

What do you think of the EU?

**A survey of public opinion
and elites in South Africa**

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Structure of the presentation

- Present the sample
- Provide an overview of surveys' results
- Discuss the findings concerning two special issues (i.e. the enlargement and the euro)
- Present a comparative analysis of the EU and other new actors
- Conclusions and recommendations

Elites

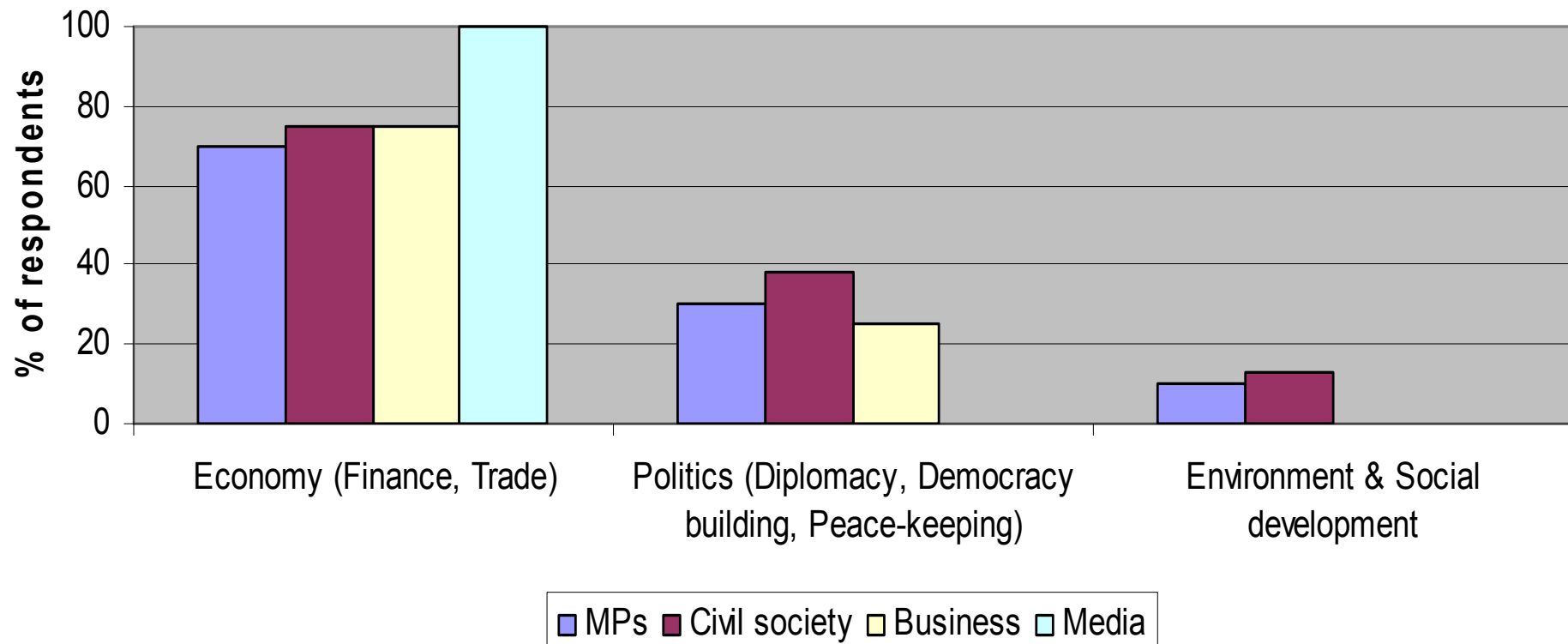
- **Members of Parliament (10):**
 - Proportional representation; leaders or foreign affairs spokesperson
- **Business (8):**
 - Directors of chambers of commerce, professional associations, main banks and investment groups
- **Civil society (8):**
 - Trade unions, church groups and main NGOs
- **Media (6):**
 - Main TVs and newspapers (in 3 languages)

Public opinion

- 400 respondents
- Places: JHB, Durban and Cape Town
- 50% men and 50% women
- Ethnicity: 56% black, 15% coloured, 9% Indian/Asian, 20% white.

EU leading... in what sector? (e)

Leader in ...?



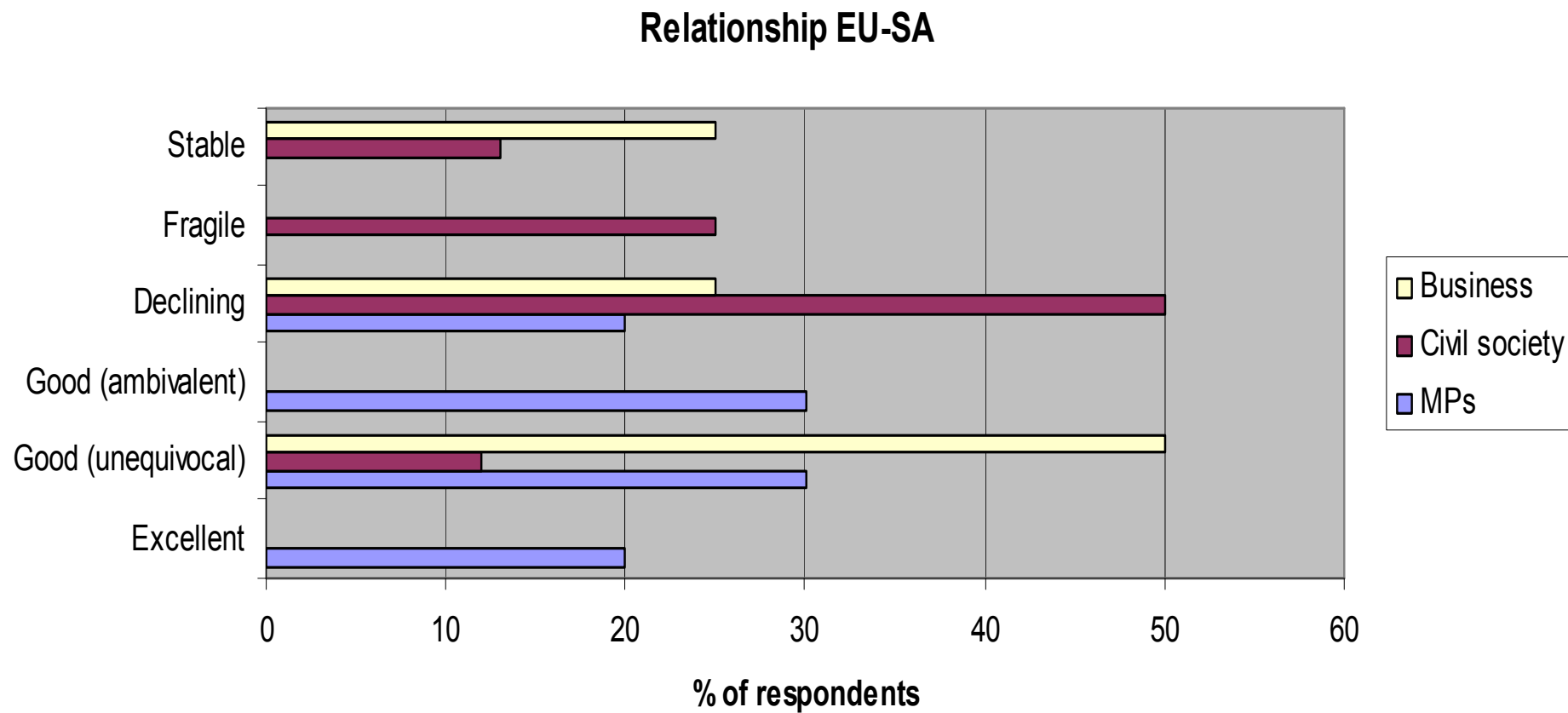
EU political power? Some quotes

*The short answer would be: **the EU is less than the sum of its parts.** It is not able to put forward a global agenda. At the same time, the answer to this question very much depends on the governments of the day. For instance, imagine you had Thatcher, Aznar and Berlusconi in power at the same time. As a consequence you would have a much weaker EU. One cannot blame the EU for what the leaders of its governments do.....*

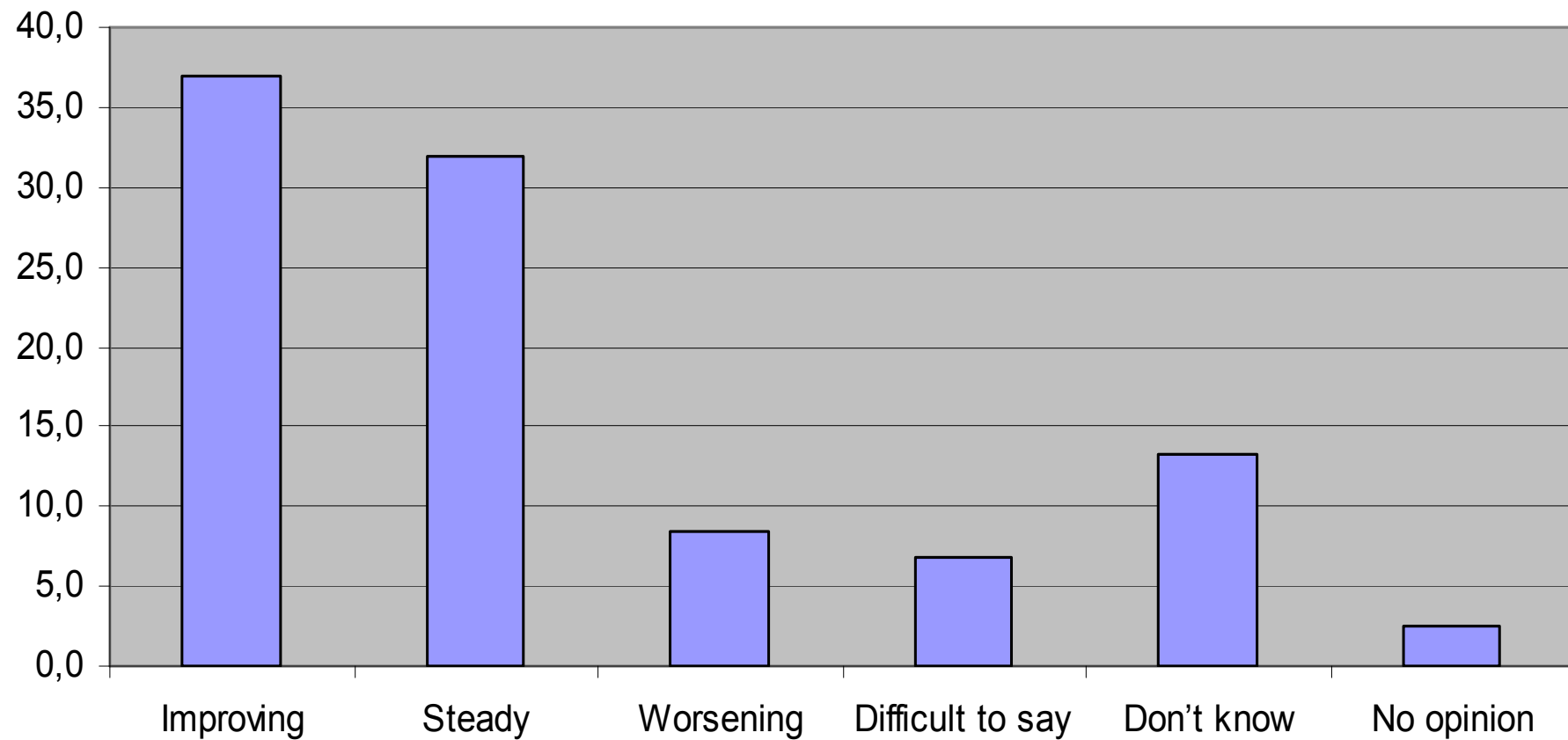
*...In the current situation, **I think that President Bush made the EU look much better than it actually is!***

*Kumi Naidoo,
Head of the *Global Call to Action Against Poverty**

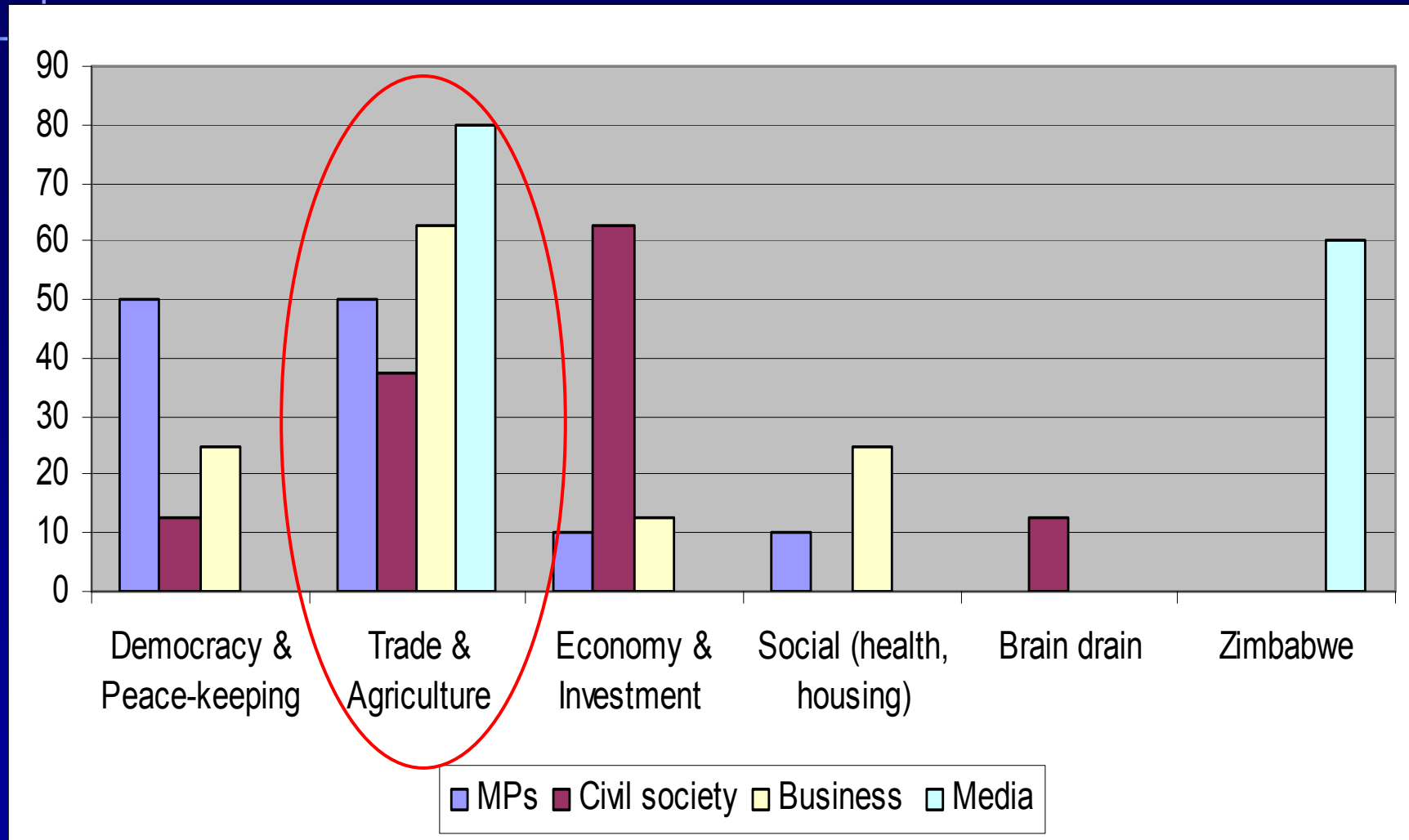
Your opinion of the EU-SA relationship *(e)*



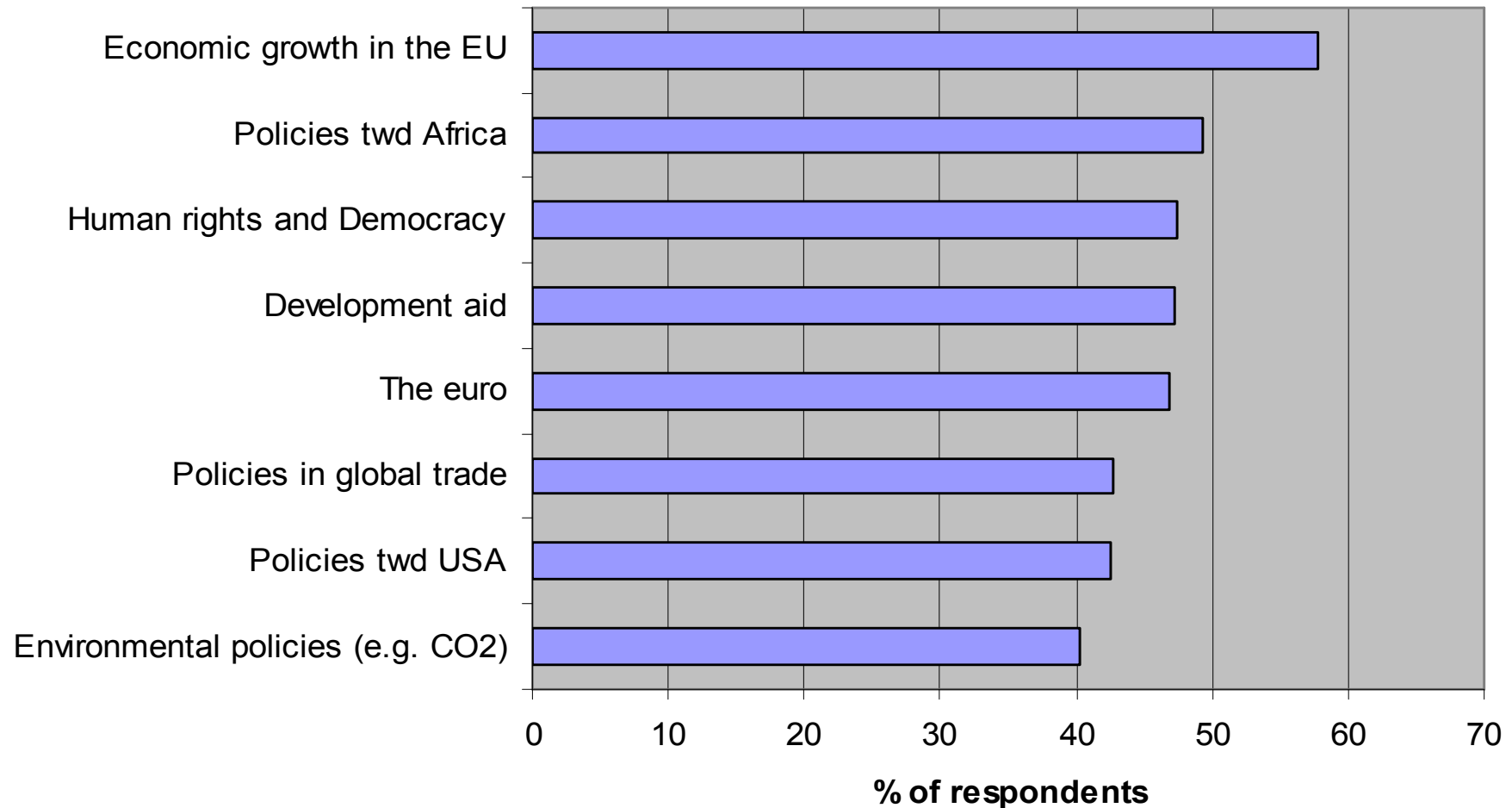
Your opinion of the EU-SA relationship (*p*)



EU impact on SA? (e)

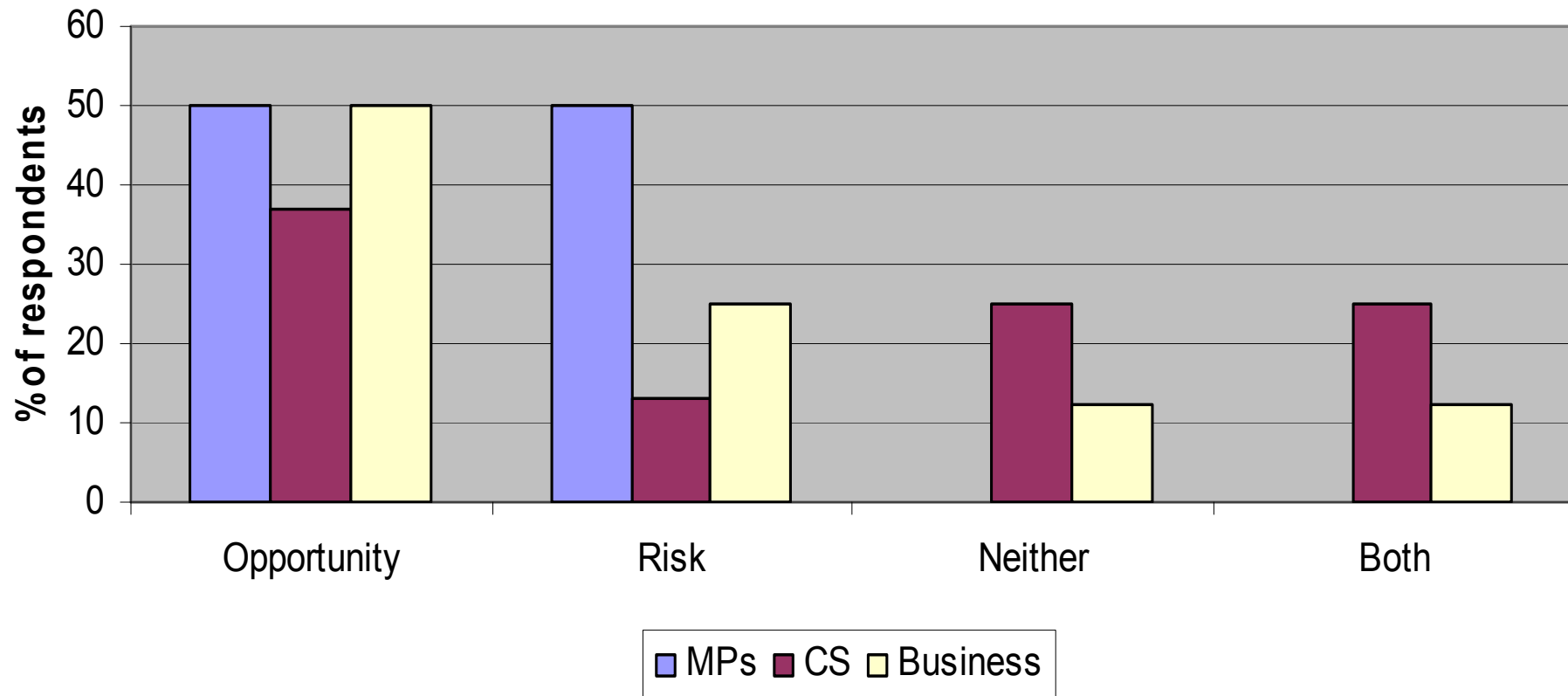


EU policies or sectors with the most impact on SA (p)



Do you see the EU enlargement as an opportunity or a risk for SA?

Opinion of EU enlargement



Enlargement

- Opportunity

- A larger market for SA goods (business, some opposition MPs)
- It de-emphasizes the 'colonial factor' (conservative MPs)

- Risk

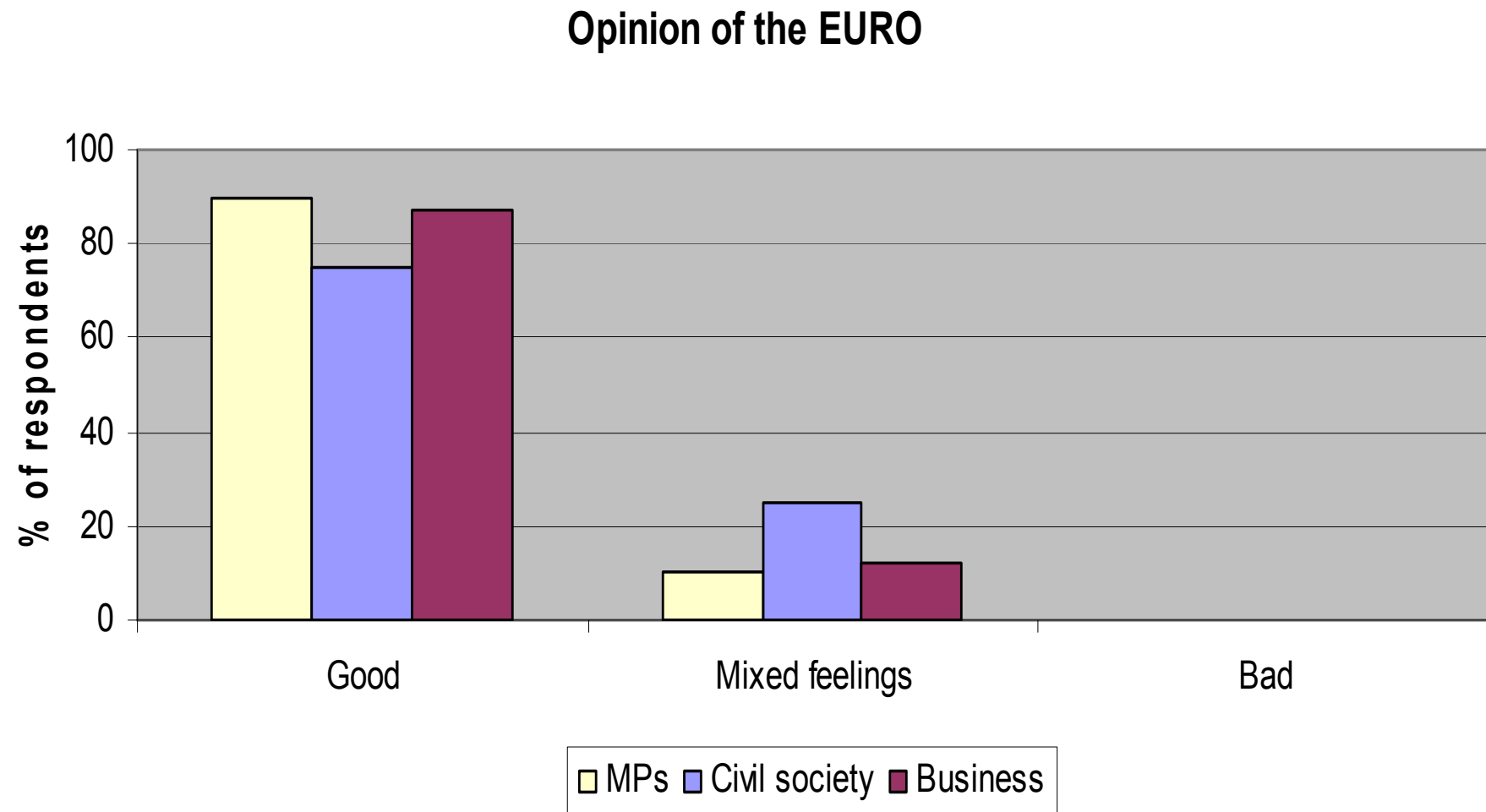
- Africa off the radar screen (civil society, leftist MPs, media)
- Affects current arrangements

Enlargement. Some quotes

- *The TDCA in some areas became completely irrelevant. Some of the concessions we managed to get in 2000 have become irrelevant with the enlargement. For instance, we saw that the new countries have got a competitive advantage vis-à-vis South Africa in areas which were not seen as vulnerable when we signed the agreement with the traditional EU countries.*

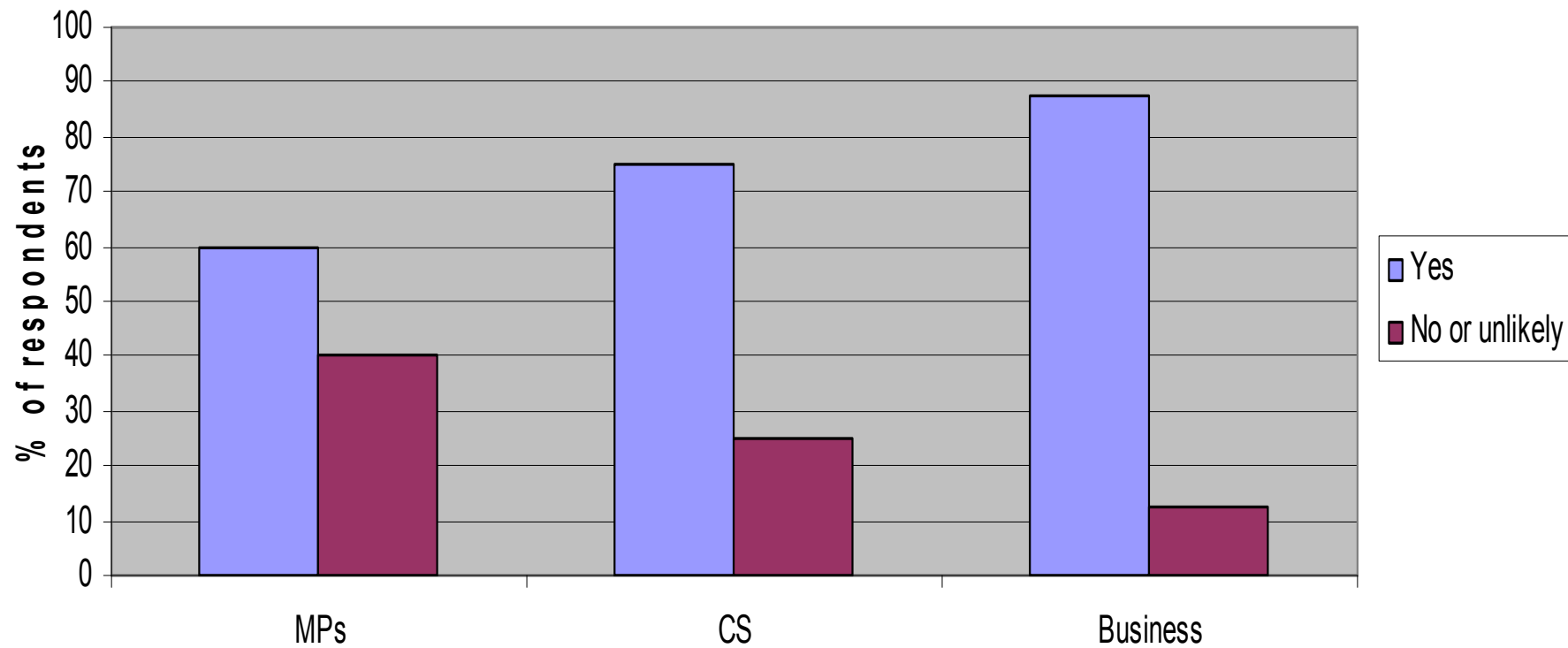
Catherine Grant, Business Unity South Africa

SA views on the EURO



EURO vs. US \$

Will the Euro become more important than the USD?



Where SA gets information about the EU

- Elites:
 - (Foreign) Newspapers (e.g. The Economist)
 - Internet
- Public opinion
 - TV news and programmes
 - Newspapers
 - Radio

What (might) explain favourable attitudes twd the EU?

	Standardized β	Significance
<i>Gender (f,m)</i>	- ,550	, 035
<i>Level of education</i>	,447	,006
<i>Income</i>	-,206	,034

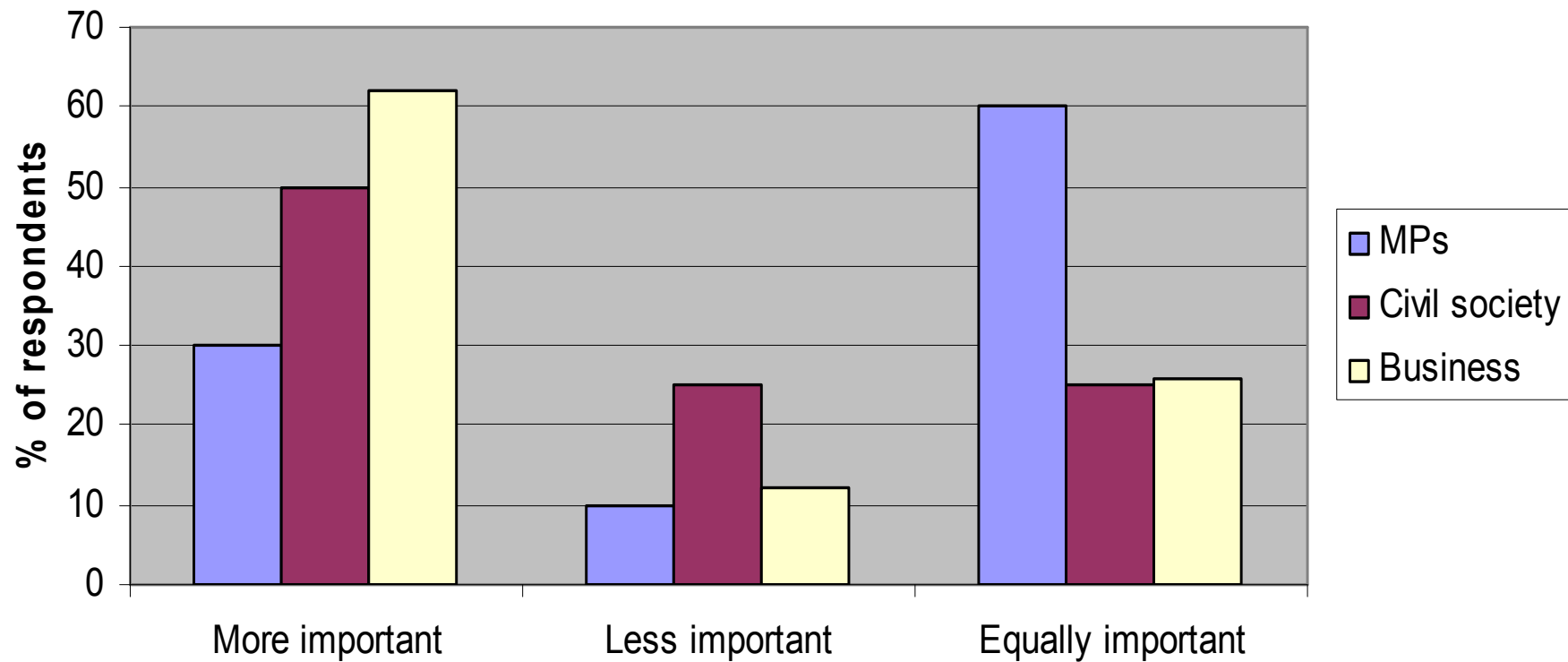
Logistic regression model; selected variables (ENTER)

A comparative overview

The EU vs. new powers

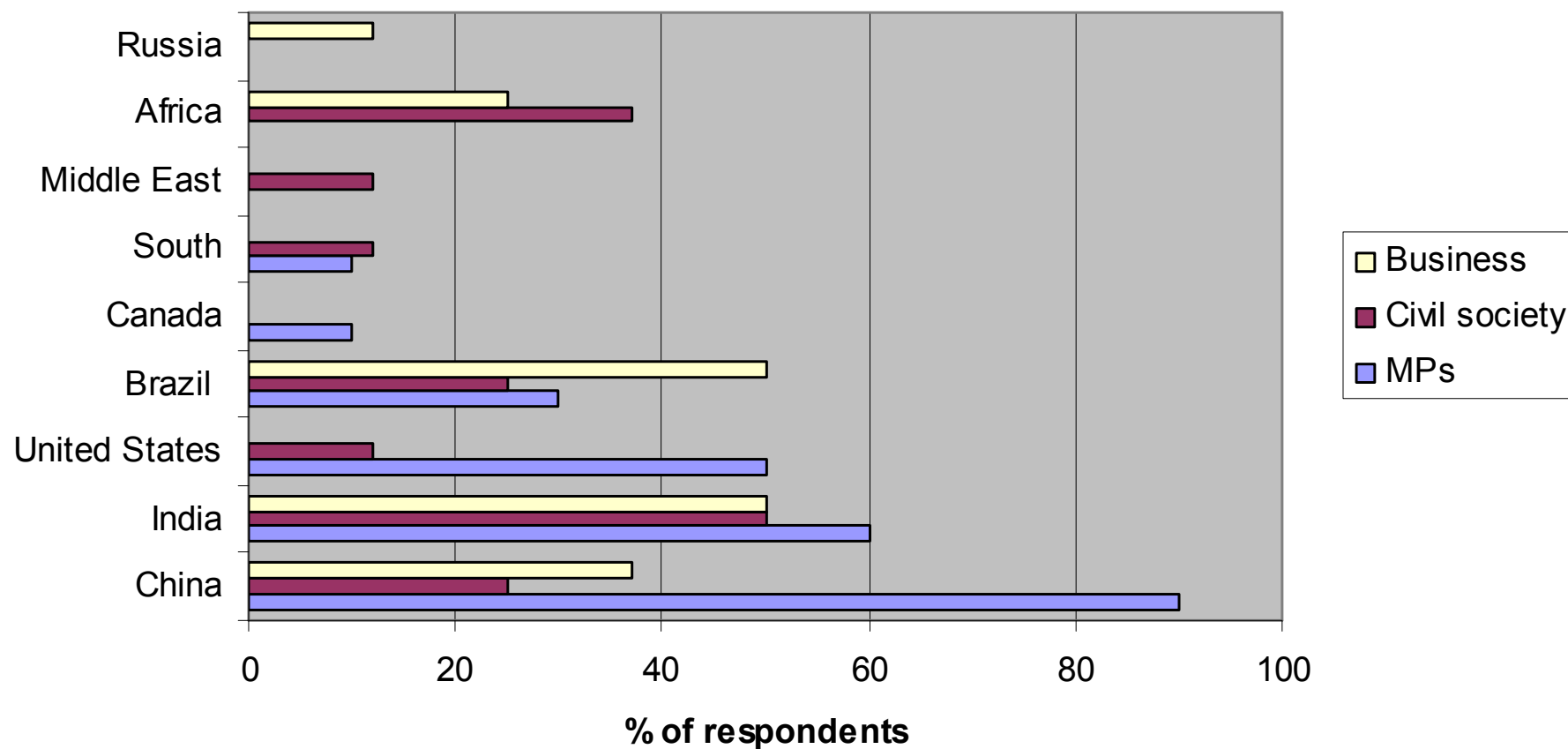
Is the EU more important than other regions? (e)

EU vs. other regions

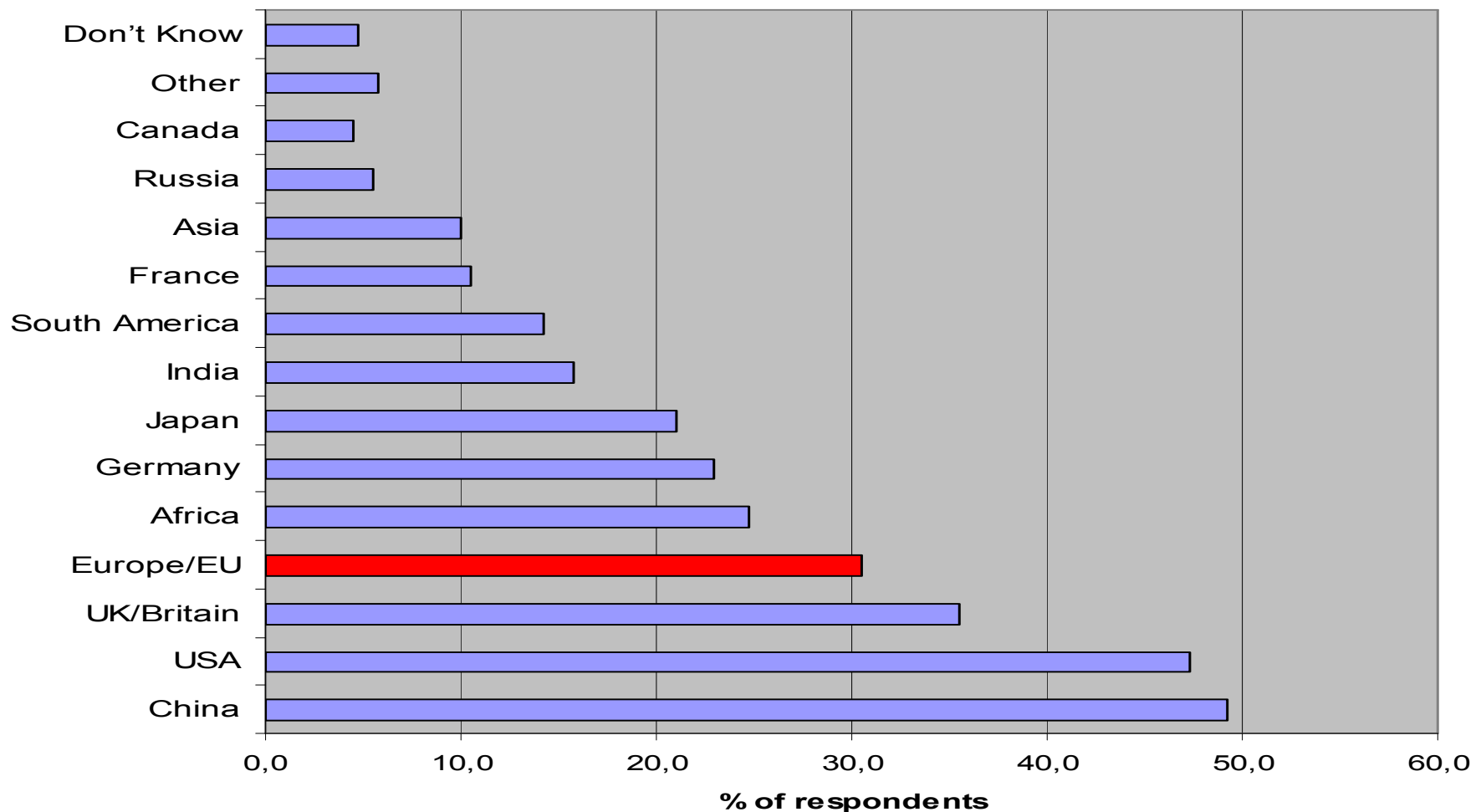


What other regions are becoming more important? (e)

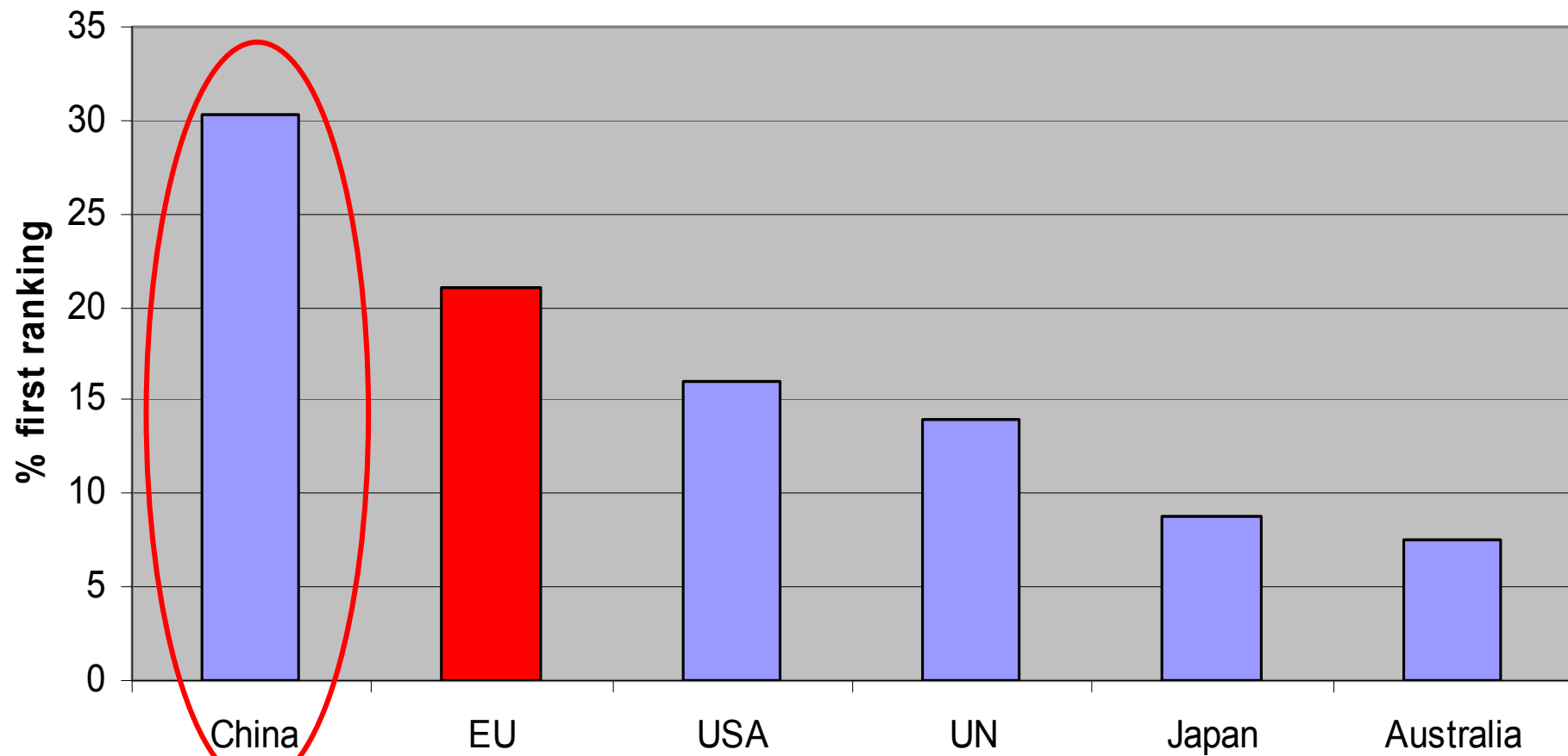
What other regions?



Which countries/regions are most important to SA? (p)



Most important developmental actor for SA? (*p*)



New regions? Some quotes

*After the Cold War, Africa **fell off** the international agenda. It was only with the need for absolute demand for raw materials and energy , and because of the role of India and China in Africa that suddenly we have become more important to the EU.*

PJ Botha, Emerging Market Focus

*China has got more of a status in Africa than the EU. Simply because its history with African people **is not connected with colonialism** or neo-colonialism. They are investing a lot in Africa and their conditions are very different. They are saying: We are doing investment without questioning the integrity of your political systems.*

N. Dollie, Mail and Guardian

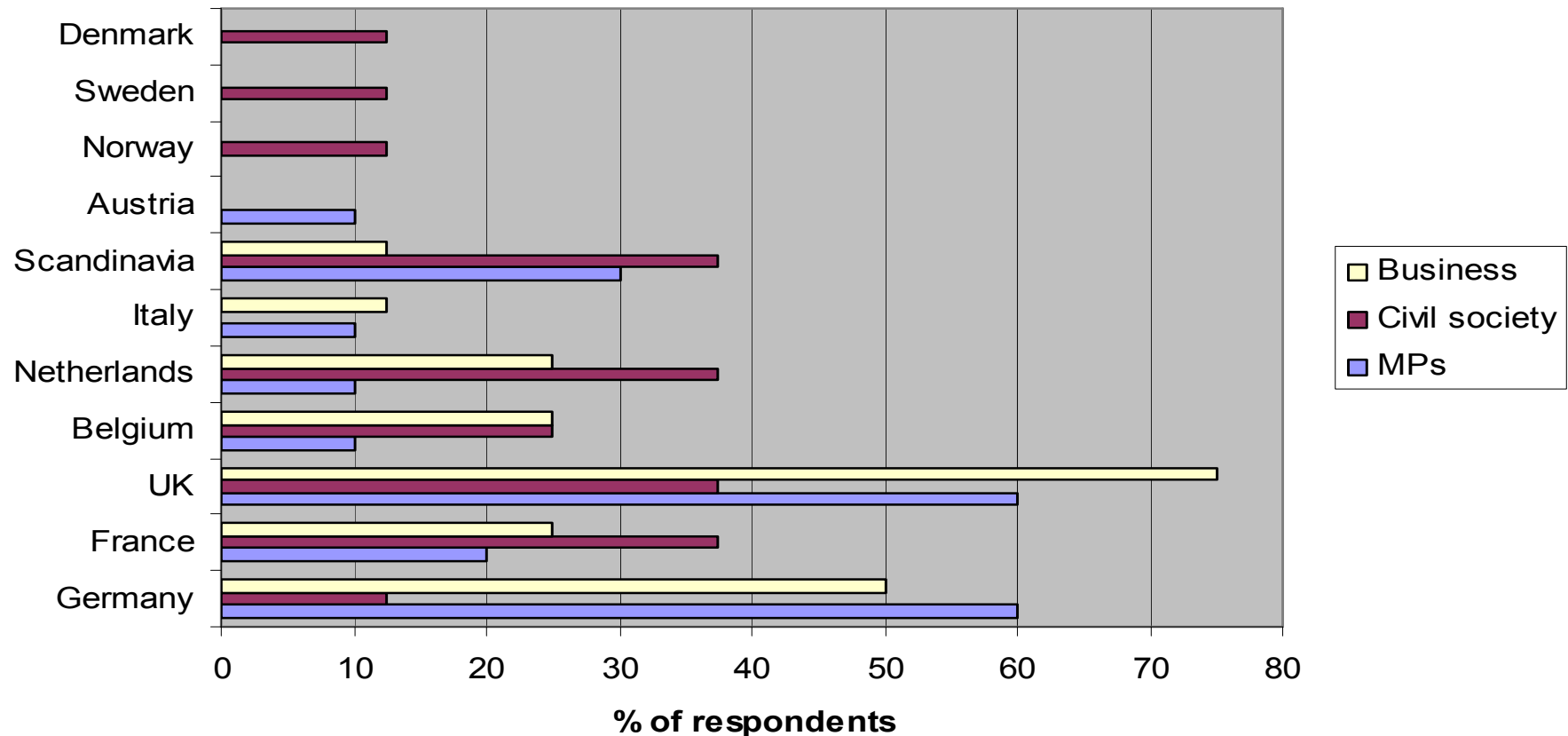
Conclusions & recommendations

- By and large, the EU still enjoys a favourable disposition across elites and public opinion in SA
- Yet, its relevance is mainly due to economic factors (especially, trade and investment) and the EPA negotiations have revealed the declining trend
- ***Turning point.*** SA (and Africa) are now able to interact with the EU as 'peers'
- The EU's credibility in the future will be directly dependent on its capacity to contribute to sustainable development and social justice in SA (and Africa)
- In doing so, the EU might contribute to erasing the acrimony of colonialism while establishing itself as a credible and transparent partner
- A more mature relationship with the EU is likely to help SA (and Africa) exploit the advantages of the rise of China and India while maintaining its own overall agenda for the future of the continent.

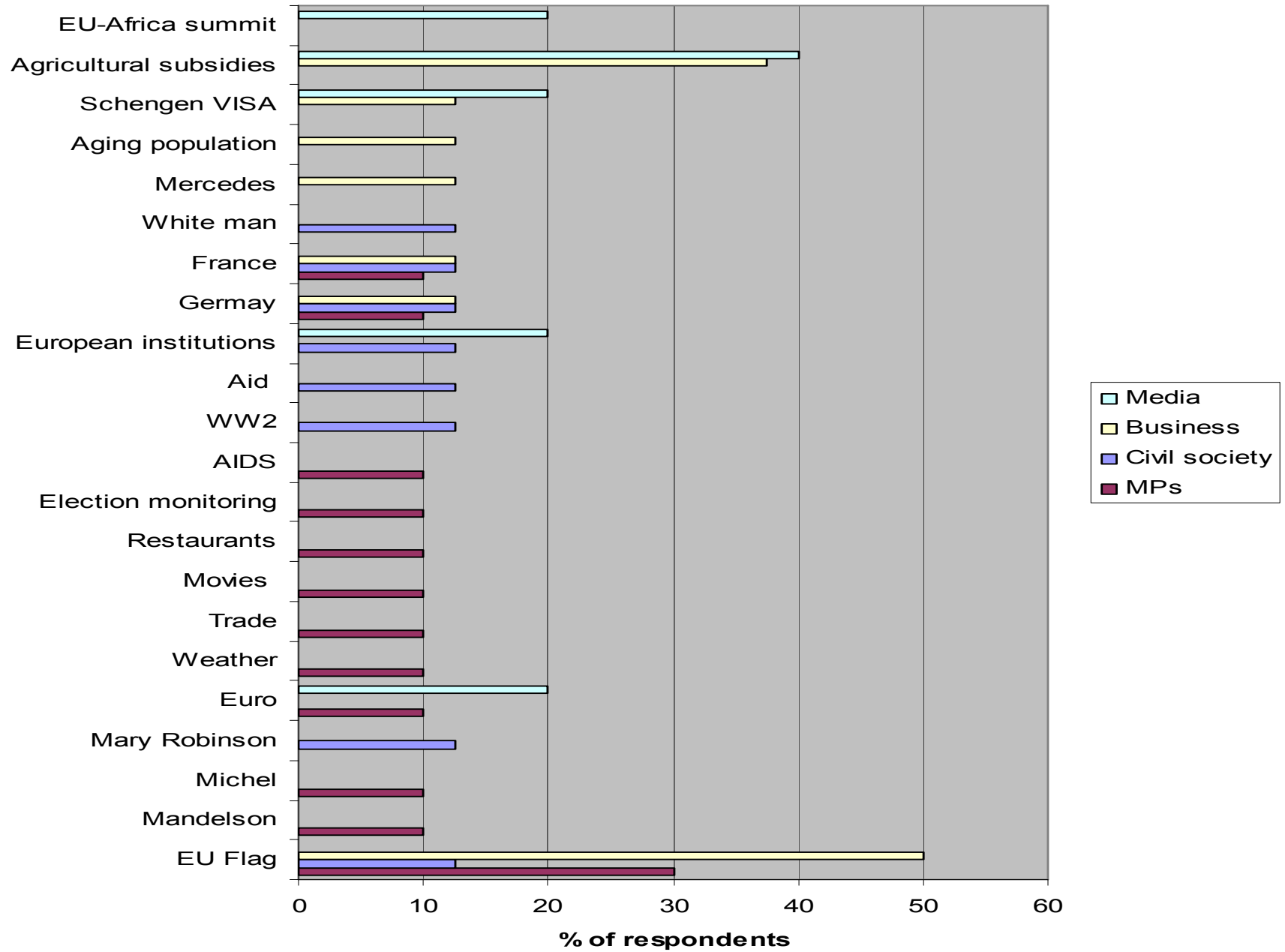
- Thank you -

EU countries they relate more closely with..

Most 'perceived' countries



IMAGES - Visual representations



IMAGES - Symbolic representations

