

ESPON Seminar
Prague, 3-4 June 2009

Determining territorial impact of EU policy in the Netherlands



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Overview

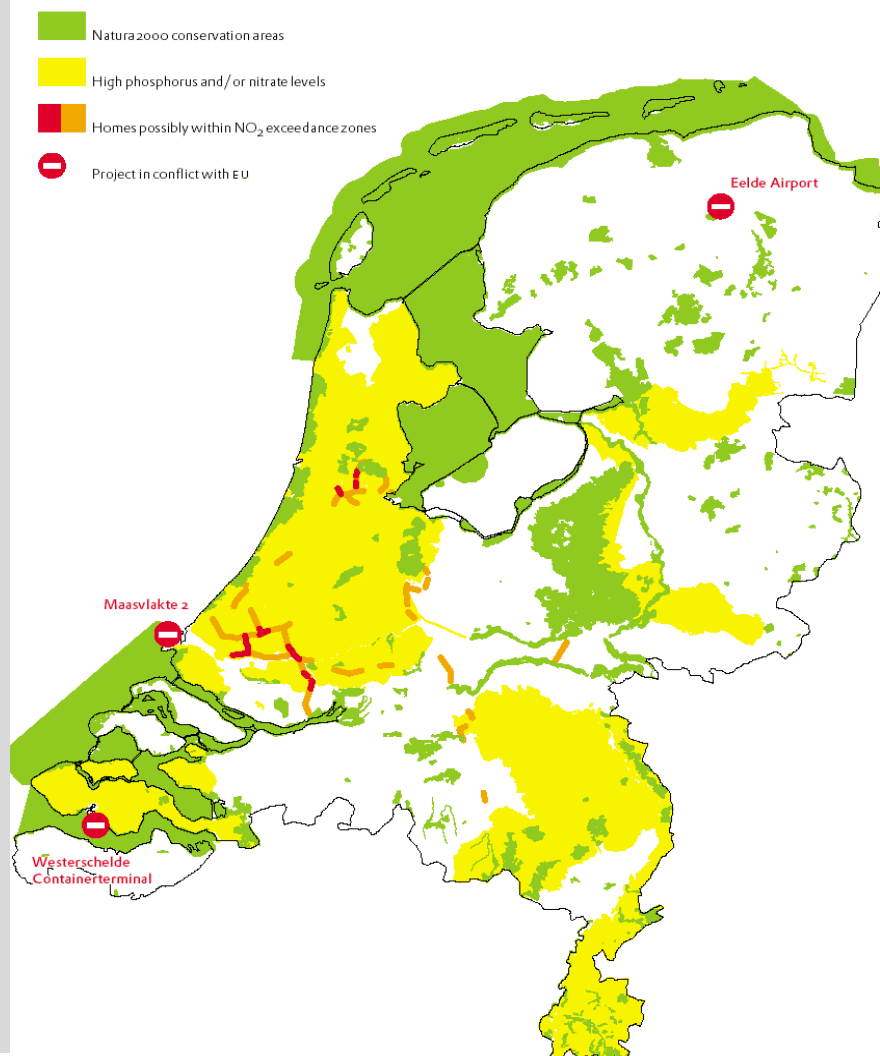
- **Unseen Europe (2004) - survey of EU policy impacts in the Netherlands**
- **Quick Scan - signaling of potential impact (Ministry of VROM)**
- **PBL TIA Strategy (2008) - methodology for TIA**
- **TIA Territorial Cohesion (2009) - first application of PBL TIA strategy**

Unseen Europe (2004): overview of impact of EU sectoral policies in the Netherlands



Findings: EU restrictions

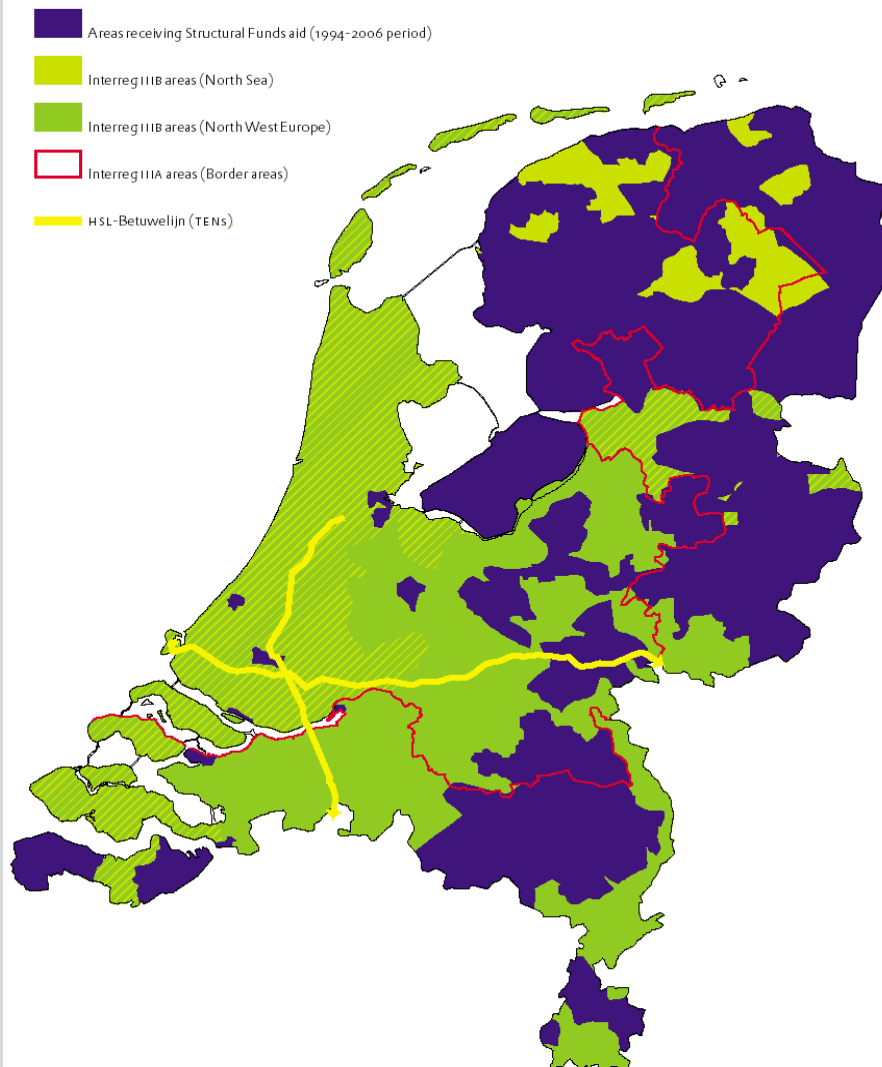
Figure 22. Spatial impacts of EU restrictions in the Netherlands



- **Competition**
 - Liberalization of transport and energy markets can have indirect spatial effects, and rules on state aid, taxation and public procurement can hinder implementation. Retail/border
- **Environment**
 - Many direct spatial effects, such as protection of habitat areas, and limitations on new development as a result of air and water quality norms.
- **Water**
 - Strict water quality standards (framework directive water) can drive away agriculture. Dutch may find themselves asking for relaxation.

Findings: EU investments

Spatial impacts of EU investments in the Netherlands



•Regional policy

- Many projects subsidized by EU (business parks, infrastructure) but cause-effect relationship hard to establish (additionality). Especially if goals converge.

•Transport

- HSL/Betuwelijn are TENs, but EU financing less than 5%. Future projects abroad may have more significance for the Netherlands (distribution companies).

•Agriculture

- The kinds of crops grown was in part determined by CAP, and new reforms will greatly affect Dutch landscape.

Quick Scan

- **Identification of policies with potential territorial impact (short list)**
- **Coordination with other Ministries**
- **Coordination with other levels of government**
- **Product: rough indication of urgency/severity of proposal, possible request for more detailed TIA**

NEAA TIA Strategy

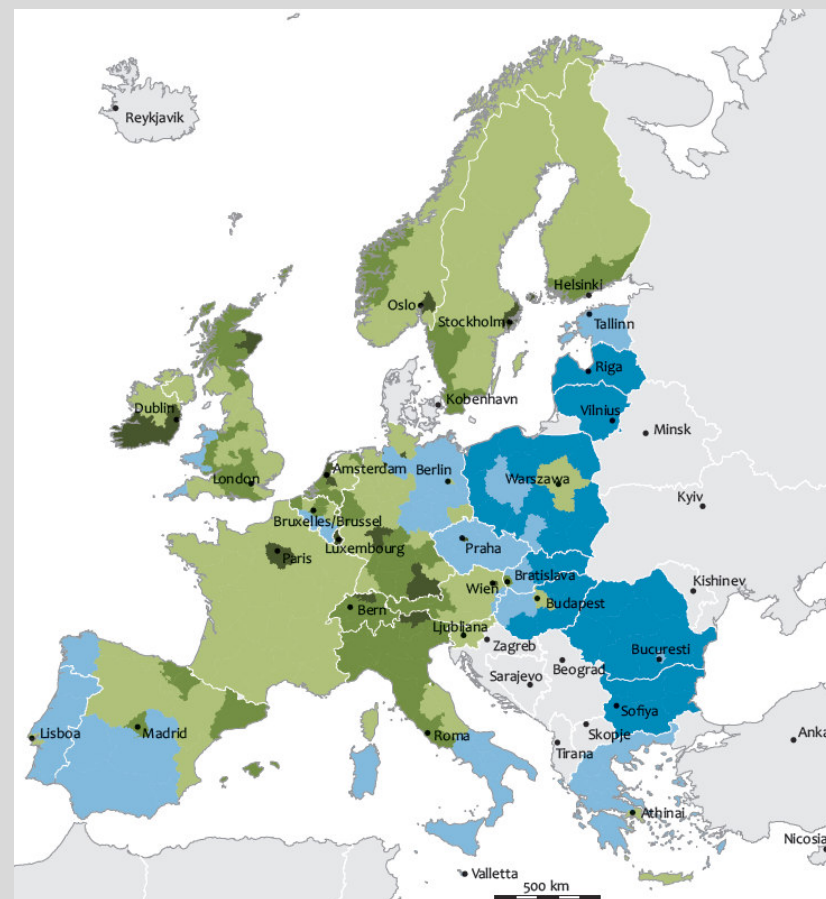
- **Timing in policy process essential**
 - **Expert phase: very general**
 - **Commission phase: more detailed, scenarios**
 - **Council/EP phase: detailed analyses of alternatives**
- **Consultation with policymakers about ‘critical impacts’**
- **Territorial Cohesion, Climate & Energy Package**

TIA Territorial Cohesion

- **Expert phase - Commission phase**
- **Broad/general approach**
- **Scenarios**

interpretation 1

- **Status**
 - Philosophy: ESM
 - Proponents: peripheral/lagging
 - Probability: high
- **Problem definition**
 - Large GDP/capita disparities
 - Clear territorial distribution of inequality
 - Conflicts with EU Treaty of socioeconomic cohesion

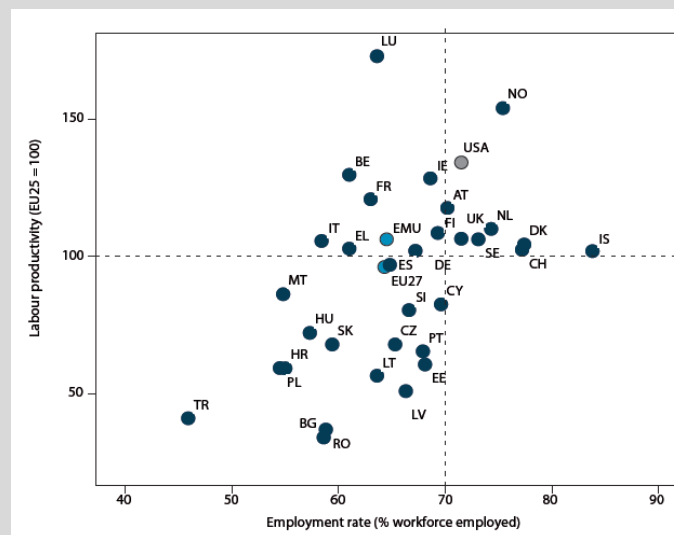


GDP per capita 2006

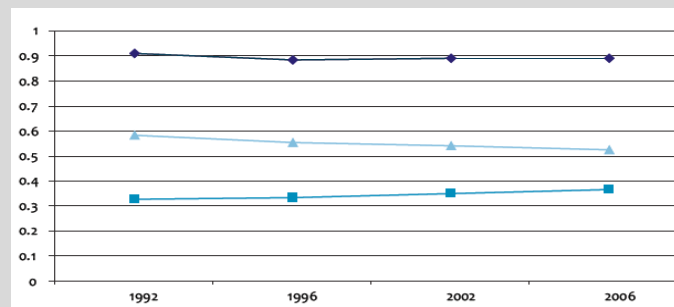
interpretation 2

- **Status**
 - Philosophy: Lisbon Strategy
 - Proponents: pentagon/north
 - Probability: average

- **Problem definition**
 - Global competitiveness of EU is uncertain
 - Agglomeration and specialisation should be facilitated
 - Territorial capital should be exploited



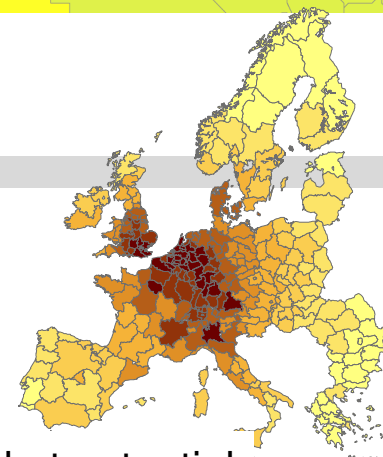
Lisbon Strategy Score



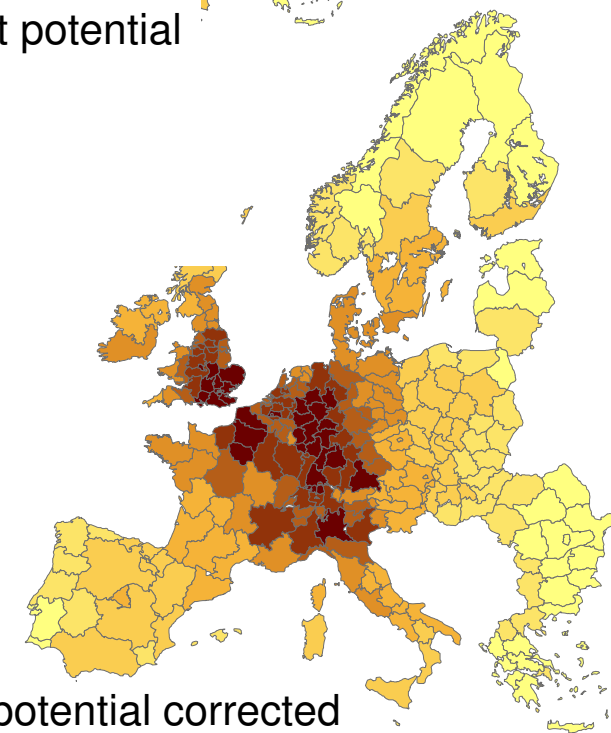
Specialization

interpretation 2

- **Conclusions/comments**
 - **Benelux very well located in EU in terms of market potential**
 - **Benelux has less market potential than its neighbours if EU trading is controlled for, due to its focus on the EU market**
- **Recommendation**
 - **If economic potential gains popularity as a means by which to measure TC, ensure that favourable indicators are used**



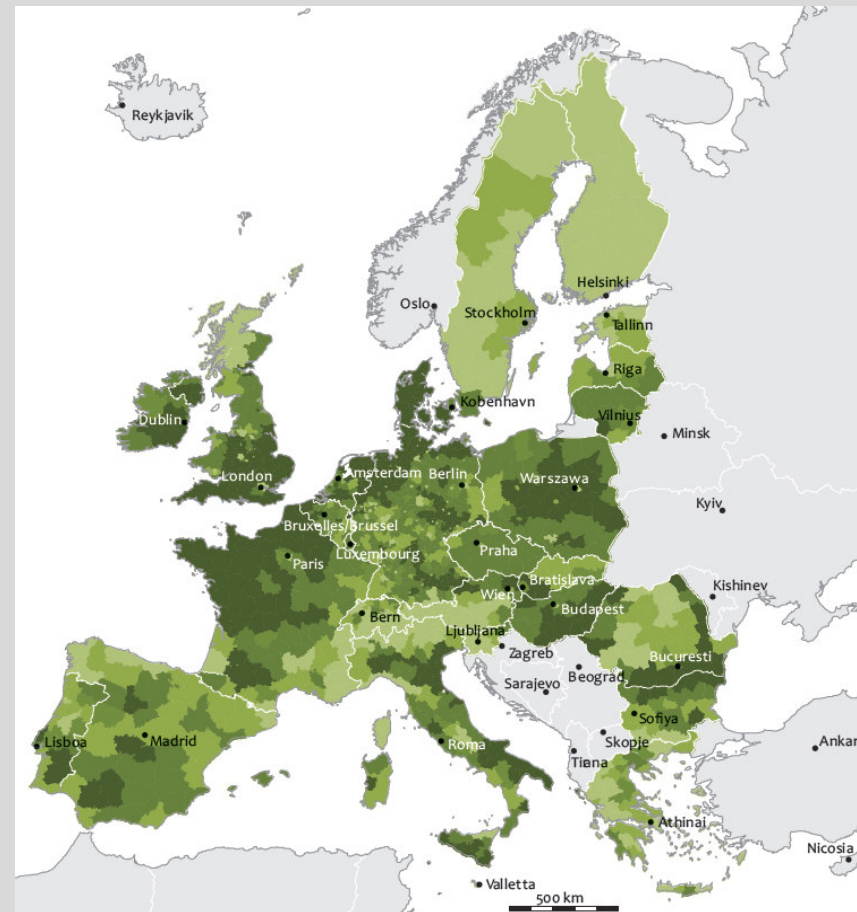
Market potential



Market potential corrected for EU trade

interpretation 3

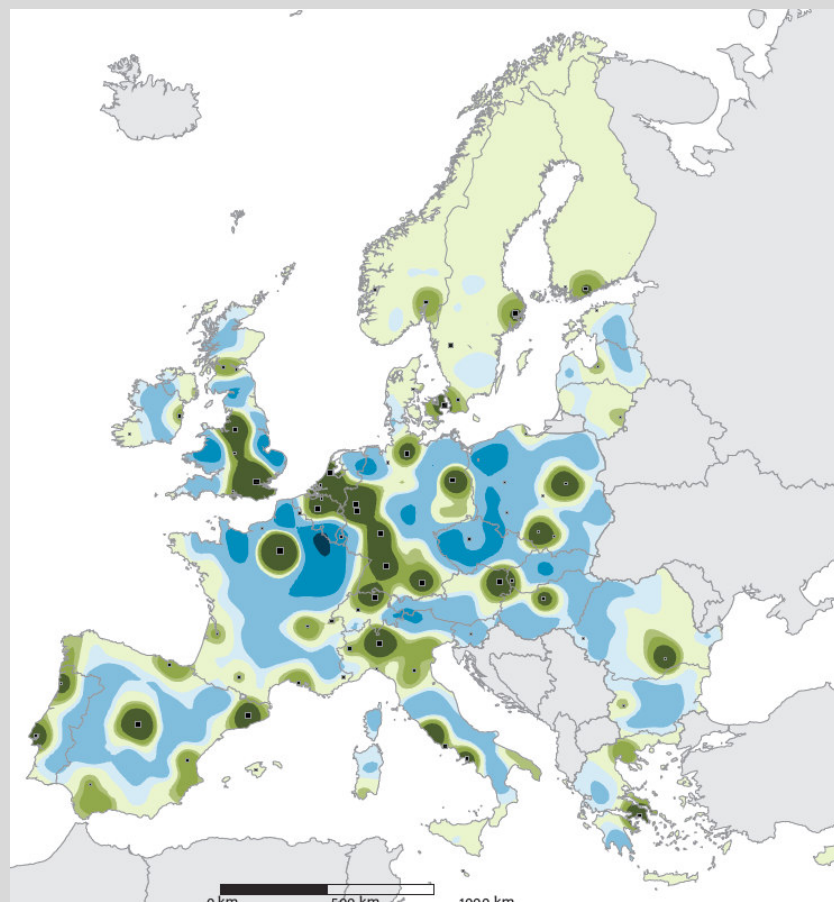
- **Status**
 - **Philosophy: rural vitality**
 - **Proponents: France/DG Agri**
 - **Probability: increasing**
- **Problem definition**
 - **Population loss and ageing**
 - **Agricultural marginalization**
 - **Climate change**
 - **Low service levels in rural areas**



Agricultural function / ha

interpretation 4

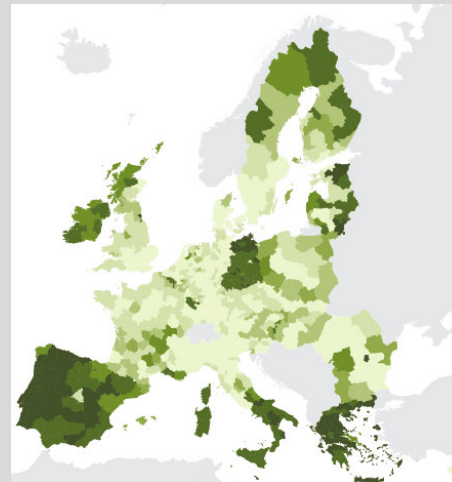
- **Status**
 - Philosophy: ESDP/EEA
 - Proponents: DG Env
 - Probability: low
- **Problem definition**
 - Increasing polarization in EU27 (overpressure and underpressure)
 - Urban segregation and poverty
 - Urban sprawl



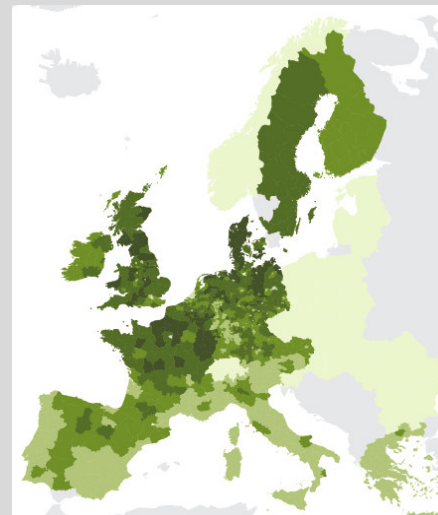
High and low pressure areas in EU

interpretation 5

- **Status**
 - Philosophy: coordination
 - Proponents: regions, NL
 - Probability: average
- **Problem definition**
 - EU sectoral policy is not well coordinated geographically
 - Integrated assessments in planning complicated by EU



Regional
policy



CAP

Overview of interpretations/impacts

- **Interpretation 1: cohesion**
 - **Little impact: does conflict with national policy (some opportunities)**
- **Interpretation 2: competitiveness**
 - **Little impact: mind the criteria (NL not always the best)**
- **Interpretation 3: rural areas**
 - **Little impact: mind the criteria (not always relevant)**
- **Interpretation 4: planning**
 - **Little impact: mind the position of NL (not always the best)**
- **Interpretation 5: coordination**
 - **Anti-impact: TC opportunity to deal with side-effects of EU policy**