

Visions of territorial development in the European space

...not neglecting Helmut Schmidt

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DRIVING(?) OUR VISIONS

- Inevitability of long-run ‘transitions’
 - [NEUJOBS – www.neujobs.eu]
 - Away from resource intensive economic activities
 - Notably, from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy
 - Inexorable demographic change
 - But affected by migration
 - New skills needs for a changed labour market
- All certain to have spatial implications
 - e.g. more teleworking or mode shift to public transport
- Altered parameters of socioeconomic model
- Allowing for uncertainty

THE TRICKY ISSUE OF BALANCE

- In political terms: competing interests
 - The political economy of winners & losers
- In macroeconomic terms
 - Territories contributing to prosperity
 - Mobilising under-used resources
- >> Implies higher sustainable growth
- In equity terms: lofty 'visions' in Treaty
 - High level of employment, sustainable development
- >> Mistake to look mainly through geography lens

ENABLING THE VISION

- Long-term strategy for development
 - What role is envisaged for the territory?
 - Is it consistent with likely EU evolution?
 - The potential and pitfalls of specialisation
 - Gains from exploiting obvious advantages
 - But risks from lock-in to adverse structures
 - Activities subject to long-term stagnation or decline
 - Environmentally unsustainable processes
- >> Avoid narrow focus on comparative advantage
- Targeting investment: logic of intervention(s)



PEOPLE

= GOALS

THREE QUESTIONS FOR POLICY

- Is the vision well-founded and sufficiently ambitious, but also realistic and coherent?
- Can it be explained in comprehensible terms and 'sold' to different stakeholders?
- Crucially, is there a policy pathway and are instruments available to realise the vision?
- To all these questions: if the answer is not a clear 'YES', the value of the vision must be in doubt

For every vision, there is an
equal and opposite revision

As Helmut did NOT say...