Foresight at a glimpse

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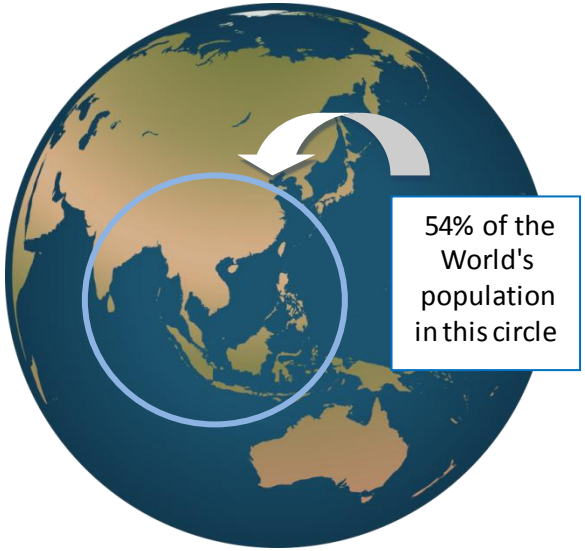
European Commission

European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS)

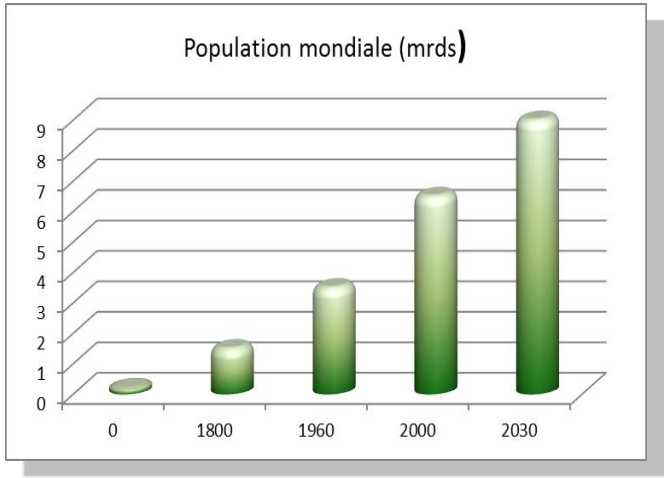
- 2010: Launch of the inter-institutional project
  -> EP, Council, Commission and EEAS
- 2012: first report "Global Trends 2030"
- 2013 : 3 studies by think tanks -> europa.eu/espas/
- 2014: Final report
  -> for the 3 new Presidents
  -> Editorial inter-institutional group
  -> Repository on Strategic Studies
  europa.eu/espas/orbis/

Mega trend: Demography



In 2030

- Asia: >50% of world's population
- Africa & India: fastest growth
- 50% in urban areas



In 2050

- Stabilization at ~ 9.5 Billion
- 400 million people >80 years
- ageing will affect China (+14 years)

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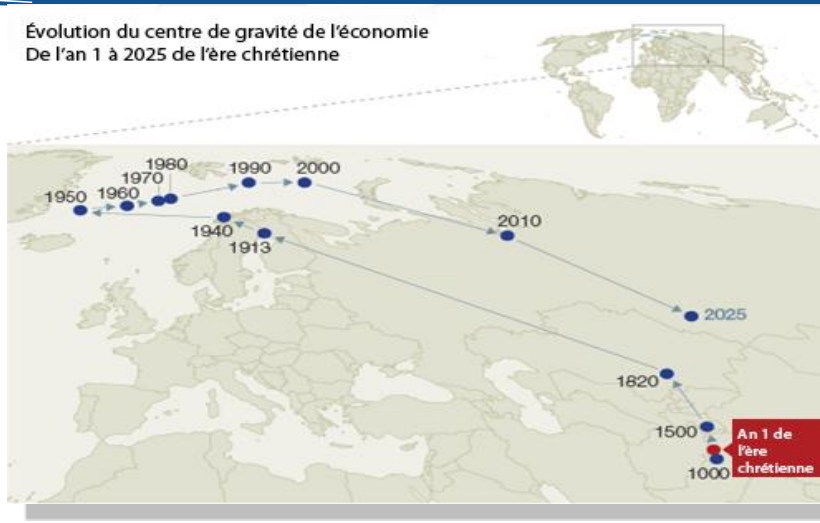
Mega trend: Economy



In 2030

- 20% World GDP in China
- 55% World GDP in G3 (US-EU-China)
- Growth will be mostly outside of Europe
- Manpower: China + Africa + India = 5 x EU

In 2050

- towns will represent 70% of GDP
- doubling of cars: 2 billion

Mega trend: Society

In 2030

- More inequalities (health; digital; gender; education; labour market)
- Middle class: 2 -> 5 Billion
- 2/3 of middle class in Asia

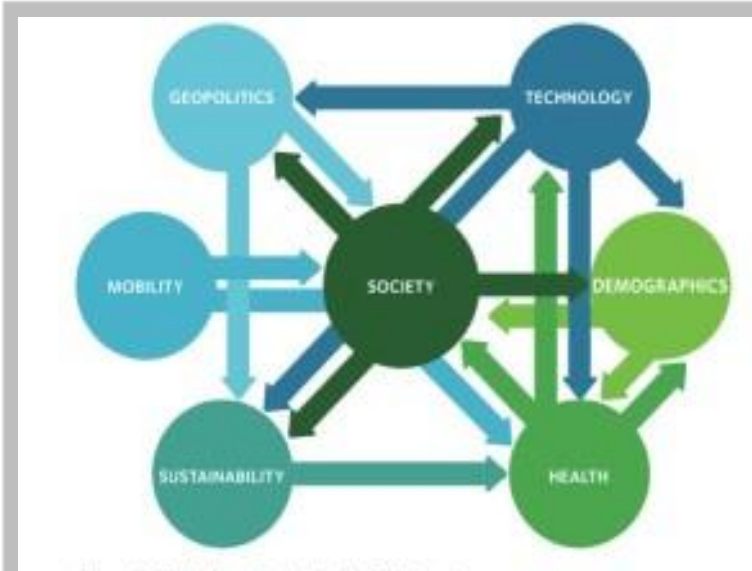
In 2050

- Citizen-centric society in Europe?

-> Participatory governance

-> Not consumers but citizens

-> European societal model



Mega trend: Geopolitics

In 2030

- Multi-polar political action
  - -> No European country in top 15 by population
  - -> Europe versus BRICS & others (Nigeria, Indonesia…)
- Multi-levelled governance (civil society, government, regional/international organisations)
- Raise of multiple spot conflicts; defense policy?
  - -> Competition for resources

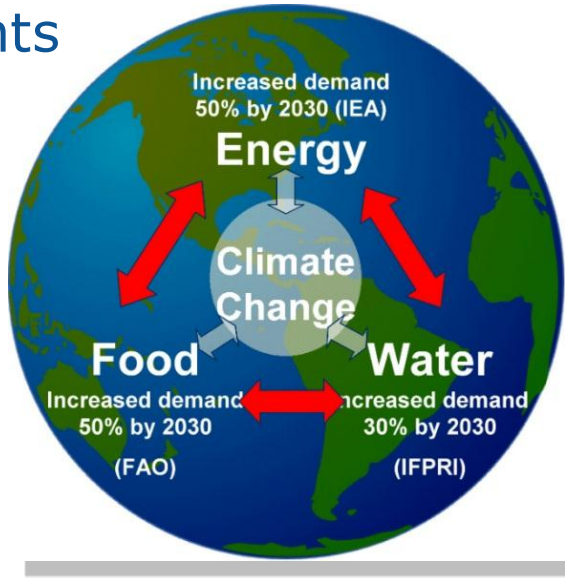
In 2050

- Obsolescence of UN, NATO, WTO… ?

Mega trend: Resources & Climate

In 2030

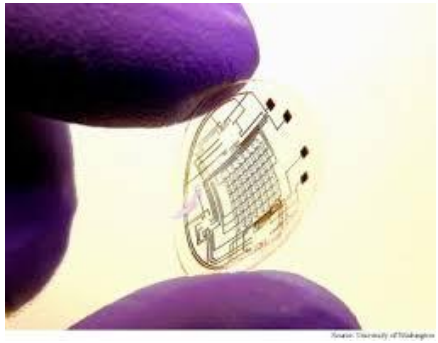
- Resources tensions; interdependencies
  -> 50% more food & energy needs
- Bottom-up initiatives rather than inter-governmental
  -> Power of Megacities; citizen mouvements
- Vulnerability to catastrophic events
  -> Pandemics: human, food-stock



In 2050

- High-tech & low-carbon society
  -> hinder development of low-income societies?

Mega trend: Technology



In 2030

- Integration of technologies
  - -> autonomous (decision-making) systems [driver-less cars]
  - -> BigData+Cloud+Internetofthings+Biosciences = Leaps
- Science & Society
  - -> saturation of technology-push; increased risk awareness?
  - -> society (not experts) defines technology needs
  - -> "Science et Conscience"

In 2050

- Societal cohesion and wellbeing as a priority
- Towards post-carbon society

Mega trend: Space

In 2030

- Integrated services for society
  - -> Integrated space and security/defense dimension
  - -> Resilience issues: cyber-security and dependence
  - -> Space for the Artic
- European multipolar relations
  - -> balancing between US/China/Russia
  - -> other countries ('space diplomacy')

In 2050

- Space exploration as a global human endeavour?

CONCLUSION

Mega-trend: Complexity

up to XXIth century

- **manageable complexity: short-term planning**
- **individuals could make a difference**
- **strength: high skills and development of knowledge**

XXIth century

- **'cyber-complexity': need long-term vision**
- **'connected brains' will make a difference**
- **weakness: lack of trust and divorce politics/citizens?**