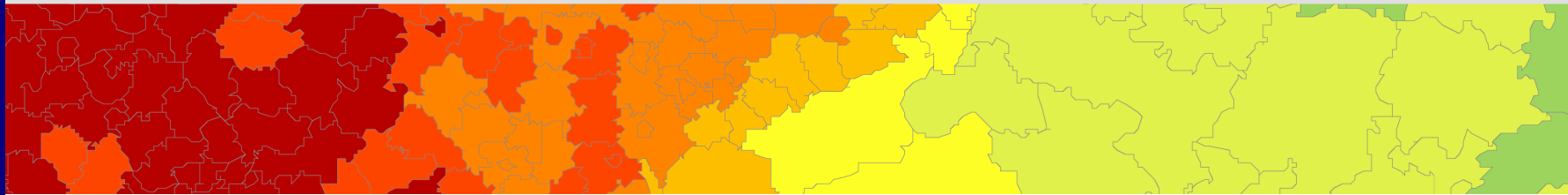




EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING  
OBSERVATION NETWORK



ECP Luxembourg - ESPON Workshop  
14 December 2007

# **Visions of Europe in the world**

## Introductory remarks

- Visions exclusively represent ideas of researchers
- 3 visions of Europe in the world
  - Each vision reflects partial evidence of reality of contemporary world
  - No contradictions between visions
- 4<sup>th</sup> integrated vision / pro-active scenario

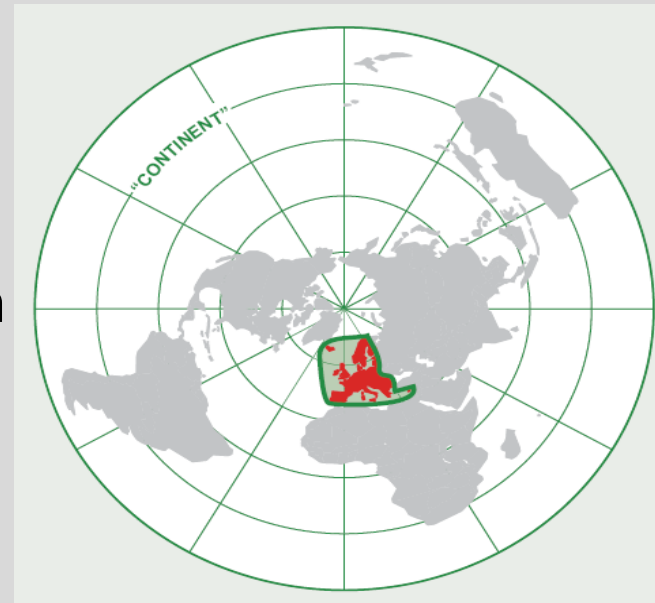
## The "Continent" Vision: towards a protected and closed European territory

### Territorial assets

- TEN implemented at large European scale
- Central & Eastern Europe benefit from Western subsidies and FDI
- EU regional policy focuses on less developed areas in Eastern & Central Europe

### Shortcomings

- Negative impact on EU peripheral territories
- Eastern markets not sufficient for Western investors
- Europe as an isolated and ageing island in the world



## The “Centre-Periphery” Vision: towards a dissymmetrical Euro-Mediterranean pattern

### Territorial assets

- Deeper Euro-Mediterranean integration
- Mediterranean European territories will boost their development
- Europe improves catching up with Asian and American counterparts

### Shortcomings

- Relocation of environmental burden on Southern Mediterranean shore is not sustainable
- No change in migration mix: mainly low educated migrants towards Mediterranean Europe
- Southern brain drain not stopped
- North Africa as gatekeeper against sub-Saharan African migrants



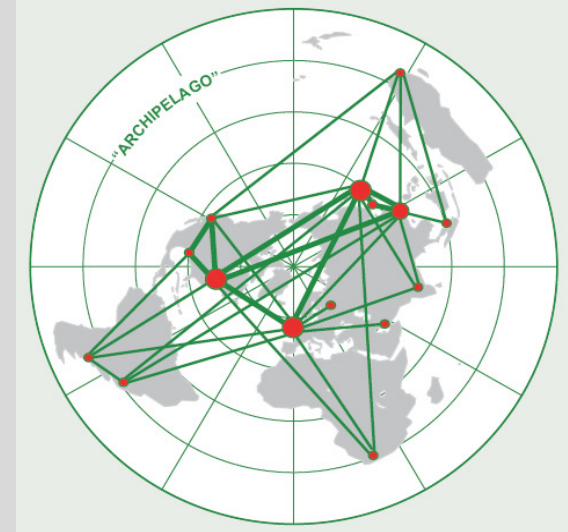
## The “Archipelago” Vision : towards rising territorial disparities

### Territorial assets

- Major European cities become highly internationalised metropolitan areas
- Western European countries benefit most from international metropolises
- Western European metropolises strongest in global top urban system

### Shortcomings

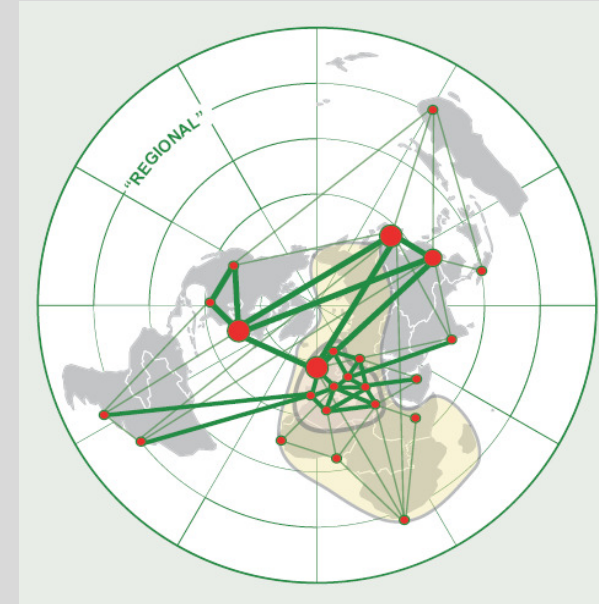
- Increase of territorial disparities in Europe
- Eastern Member States rapidly lose their competitive advantage
- Substantial destabilisation of Mediterranean neighbours' economy
- Border situation towards “continent” vision



## The "Regional" Vision : towards rising territorial disparities

### Territorial assets

- Complementarity Europe –neighbours
- Boosted development of European peripheral territories
- Europe becomes major player in world
- Maghreb = interface Africa – Europe
- Eastern Europe = interface former Soviet Union - Europe



### Shortcomings

- High political controversy
- Difficult agreement between EU MS being in favour either of Eastern or of Southern neighbours
- Risk of external conflicts with other world powers

## Conclusion

- None of the 3 visions seems to be able to provide a sustainable future to European territorial development
- “Regional” vision may be wishful target for long run rather than realistic option for short term
- European neighbourhood policy should be complemented, e.g. some EU policies should be expanded to partner states
- Need for interlinkage of internal and external policies

**=> Report will be disseminated early 2008**