



CIEP  
Clingendael International Energy Programme



# The European Refining Sector


## From *static* towards *dynamic* efficiency...

EUROPIA General Information Meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012,  
Session 2: EU Security of Supply – What are the risks for EU security of  
supply of oil refined products during the transition to a low carbon  
economy?

Aad Correljé  
Delft University of Technology, Fac. Technology, Policy &  
Management and the Clingendael International Energy Programme  
(CIEP)

# Dismal market conditions in the European refining sector

- Mature and declining European product demand
- Overhang of unsophisticated refining capacity
- Mismatch between refining slates and demand profile
- Intense global competition

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- Low utilisation rates (82% in 2011)
  - Razor thin refining margins (even for complex refineries)

# Prolific restructuring of the EU refining sector ('08–'12)

## UK

	<i>Status</i>
<b>Grangemouth</b>	to PetroChina (50%)
<b>Stanlow</b>	to Essar ('11)
<b>Pembroke</b>	to Valero ('11)
<b>Lindsey</b>	for sale
<b>Milford haven</b>	for sale
<b>Teesside</b>	Storage
<b>Coryton</b>	Tolling arrangement Morgan Stanley, KKR, AtlasInvest

## France

	<i>Status</i>
<b>Fos Lavera</b>	To PetroChina ('11)
<b>Dunkirk</b>	convert
<b>Gonfreville</b>	shut in
<b>Normandy</b>	shut in
<b>Reichstett</b>	Idle
<b>Berre 'd Etang</b>	for sale
<b>Pt. Couronne</b>	Tolling arrangement: Shell

## Germany

	<i>Status</i>
<b>Heide</b>	to Kletch & Co ('10)
<b>Ruhr Oel</b>	to Rosneft (50%) ('10)
<b>Harburg</b>	for sale
<b>Wilhelmshaven</b>	to Hestya Energy ('11)
<b>Ingolstadt</b>	Idle

## NL

	<i>Status</i>
<b>TRN</b>	to Lukoil ('09)

## Belgium

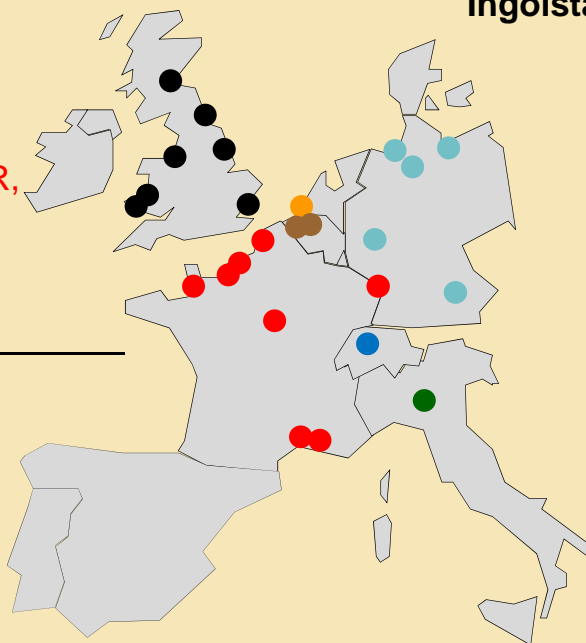
	<i>Status</i>
<b>Antwerp</b>	to Vitol ('08)
<b>Antwerp</b>	To Gunvor ('12)

## Switzerland

	<i>Status</i>
<b>Cressier</b>	Idle

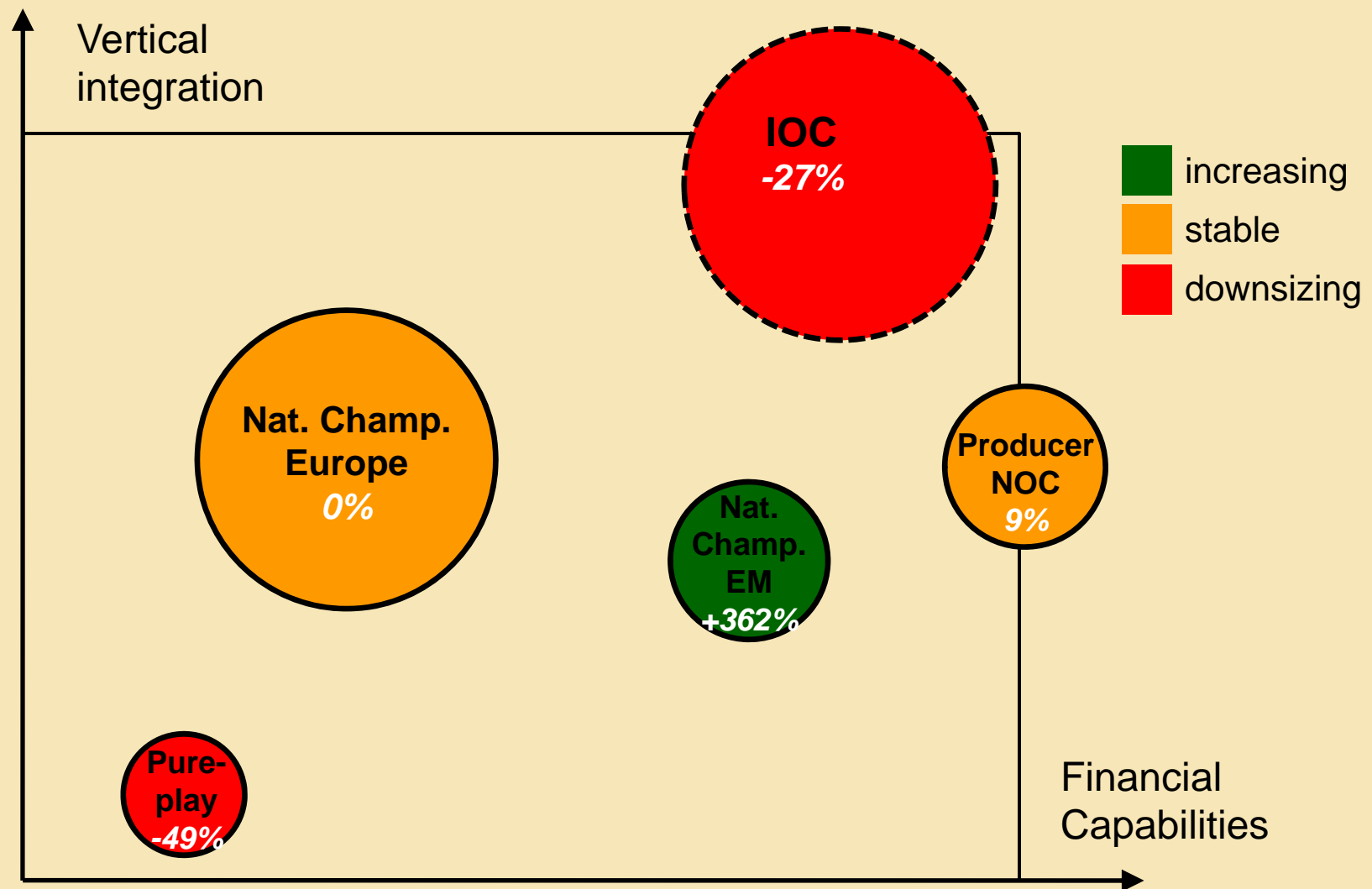
## Italy

	<i>Status</i>
<b>Cremona</b>	storage



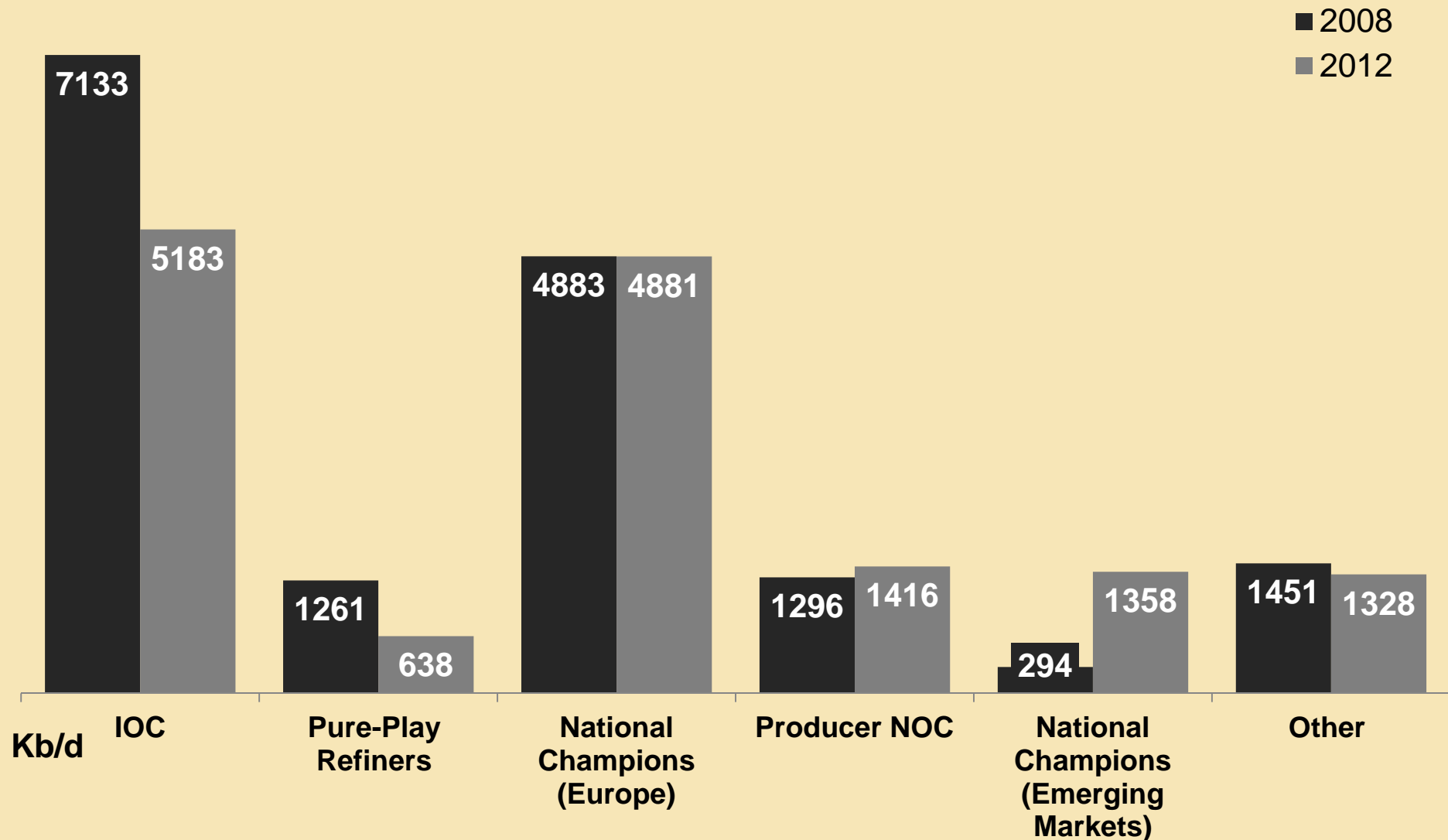
Source: CIEP Analysis, Purvin&Gertz, WGI, OGJ, IHS Global Insight, Bloomberg, Barclays Capital, FT

# Future owners of European refining capacity?



Source: CIEP Analysis, conceptual only

# Operational European refining capacity (2008 – 2012)



Source: CIEP Analysis, Pervin&Gertz, various newspapers

# There is no security of supply problem, if it is accepted that:

- Europe imports growing volumes of fuels from the Middle East, Russia and the US
- International product markets are working effectively, without market failures and abuse of market power
- The European industry will go through lengthy period of rough restructuring
- The EU is moving towards a 'sustainable' energy system, with a decline in the use petroleum products
- Then, let the market take care...

# But:

- EC, November 2010: “Security of supply depends on the integrity and flexibility of the entire supply chain, from the crude oil supplied to refineries to the final product distributed to consumers”.
- EU Energy Roadmap 2050, December 2011: the “strategic importance of oil infrastructure in the current market conditions, including downstream oil infrastructure”.
- Assumes that import dependency for oil products may constitute a ‘security of supply’ problem...

# Will the market take care?

## The supply-side...

- Refineries are highly site-specific; local markets, taxation, environmental rules, and access to transport.
- Refineries exhibit a high degree of physical asset specificity: crude mix, multi-product output and complexity
- Investments are huge, long-term, sunk capital: entry and exit are a problem.
- Uncertainty: in market volumes, prices, policy and product standards
- Non-level playing field vis-à-vis non-European competitors

# Will the market take care?

## The demand-side...

- Demand is fairly price inelastic in the short run
- Demand is strongly related to economic activity, in the EU and abroad
- Price signals are diluted by levies, varying over countries
- Many consumers are economically vulnerable to price spikes
- Long term adjustment is interdependent with developments in automotive, electricity, chemical industry and on distribution infrastructures
- A smaller future market will supply mainly consumers locked-in to petroleum products

# How to bridge the gap...

Between:

- short- to-medium term (0-10 years) market dynamics
- long-term investment rationale of refineries, considering the economic and technical lifespan

Given the fact that capacities of the different types of refiners in Europe to invest or divest vary strongly.

- Companies with a capacity to invest are **unlikely** to invest, given their global strategies.
- Firms that may well be inclined to invest are **unable** to do so under current conditions.

# Observe that security of supply in the oil industry is changing

Two current preconceptions are challenged:

- The market ensures an efficient supply of products
- Supply security of crude oil is the only thing that matters

The issues at stake go beyond the *static* efficiency of 'the market'. *Dynamic* efficiency is what matters today.

- Entry and exit determinants of companies from the market
- Committing long-term investments in refinery upgrades in an uncertain market situation.

# Key issue at stake

- To what extent do the current EU and national governance regimes **reflect the characteristics** of today's oil products markets and the refining industry?
- It may emerge that the efficient development of markets of a different nature, maturity and risk profile may require **different structures of governance** and co-ordination
- Instead of just striving for a 'fully competitive' EU market for oil products...

# What's the problem?

- **Inadequacy of short-term drivers** of the European market to provide the refinery owners with effective signals and incentives to adjust: ownership structure, imperfectly operating product market, longer-term perspective of a reduction in petroleum-based fuels.
- **Which market governance regimes** would reflect the characteristics of today's oil products market and the EU refining industry?

## Four 'families' of policy interventions...

1. Review of impact of levies on diesel- and gasoline-fuelled cars and on fuels, and of emission standards and other (energy efficiency) measures, combined with clear and consistent longer-term goals.
2. Review of the competitive position of the EU industry versus external refiners and correction of lack of a level playing field.
3. Support refiners unable to adapt, stimulating (dis) investments to adjust conversion capacity, crude intake flexibility, and environmental impact.
4. Develop strong perspectives on innovation in a petro- or bio-based industry and energy use.

# The future?

- The most likely **providers of innovative future solutions** are the current oil and petrochemical companies...
- But only if and when they are in the **position to invest and innovate** in such new technologies.
- Only a financially healthy sector and economically viable market supported by the **right institutional framework** will place the companies in positions to do this.



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**“A Cinderella story?”  
Restructuring of the European refining sector**

**CIEP Energy Paper  
April, 2012**

**<http://www.clingendael.nl/ciep/publications/energy-papers/>**

## Six types of European refiners

<i>Type</i>	<i>Examples</i>
<b>IOC</b>	<i>ExxonMobil, Shell, Total</i>
<b>Pure-Play Refiners</b>	<i>Petroplus, Ineos, Valero</i>
<b>National Champions (Europe)</b>	<i>ENI, Statoil, PKN Orlen</i>
<b>Producer NOC</b>	<i>KPC, PDVSA, Rosneft,</i>
<b>National Champions (Emerging Markets)</b>	<i>Lukoil, Essar, PetroChina</i>
<b>Other</b>	<i>Lyondell Basell, Koch, Hestya Energy</i>