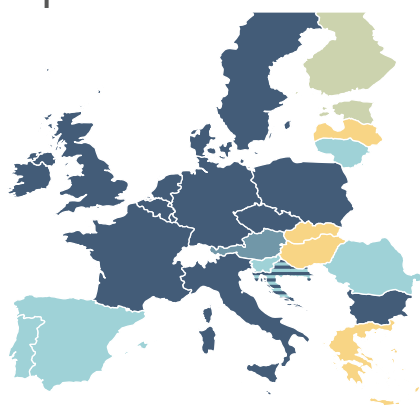


The EU security environment: Challenges and shifts

Over the past few years, the world's commitment to peace and its capacity to deal with evolving security challenges have been put to the test. The outcomes – an increasing number of refugees, an expanding network of terrorist organisations, some countries' high dependency on international aid, and a relatively low level of respect for civil liberties around the world – demonstrate an urgent need for reflection and adaptation.

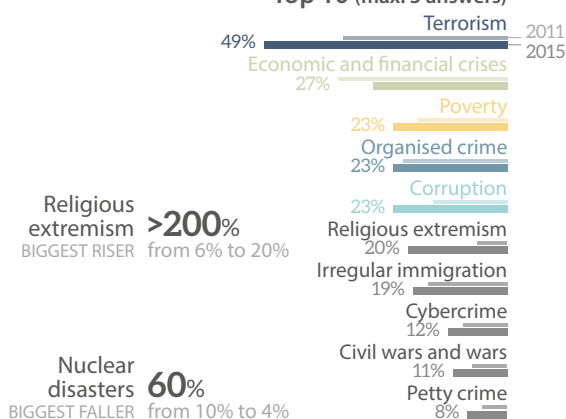
A place for the EU in a changing world



The perception of challenges among EU citizens does not follow any clear pattern. However, terrorism is perceived as the biggest challenge in the majority of Member States, and concern over religious extremism has markedly increased according to Eurobarometer polls from 2011 and 2015.

Most important challenges:

Top 10 (max. 3 answers)



What are Europeans' concerns? (one answer)

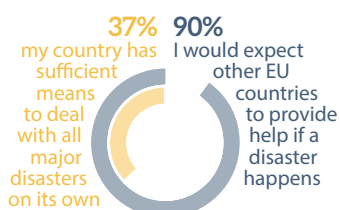
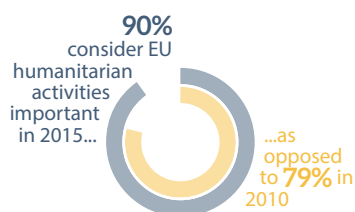


Source: Eurobarometer

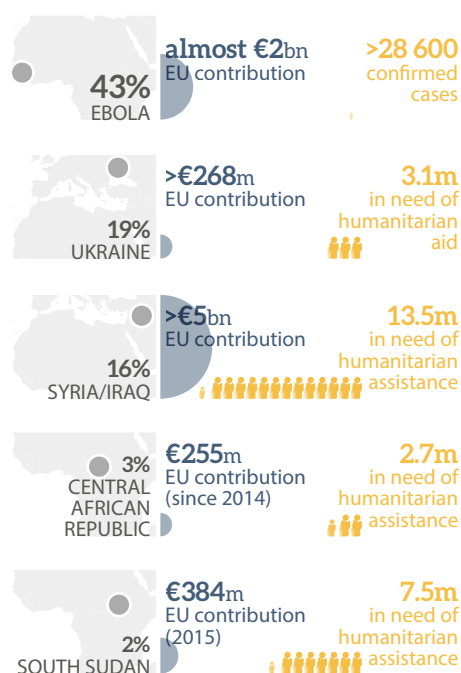
Strong support for EU engagement

Awareness of EU intervention in humanitarian crises does not consistently reflect the amount of money spent in the same vein (see graphic to the right).

Even though only 11% of Europeans see civil wars and wars as the most important challenge for the EU, a significant majority considers EU humanitarian activities important.



In which of the following crises have you been most aware of EU humanitarian intervention?



Source: European Commission

A role for the Parliament?

In addition to its function as co-legislator, the European Parliament is actively involved in promoting EU values and interests through parliamentary diplomacy. The President of the EP regularly attends major international events, and Members of the Parliament act daily on foreign, human rights and security policy issues, mainly through three of its committees and 45 standing delegations.

The EP as an actor on EU security



1

Piracy / Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa hosts some of the world's most fragile and risk-prone countries. Faced with violent extremism, unemployment, and weak democratic governance, the region had been hit with an increase in organised crime and piracy.

While international military cooperation in the region helped to contain piracy, societal resilience and poverty eradication became policy priorities in line with the **comprehensive approach**.

Sources:
EU NAVFOR
International Maritime Bureau
Fragile States Index

State Fragility

(Index score)

Detected acts of piracy

2

Afghanistan

Weak government and security forces, poor economic performance and the fight against insurgency, terrorism and criminal networks have seriously undermined Afghanistan's capability for political and economic transition. The continued support from international donors has brought little change on the ground, partly due to **corruption**.

Sources:
Financial Tracking Service
World Governance Indicators
Global Terrorism Database

Humanitarian aid

Terrorism

3

Mali / Libya

The **cross-border nature** of security threats was confirmed as instability in the wake of the Libyan civil war spilled over to other countries in the region, thereby empowering local terrorist groups and rebels in Northern Mali, Nigeria and Niger.

The lower intensity of the conflict in Libya in 2011 coincides with an increasing number of terrorist attacks in Mali. Porous borders and weak security sectors have altered trafficking dynamics, including in arms, drugs and people.

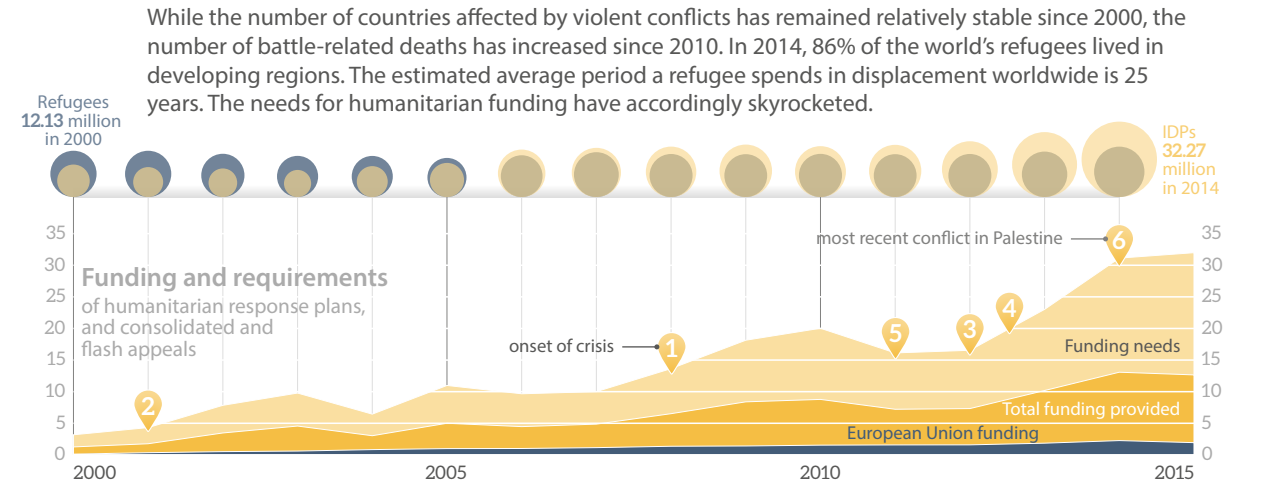
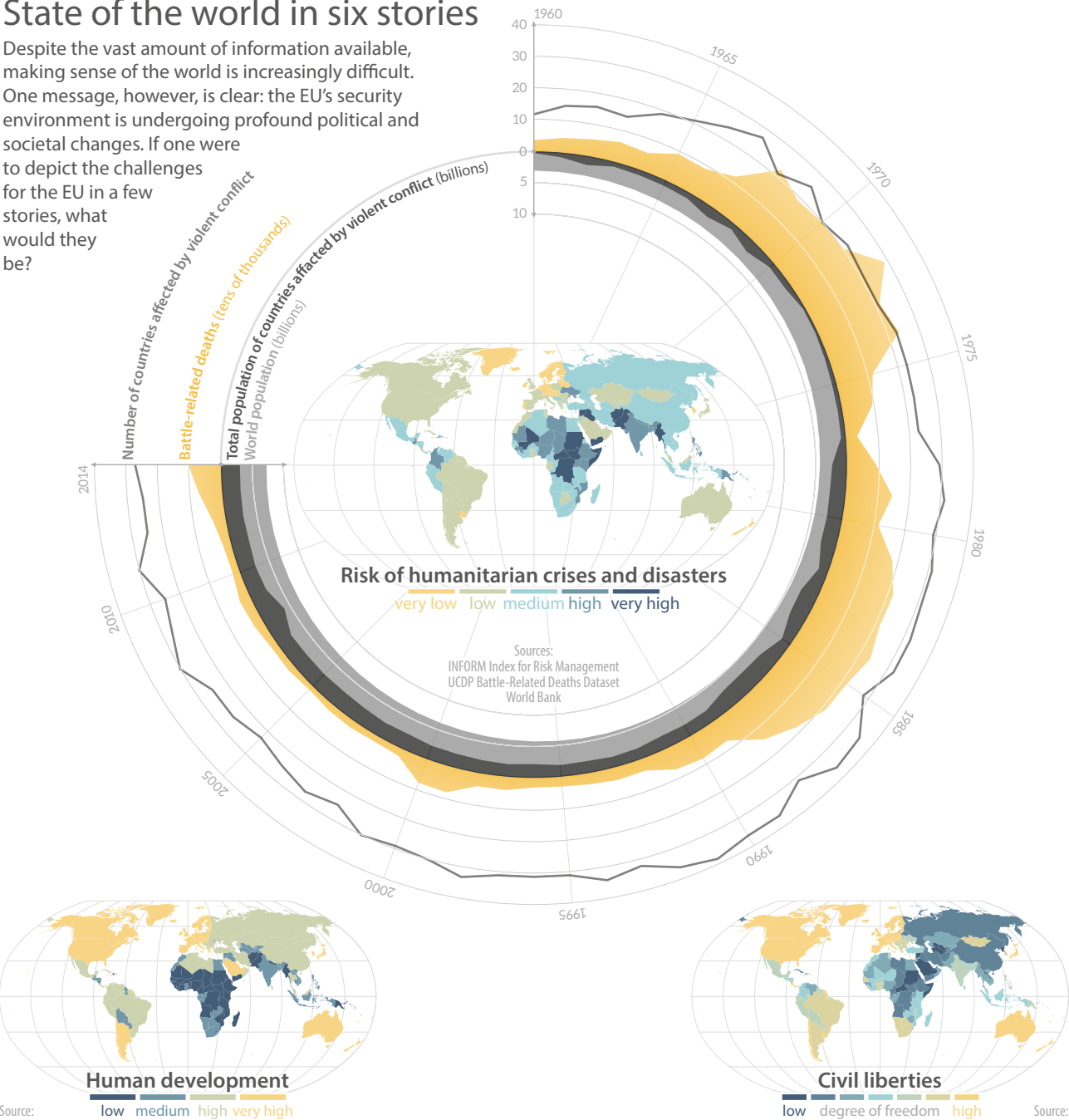
Sources:
Small Arms Survey
Global Terrorism Database

Producer countries of ammunition in the possession of Malian armed groups

Terrorist attacks

State of the world in six stories

Despite the vast amount of information available, making sense of the world is increasingly difficult. One message, however, is clear: the EU's security environment is undergoing profound political and societal changes. If one were to depict the challenges for the EU in a few stories, what would they be?



4

Russia

Russia's growing influence over the EU's eastern neighbourhood is a good illustration of the **power-struggle** dynamics that the EU will need to engage in as it attempts to influence other countries.

The state of trade relations between Russia, the EU and its eastern European partners reflects the political influence that each party enjoys in the region.

Sources:
UN Comtrade Database
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Trade with neighbours

Origins of arms imports of EU Eastern neighbours

5

Syria

Throughout the Syrian civil war, the actions of the Assad regime, **non-state actors**, and the **proxy wars** between big powers have already cost the lives of 470 000 and displaced almost 11 million people.

ISIS's supply chain for the construction of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) spans 50 companies from **20 countries**.

Sources:
UNHCR
Conflict Armament Research
Global Terrorism Database

Displacement

Of a total 8 754 terrorist attacks in Syria and Iraq in 2014, 3 090 were carried out using IEDs.

6

Palestine

The situation in Palestine is a ticking time bomb. The **protracted nature** of this more than half a century long crisis has resulted in worryingly low societal resilience: almost 2.3 million Palestinians are in need of assistance, about 27% of all households face food insecurity, while access to fresh water and other resources has become difficult.

Sources:
World Bank
UNRWA

Aid dependency

Palestinian refugees

Preparing for a post-Western world

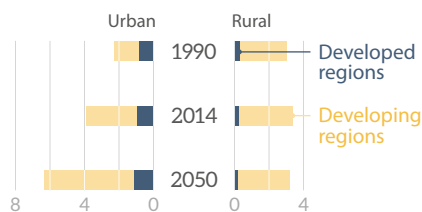
It is impossible to ignore the demographic, societal and technological changes that will influence Europe's place in the world. With the global centre of gravity fragmenting and shifting towards Africa and Asia, the EU could go into a permanent 'catch up' mode; or it can change gear and try to get ahead of the curve.

Demography

The global population will grow to 9.6 billion by 2050, representing an increase of four times the current size of the EU's population.

Population projections

(billion people)



Religion

By 2050, for the first time in history, forecasts depict near parity between Muslims and Christians. While the world's Muslim population will increase by 73%, Christians' growth rate is expected to come in at 35%. India will surpass Indonesia as the world's largest Muslim country.

40% of the world's Christians will live in sub-Saharan Africa. In Europe, the Christian population is expected to shrink by about 100 million people while nearly a quarter of Europeans (23%) are expected to have no religious affiliation.

The world's Muslim population will make up **29.7%** of the world population by 2050.

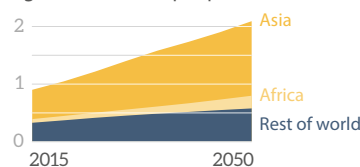
Much of this growth is expected to take place in the cities of developing countries: India, China and Nigeria alone will add about 37% of the world's new urban population.

By 2050, the world is projected to have 40 megacities, with about 85% of them located in the global South. London and Paris will be the only EU cities on that list.

Whether developed or developing, all countries will need to face the challenge of an ageing populace. By 2050, the overall ratio of old to young is projected to double from current levels, with almost half of Europe over 50 as early as 2020.

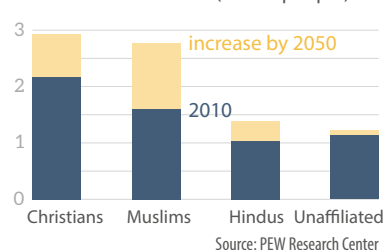
Ageing populations

aged 60+, (billion people)



Religious populations

increase 2010/2050 (billion people)



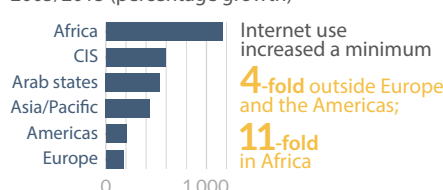
Technology

By 2025, 1.3 billion additional internet users will come online worldwide, bringing the total to 4.7 billion netizens, of which 75% will come from developing countries. As much as 80% of internet connections might originate from mobile devices.

Sources: Microsoft, GMAS, ITU

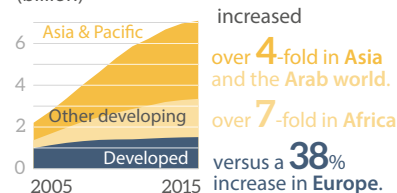
Individuals using the internet

2005/2015 (percentage growth)



Mobile phone subscriptions

(billion)



Climate

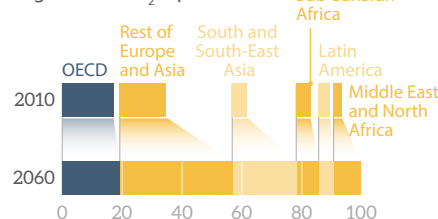
Limited access to food, fresh water or energy can be both a result and one of the main drivers of instability. These conditions can be aggravated by extreme climate conditions. It is anticipated that by 2050 hot days will occur five times more often than was the case at the beginning of the 2000s in the Middle East and North Africa.

Extreme temperatures in combination with increasing air pollution from windblown desert dust will render living conditions in parts of the region intolerable, and may lead to a 'climate exodus', migration and social unrest.

Source: OECD

Kyoto gas emissions

Gigatonnes CO₂ equivalent



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eprs@ep.europa.eu – <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) – <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) – <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)