developed parts of the world today, a total fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman is considered to be the replacement level, in other words, the level at which a population would remain stable in the long run if there was no inward or outward migration.
- **Life expectancy** at birth has increased due to better circumstances of life and medical progress (Table 1). In the countries of today's EU-25, a newborn girl can expect to live over 81 years (1960: below 73 years), a boy about 75 years (1960: 67 years).
- The low fertility levels, combined with an extended longevity and the fact that the baby boomers will reach retirement age, results in a **demographic ageing** of the EU population. The share of the older generation is increasing while that of those of working age is decreasing. The "old age dependency ratio" relates to the population in retirement age to the one in working age. If retirement age is approximated by "60 years and over" and working age by "20 to 59 years", and if current trends prevail until 2050, anyone in his working age then might have to provide for about twice as many retired people as is usual today. With a postponed retirement age the underlying problem remains, but its effect might be less stinging (Graph 3).

Table 1: Demographic indicators for the EU-25 <sup>(1)</sup>

Indicator	Unit	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004 <sup>(2)</sup>
Total population	millions	376	407	426	439	451	457
Share in the world population	%	12	11	10	8	7	7
Total fertility rate <sup>(3)</sup>		2.6	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.5
Life expectancy <sup>(4)</sup> of girls	years	72.6	74.4	76.8	78.8	80.8	81.3
Life expectancy <sup>(4)</sup> of boys	years	67.1	68.0	69.8	71.7	74.4	74.9
Share in the total population by age group:	%	100	100	100	100	100	100
0 to 19	%	32.6	32.5	30.2	26.5	23.6	22.5
20 to 59	%	52.6	50.5	52.5	54.3	55.4	55.8
60 and over	%	14.8	17.0	17.3	19.2	21.0	21.7
Old age dependency ratio (retirement 60+) <sup>(5)</sup>	%	28.2	33.8	32.9	35.3	37.9	39.0
Old age dependency ratio (retirement 65+) <sup>(6)</sup>	%	17.4	21.0	24.0	23.3	25.9	27.0

(1) Aggregate comprising the 25 countries that today form the European Union.

(2) Includes estimates.

(3) Average number of children that would be born to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates that have been measured in a given year.

(4) Life expectancy at birth.

(5) Population aged 60 and over related to population aged between 20 and 59.

(6) Population aged 65 and over related to population aged between 20 and 64.