# The Future of Europe

Andrew Kenningham Capital Economics May 2025



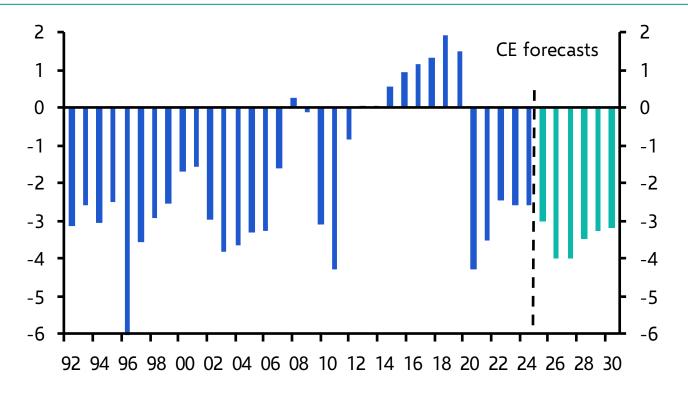


# **Agenda**

- Defence spending and fiscal stimulus.
- Public finances: systemic and national risks.
- Europe's place in the world; tariffs and trade.

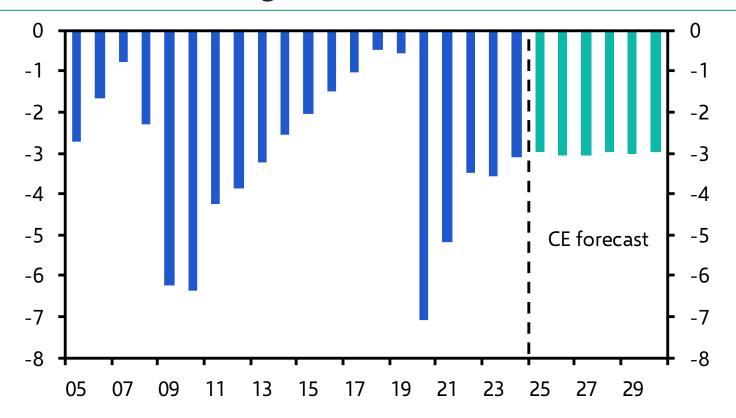


### **Germany General Budget Balance (% of GDP)**



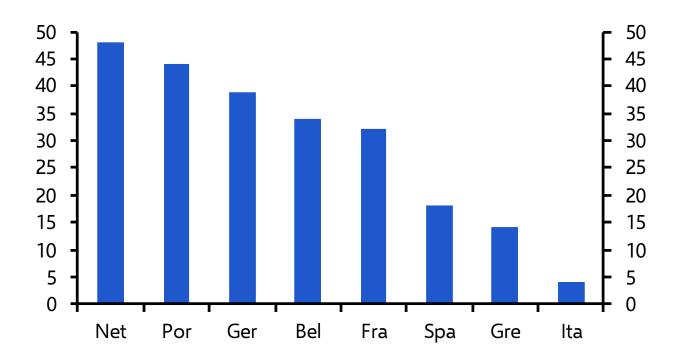


# **Euro-zone General Budget Balance (% of GDP)**



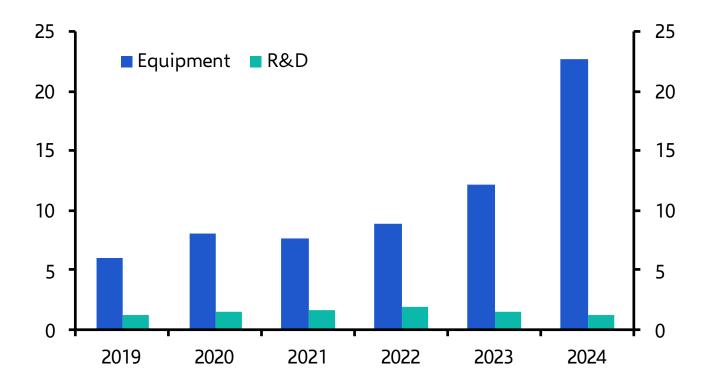


# "My country should spend more on defence" (Net %, 2024)



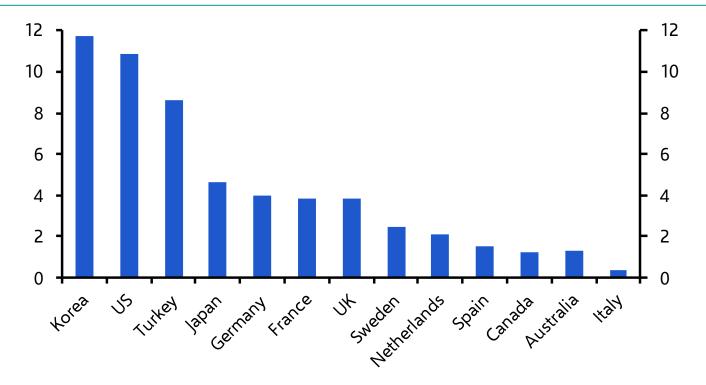


# **Germany Defence Spending (€bn)**



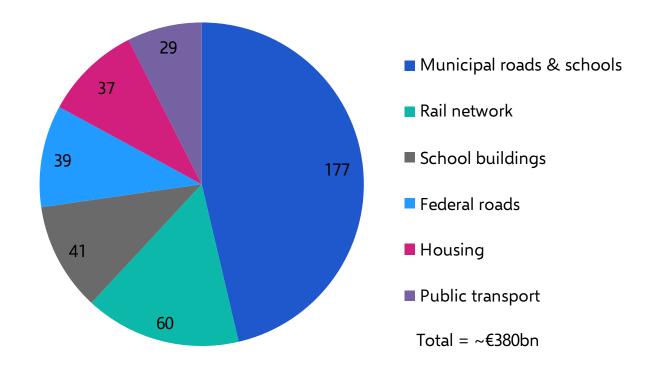


### Share of Defence Budget Devoted to R&D (2023, %)



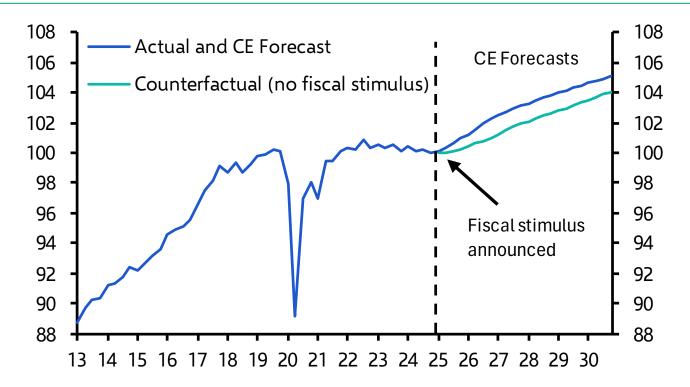


# **German Public Investment Needs over Next Ten Years (€bn)**



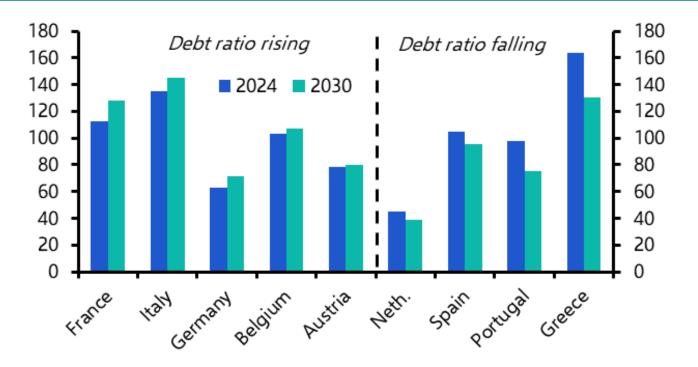


# Germany GDP (Q4 2019 = 100)



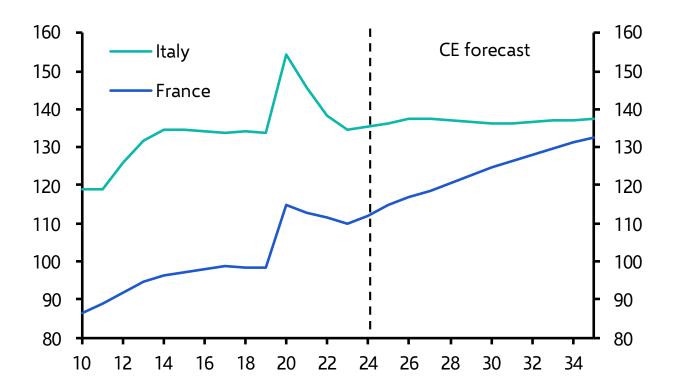


#### **Gross Government Debt (% of GDP)**



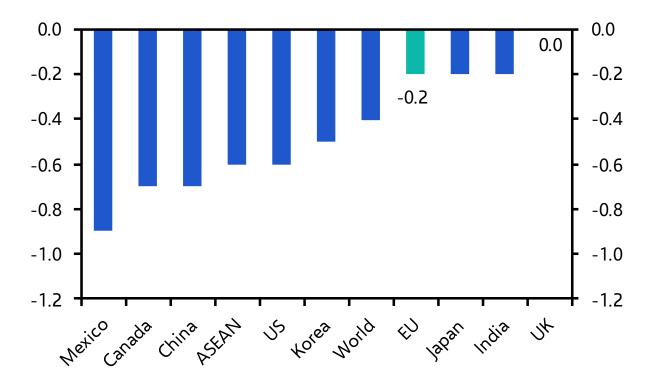


# **Gross Government Debt (% of GDP)**



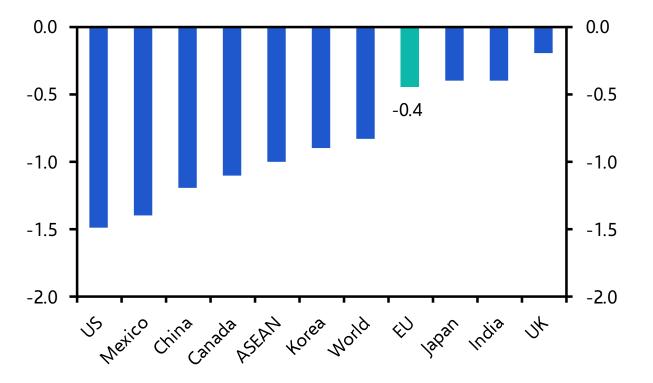


### Hit to GDP if Tariffs in Line with CE Assumptions (%)





### Hit to GDP if Tariffs Return to Liberation Day Levels (%)



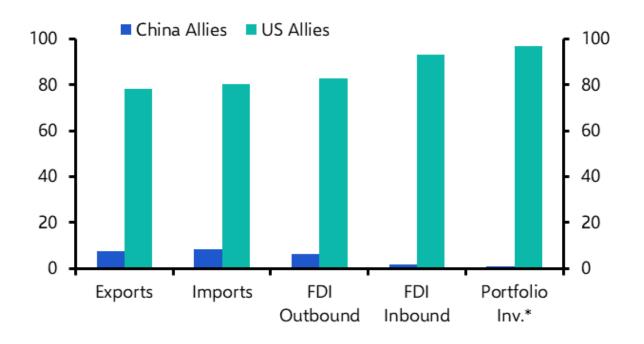


### **Europe and the Fracturing Global Economy**

- Increased tensions between US and Europe.
- Europe will not lead a "third bloc".
- Economic and security links to US are very deep.
- Europe will de-risk from China and use trade defence measures...
- ...but will also aim to maintain trade and investment ties.



# **Germany Exposure to US and China Blocs (Latest, %)**



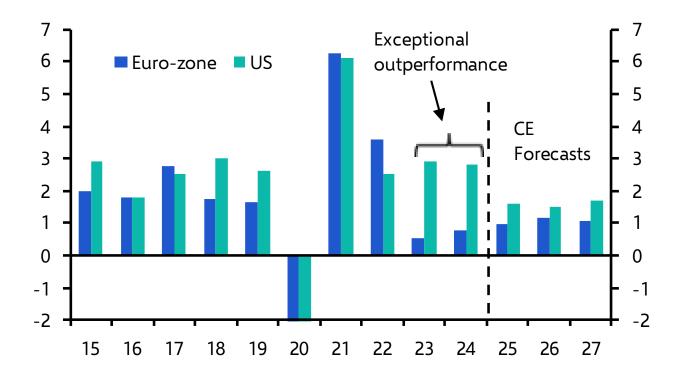


### **Euro-zone Goods Exports to US and China (% of Total)**



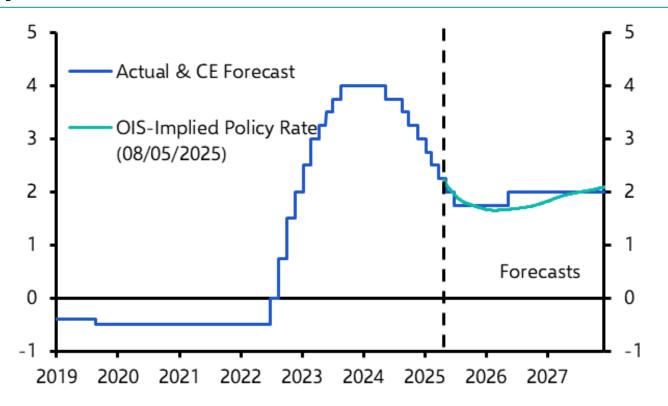


# **Euro-zone and US GDP (% y/y)**





### **ECB Deposit Rate (%)**





# **Key points**

- Europe will remain a relatively low-growth region but degree of underperformance will be smaller in future.
- Fiscal boost is mostly a Germany story.
- Systemic risks have diminished, national risks still high.
- No "hard decoupling" from the United States.



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