



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Tokyo, 3rd International Conference
on Foresight

Why is Foresight Important for Europe?

Jean-Michel BAER

Director, Science, Economy and Society

DG Research, European Commission, Brussels



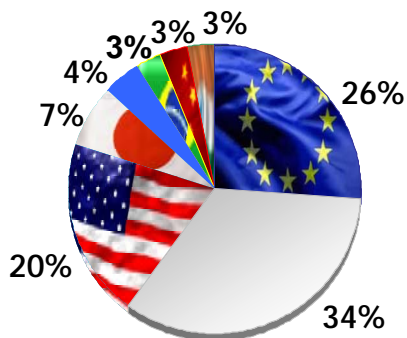


EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

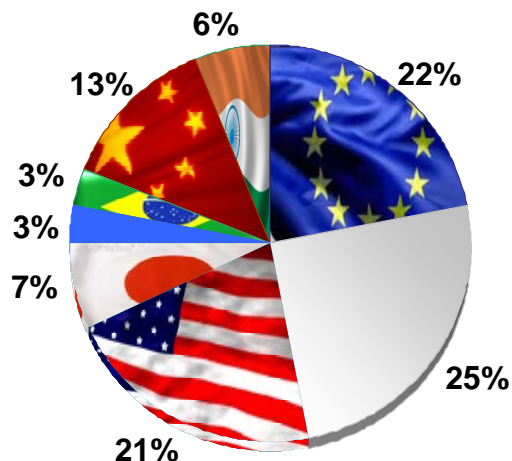
Community research

The Challenge of "Chindia" or "BRICs"

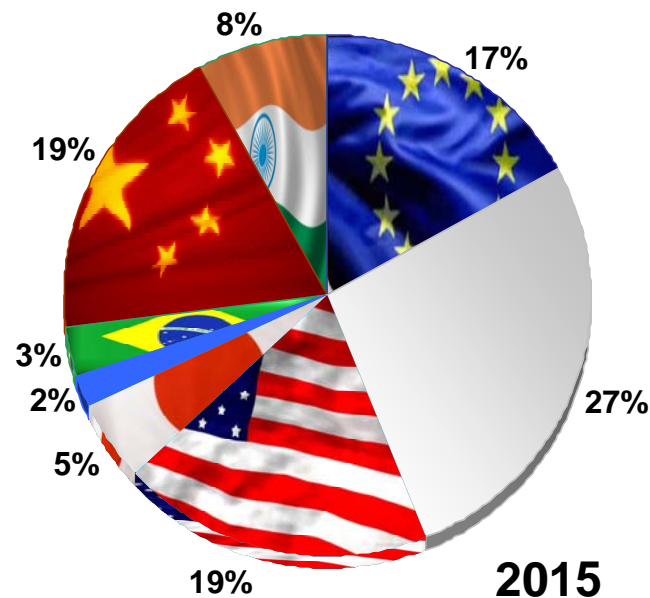
In purchasing power parity terms



1980



2003



2015



Source: IMF, Consensus Forecast HM Treasury
Note: Areas indicate size of global economy

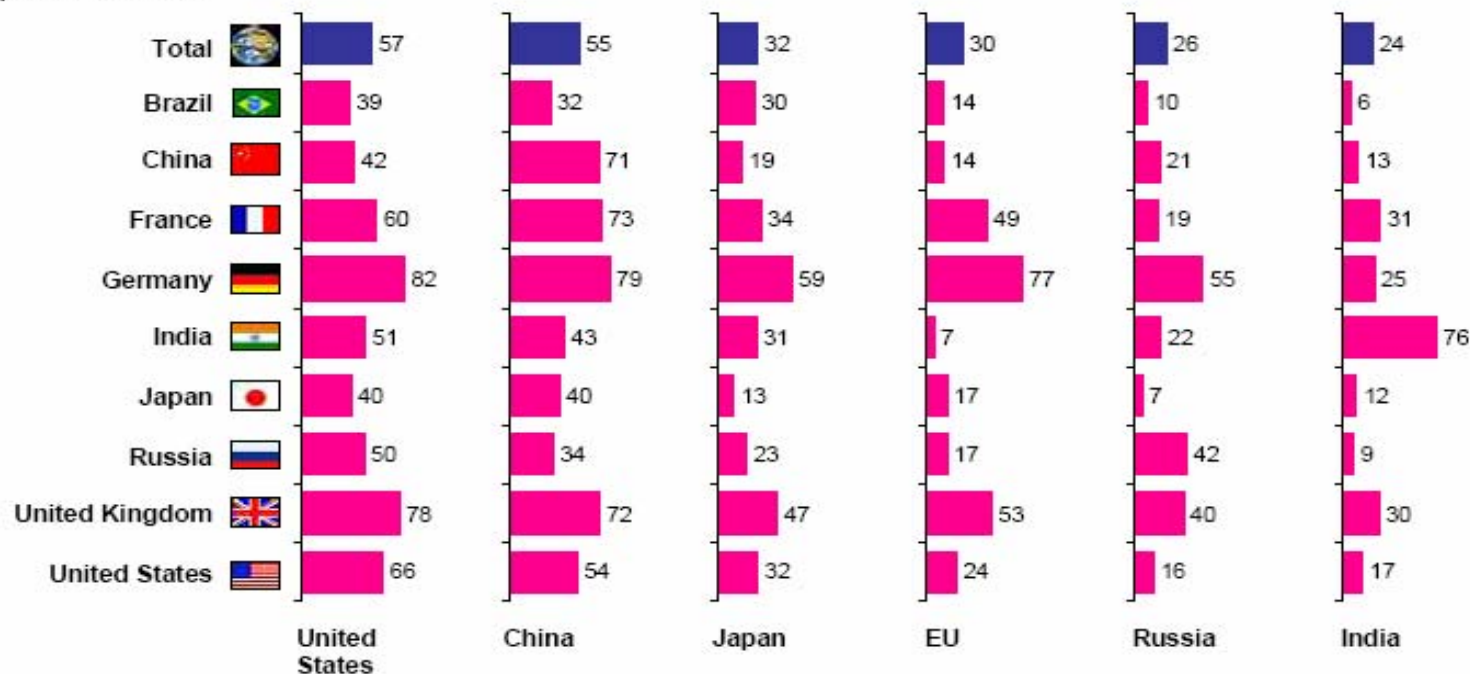


World Powers in the 21st Century

A global opinion survey by the
Bertelsmann Stiftung (2006)

World Powers in 2020

Respondents from...





Foresight is High on the EU Political Agenda

In August 2007, French President Sarkozy proposed the setting up of a *Wise Men/Women Committee* by the EU on:

"What Europe in 2020/2030 and for What?"

The report is expected mid-2009



What Scope for Foresight?

- Geopolitical Foresight
- Societal Foresight
- Science & Technology Foresight
- Territorial Foresight
- Socio-technological Foresight
- Socio-economic Foresight
- Actor-centred and Systemic Foresight
- Political/Institutional Foresight



National & Sub-National Foresight Initiatives: Europe is experimenting with new policy methods

Different models of **foresight**:

- UK: **cycles** of **broad** and later more **focused** Department of Trade & Industry foresight + Horizon scanning + Strategy Unit's network
- Netherlands: **embedded foresight** in many organizations, some coordination (COS, etc); Horizon Scanning
- France: FutuRIS **systemic** foresight run by **Association Nationale de la Recherche Technique**, multi-sectoral AGORA 2020 run by the Public Works Ministry
- Finland: FinnSight 2015, run by the **Academy of Sciences** and the **Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation**
- Many sub-national Foresight exercises





Foresight Challenges

Continuous renewal – *processes instead of projects*

- Design, foresight, implementation, evaluation/monitoring
- Shared vision is important, but useless without action
- Development of new tools and indicators

Critical approach – *be prepared to question everything*

- The use of scenarios to identify the unexpected
- Facilitate interaction between new mixes of people and competencies
- Facing all key issues, also the difficult ones

Access – *extending the dialogue to the wider population*

- How? – e.g. through layered processes
- Ensure sufficient understanding among the wider population, e.g. making sense of science, technology assessment





Foresight for Europe (1)

Opportunities & Challenges

Leadership

Foresight is an asset for Europe. Europe is leading in the new generation of participative Foresight activities (on relevance, process, method)

Fragmentation

Foresight programmes, initiatives and institutions would gain from being better interconnected (mutual learning) and, when necessary, geared towards common problems and issues, at transnational, inter-regional or European level through “open coordination” and European projects.

During the 2001-2007 period, interesting projects have been realised, creating the basis for a European Foresight Area

Differentiated Impact on actors & policies:

The challenge is to capitalise on successful use of foresight results in European decision-making





Three Layers of the European Knowledge Sharing Platform (2001-2007)

- Monitoring and disseminating information
- Exchanges of experience/mutual learning
- Exploiting foresight knowledge for informing EU research and innovation policy
- A new challenge: exploiting foresight for EU policy-making



Monitoring & Disseminating Information

- Annual EU Presidency Conferences
- Informal network of foresight managers (2 meetings/year)
- Newsletter "Foresighting Europe" and website
- European Foresight Monitoring Network (2004-2008)



Exchanges of Experience/Mutual Learning

- Support to Member States' Foresight initiatives
- Projects under STRATA/5th Framework Programme (ex. FOREN, eFORESEE, country guides for regional foresight, etc) – Links Member States-Candidate Countries
- "Mutual Learning" FOR-LEARN project - Administrative arrangement with Institute for Prospective Technological Studies/Joint Research Centre in Sevilla





Exploiting Foresight Knowledge for Informing EU Research & Innovation Policy

- EU Presidency Conferences
- **Expert Groups** (2 for Regional Foresight, 2 on future of Universities, Converging Technologies, Key Technologies, Key Actors in the European Research Area)
- 9 **prospective studies** launched in 2004 (all finalised 2005-2006)
- 1 study launched end 2005





Prospective Studies

- The future of Research & Development in services: implications for EU research and innovation policy
- Emerging science and technology priorities in European countries, the US and Japan
- Perspectives of national and regional research and innovation systems in an enlarged EU 2015: Specialisation, complementarity and competition
- The future of research and innovation policies in an enlarged EU: Key issues 2015
- EU research and innovation policy and the future of the European Common Foreign and Security Policy





Prospective Studies (2)

- Scenarios of future science and technology developments in emerging economies 2015
- Scenarios of future science and technology developments in developing countries 2015
- Professions with a science and technology dimension in Europe 2015: implications for education and training policies
- Improving the science/policy relationship with the help of foresight: a European perspective
- New emerging/converging clusters of Science and Technology (to end in 2008)





Exploiting Foresight Knowledge for Informing EU Research & Innovation Policy (2)

- Stimulating/Monitoring Foresight in other parts of the 6th Framework Programme (thematic e.g. FISTERA or FutMan, ERAnets, etc) and outside (Knowledge Regions 1st phase)
- Stimulating/disseminating long-term perspective in the EU ("Foresight Labs", intranet)
- Internal Work on the future of research actors and systems and on cross-cutting issues (Working Papers published on website)





Foresight for Europe (2) Cooperation is Needed in Order to Introduce...

- A Foresight dimension for the development of the **European Research Area** strategy:
 - Foresight for Joint Programming EU/Member States
- A Foresight dimension in the **relations between research policy and other EU policies**
- Foresight as a **common language/reference framework for "coherent" public policies at EU level?**





Foresight for Europe (3)

- In the 7th Framework Programme, Foresight is integrated with the “Social Sciences and Humanities” programme. It creates synergies.
- Foresight will be applied to major policies of the European Union linked to the Lisbon and Sustainable Development strategies and to globalisation.
- Knowledge and growth, energy and climate change (“post carbon society”), agriculture, demography and migration (“Social Europe in 2020”), “European Union in the world” are examples of application.



Foresight for Europe (4)

- Foresight will take advantage of the methodological developments of Social Sciences & Humanities research: quantification of the impacts of alternative scenarios on the economy and the environment; coherence of scenarios according social aspects of societal issues and behaviours...
- Foresight should be useful for the preparation of future research: the role of new knowledge; organisation of research and innovation at the world level, technology assessment.



Conclusions

Foresight is a discipline, a culture which should be part of the policy- and decision-making process; European Union and the Commission are going in this direction.

Foresight is a learning process to understand the key drivers of change, to identify the emerging opportunities for the future, to evaluate the impact of scenarios.

Foresight is also a participative process to share the views amongst the stakeholders; it should facilitate an open and critical dialogue. It should be part of governance.

Foresight is a **global approach** which needs **global cooperation**. We must strengthen this process together !





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

European Co-operation in the Field of Science & Technology Foresight

More information on:

www.cordis.lu/foresight





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Thank you for your attention!



Jean-Michel.Baer@ec.europa.eu

