

WHICH EUROPE?

Club of Amsterdam

30th May 2013

Stephen Aguilar-Millan

Director of Research

The European Futures Observatory

stephena@eufo.org



What can we hope to achieve tonight?

1. An **idea** about the development of Europe.
2. A **model** to encompass that idea.
3. An **application** of how the model works in practice.
4. A **vision** of how the future might unfold from the model.

The idea

Originally, a nation was either a member of the EU or it was not. It was either “In” or “Out”.

As time went on, this distinction blurred – it was possible for a non-member nation to have a special arrangement with the EU.

Originally, a nation had to sign up to all aspects of the EU, without exception.

As time went on, member nations could select which aspects of Europe they did not subscribe to. Their membership could be “Hard” or “Soft”.



The model ...

The 'Hard Ins' – nations at the core of the EU that meet all of the criteria.

The 'Hard Outs' – nations that meet the criteria of full EU membership, but which choose to stay out.

The 'Soft Ins' – Europe *a la carte*, where nations are unable or unwilling to meet all criteria.

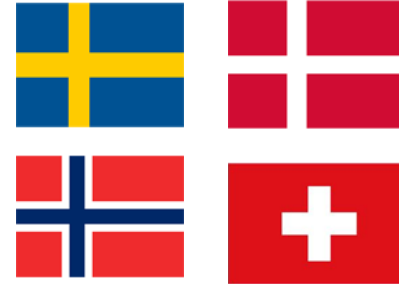
The 'Soft Outs' – nations that would like to join the EU, but which don't currently meet the membership criteria.

The application ... the Euro

The 'Hard Ins'



The 'Hard Outs'



The 'Soft Ins'



The 'Soft Outs'



The vision ... for the Euro

Four possible future outcomes (scenarios) of an unsustainable policy:

1. **The Euro II:** A banking and transfer union with greater fiscal co-ordination.
2. **The Northern Euro:** A banking union from which the peripheral nations have left.
3. **A Southern Euro:** A banking union in which only the peripheral nations remain.
4. **No Euro:** The dissolution of the Euro in an absence of general consensus about institutions.



Our Conclusions.

Just suppose our vision comes about, what can we do about it?

1. We can model it by developing further the scenarios in anticipation of events.
2. We can game our responses within those scenario sets so that we are prepared for them happening.
3. We can work in the present to avoid the futures that act too much to our disadvantage.

This is what futuring is supposed to do.

