

# Environmental Governance in Europe

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# Definition of international political economy

- *„Interaction of the market and powerful actors“*
- *Such as:*
  - *States*
  - *Multinational corporations*
  - *International civil society*
  - *International organisations / regimes*

# Motivating forces for international economic efforts

- Division of labour
- Comparative advantage (David Ricardo)

## General conditions:

- Free market system
- Private ownership
- No trade restrictions

# Globalization

*“Process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture”*

# Economic globalization

- Interchange of products, capital, corporations and manpower
- New dimensions
  - Global tendency, high speed
- Result
  - Interdependence, also in the field of the environment

# Global Governance

*“The attempt to solve world wide problems through political compliance in the understanding that there is no World Government.”*

- *Actors*
  - *Nation States*
  - *Transnational Corporations*
  - *International Regimes*
  - *International Civil Society*



# Environmental Governance

- Definitions:
  - The whole range of rules, practices and institutions related to the management of the environment in its different forms, such as:
    - Conservation
    - Protection
    - Land use
    - Exploration of natural resources

# Global environmental governance

“The sum of organizations, policy instruments, financing mechanisms, rules procedures and norms that regulate the process of global environmental protection.”

## Key principles

- Embedding the environment in all levels of decision-making and action
- Conceptualizing cities and communities, economic and political life as a subset of the environment
- Emphasizing the connection of people to the ecosystems in which they live

# Environmental peculiarities

- Complex (natural) contexts
- The problem of future goods
- The problem of collective goods
- The problem of uncertainty
- The problem of growth
- The problem of extinction / irretrievability

# Global public goods

= goods that are not diminished when they are shared

- Everyone benefits from a breathable atmosphere, stable climate and stable biodiversity.

– Public goods are non-rivalrous!

- no one can be excluded

- **But:**

– Those goods must not be destroyed by one person, group or state.

# Environmental governance issues

- Soil deterioration
- Climate change
- Biodiversity
- Water
- Ozon layer
- Transgenre organisms
- Nuclear risk

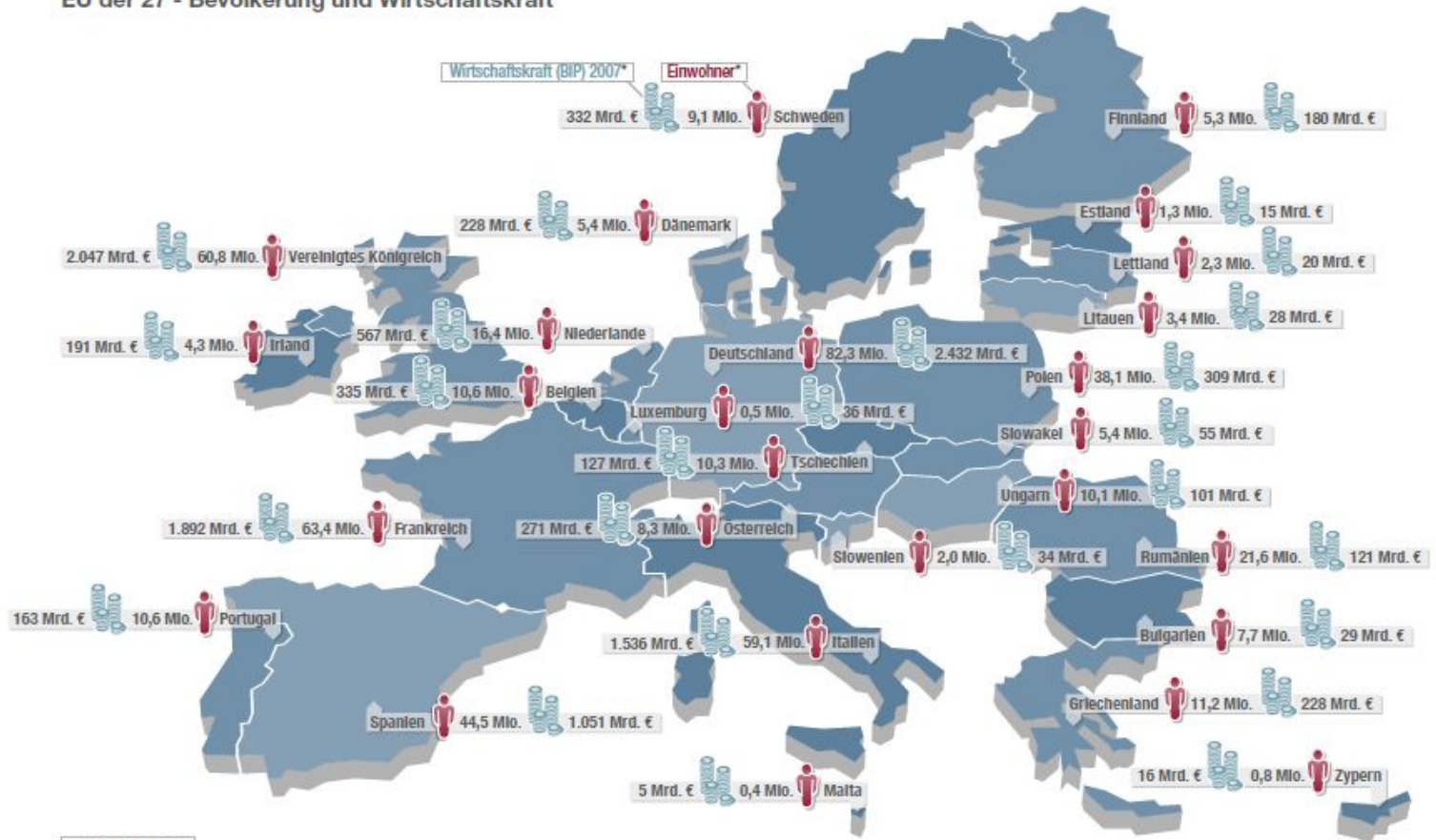
# EU: Theories of European integration

- Historical need
- Federalism
- Neo-functionalism
- Intergovernmentalism
- Marxism Theory

# Economic data of the EU

## Wirtschaftsdaten der EU-Länder

EU der 27 - Bevölkerung und Wirtschaftskraft



\*Quelle: Eurostat

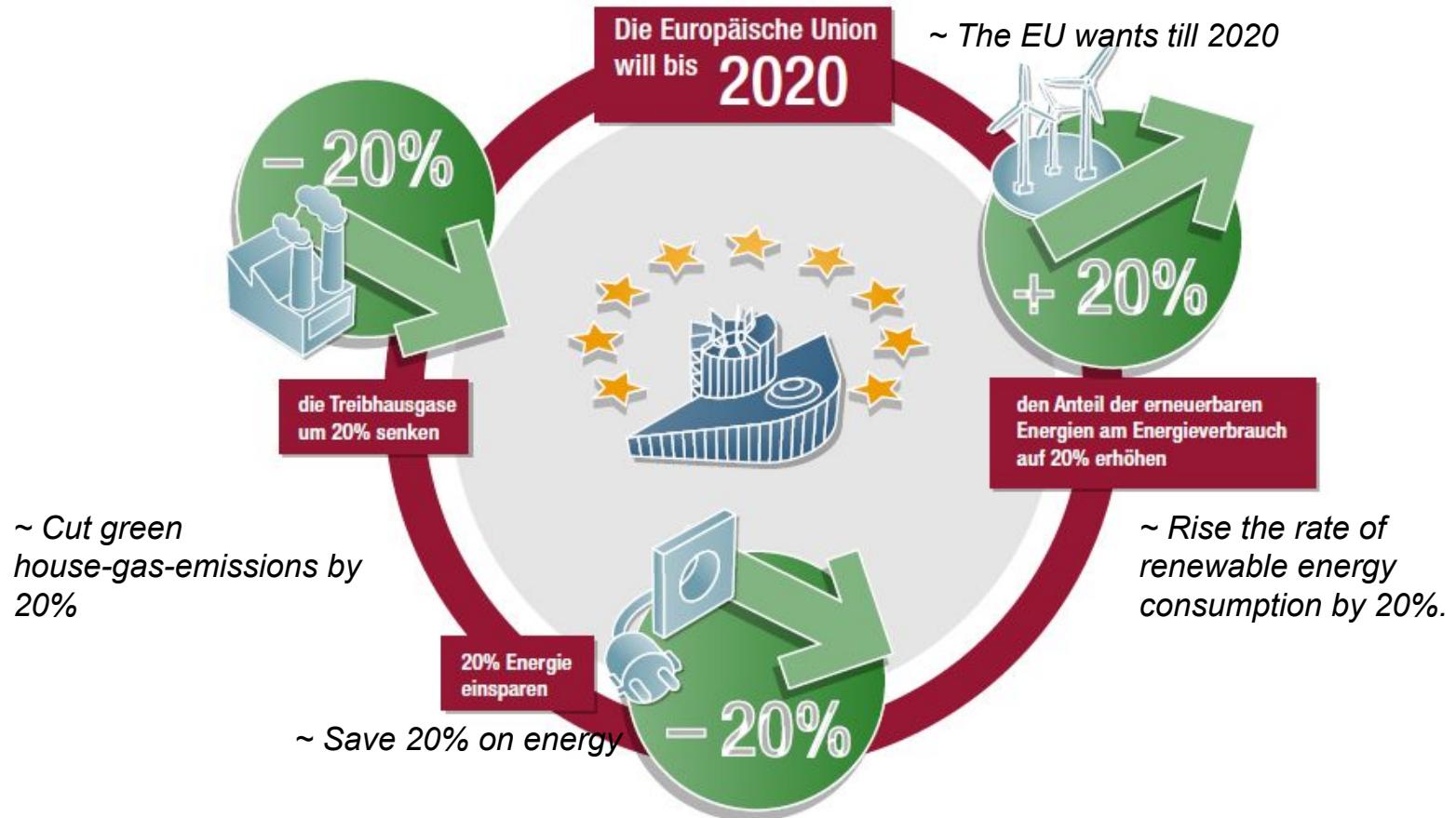




~ Environment and climate: The 3 x 20-decisions of 2007

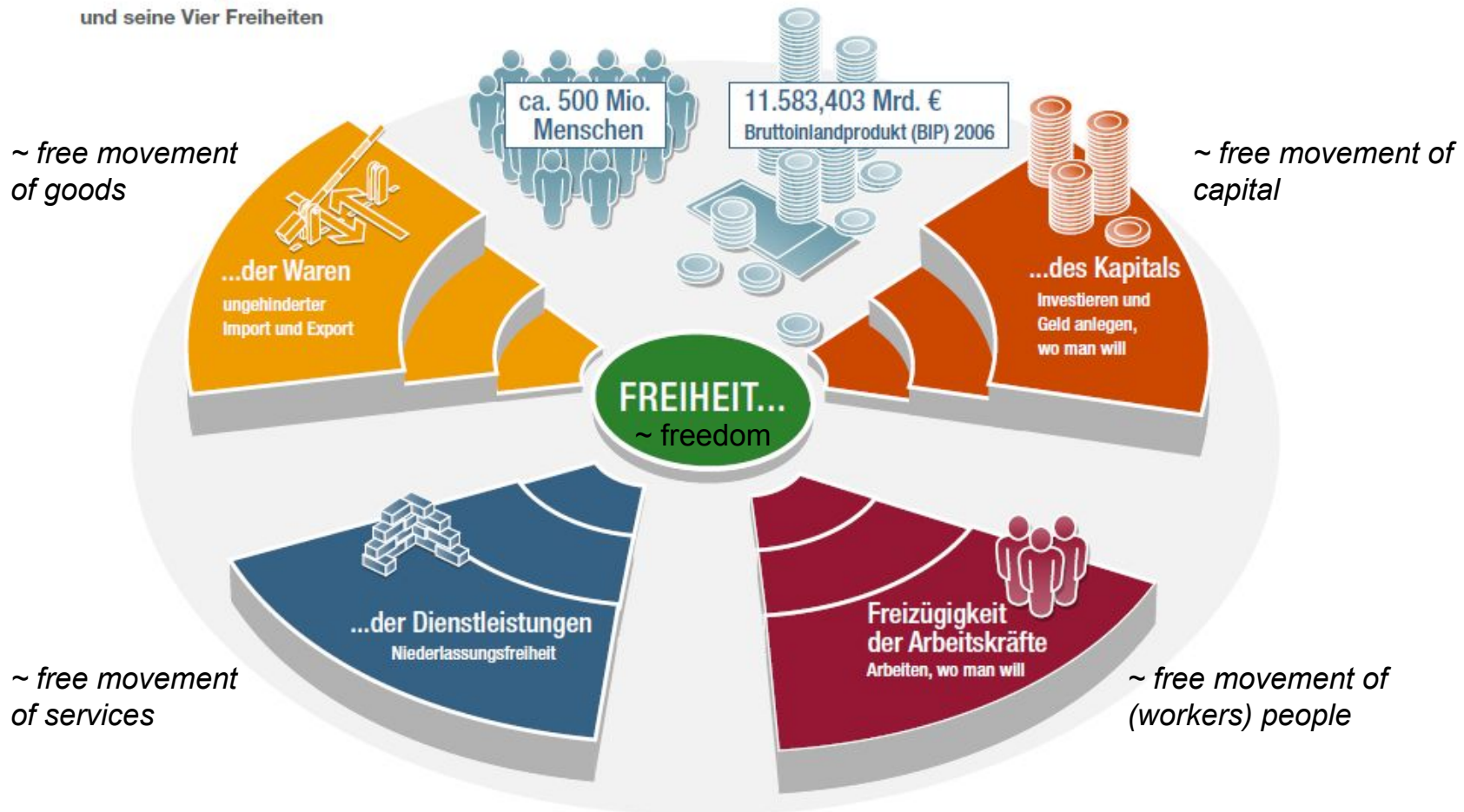
## Umwelt und Klima

3 x 20 bis 2020: Die 3 x 20-Beschlüsse des Gipfels 2007



**Der europäische Binnenmarkt**  
 und seine Vier Freiheiten

~ The European Single Market: the four freedoms



# European Union

- Economic principles:
  - To create an internal market (single market)
- The four freedoms
  - Free movement of: (1) goods, (2) capital, (3) services and (4) people
- Exemptions
  - Restrictions on trade can be allowed in favor to protect human health and the life of humans, animals and plants.

# Development of an European Environmental Policy

- No provisions in the “Roman Treaties”
- Need for action: Environmental pollution
- Different national environmental standards could be barriers to common trade
  - Environmental policy as a joint goal
  - Economical motivation
  - **But:** Every member state could veto environmental legislation (= unanimity vote)
  - lowest common denominator

# Development of an European environmental policy

- 1987: “Single European Act” as a legal bases
  - = Official European Environmental Policy
- Decision making:
  - Majority vote in the EU-Council
  - Minor role of the European Parliament

## EU: Legislation (Treaty of Amsterdam)

- Council: qualitative majority  
= majority of member states + 62%  
of population
- European Parliament: co-decision making  
= veto position

### Exemptions to joint decisions:

- taxes, zoning, water-resources, energy politics

# EU: Forms of Environmental legislation

- **Decrees** = legislation which is mandatory for member states
- **Directives** = member states have some discretion in implementing regulations



# EU: Main environmental principles

- Principle of prevention
- Polluter pays principle
- Action at source
- Policy integration
- Ecological modernization
- Sustainability



# EU: How to implement environmental regulations

- Setting standards
- Allowances (command and control)
- Certifications (emission-trade)
- Taxation
- Criminal law

# Economical-ecological dilemmata

- Market failure:
  - Environmental pollution is an externality  
= parties engaged in a trade do not bear the full cost or can display some of the costs on third parties
  - Environmental protection and economic competitiveness
    - Financial burden passed on to some plants (industries)  
(German air pollution laws of 1983)

# The issue of waste management

- Waste as an economic good
  - can be sold / deposited where the costs are low
- Basel-Convention = ban on hazardous waste imports
- Principle: polluter pays
- Principle: to keep waste transport at a minimum

# European Union

- How to implement environmental regulation:

## Soft governance:

- High level of information
- Environmental education
- Action programs
- Loans and financial aid
- Participation of civil society

## EU: Live + -Program

- The EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU and candidate states
- Since 1992:
  - 3.954 projects with 3.1 Billion € aid

# EU: How to enforce environmental standards

- Commission can file a law suit to the European Court
- Directives as direct applicable law in case of non legislation
- Law suits from effected citizens

## EU: Main actors

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of (environmental) Ministers
- European Court
- European Environmental Agency
- Others

## EU: Action Programs = goals

- **First: 1973-1976**
  - reduce – repair – prevent (policy of high chimneys)
- **Second: 1977-1981**
  - Prevention
  - Improvement
- **Third: 1982-1986**
  - Action of source
  - Integration into other policies



- **Fourth: 1987-1992**
  - concentration of third program
- **Fifth: 1993-2000**
  - Cooperation
  - Information
  - Transparency
- **Sixth: 2001-2010**
  - Action in international argumentations
  - Economical instruments
  - Controlling

# EU: Examples of environmental policy measures

- Vehicle Emissions (1970)
- Bathing Water (1976)
- Titanium Dioxide Emissions (1978)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (1985)
- Control of Emissions from large stationary sources

## EU: Examples of environmental policy measures

- Genetically Modified Organisms (1990)
- Urban Waste Water (1991)
- Packaging Waste (1994)
- Protection of the Ozon Layer (1994)
- Air Quality (1996)

## EU: Restrictions towards a effective European env. policy

- Cross-section character of environmental policy
- Influence of pressure groups
- Different degrees of the environmental status within the member states
- Predominance of economic topics
- Multi-Lever-Governance
- Different degrees of economic standards within the member states

- High standard of environmental protection
  - “acquis communautaire”
- Single Market: no room for “eco-dumping”
- Financial aid to new member states
- Front runner thesis
- Pressure on international decision-making
- **But:**
  - Bargaining and in many cases: “lowest common denominator” in environmental protection

# Readings

- Jordan, AJ. And Adelle C. (ed). (2012): Environmental Policy in the European Contexts. Actors and Policy Dynamics (3e.). Earthscan: London and Sterling, VA
- Weale, A. et.al. (2003): Environmental Governance in Europe. An Ever Closer Ecological Union? (3e.). Oxford University Press: Oxford and New York
- <http://en.org/wiki/Environmental-governance>