

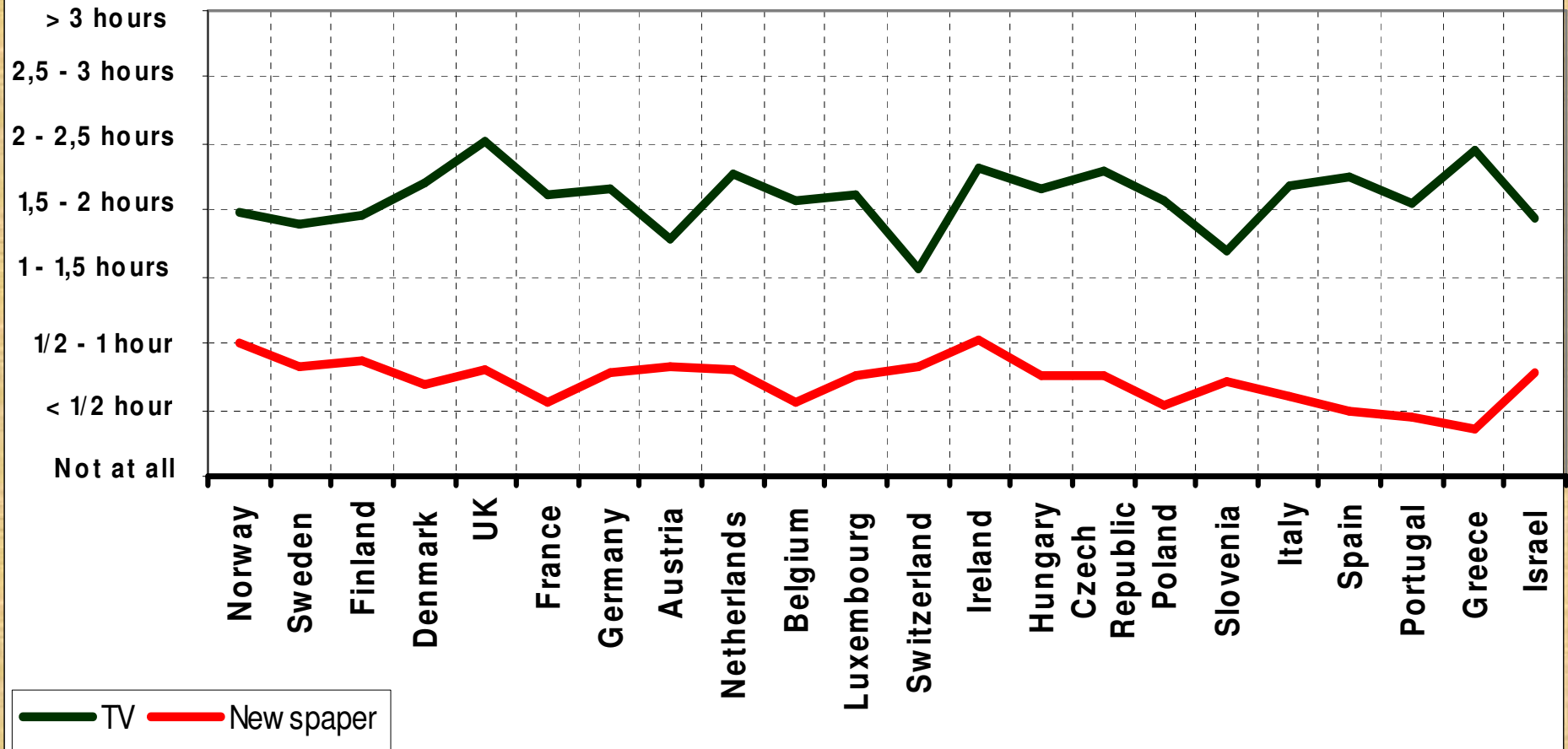
**Event Data.**  
**An useful tool for accessing  
European's attitudes and  
opinions**

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**First EASR Conference  
18 – 22 July 2005  
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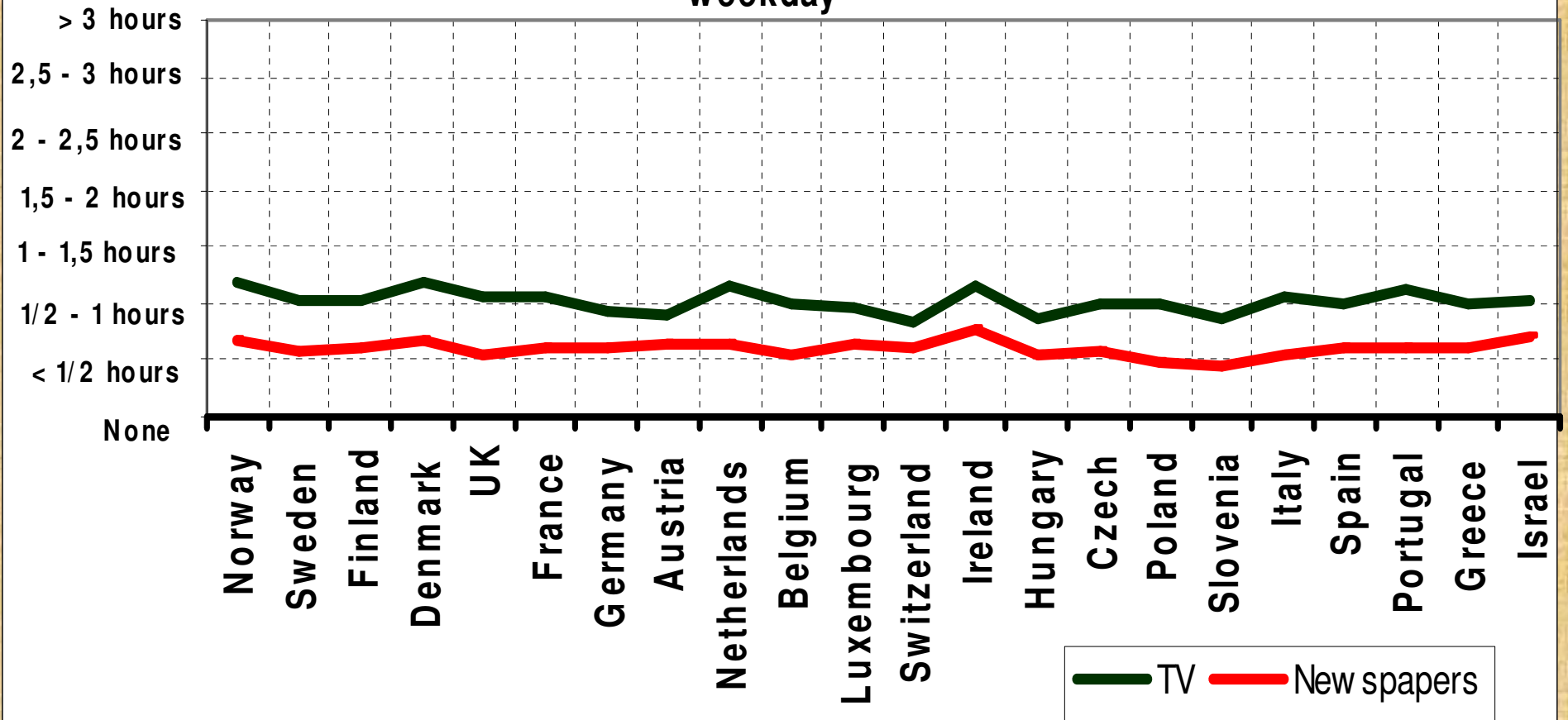
- **Media Exposition in the ESS countries**
- **Main events in 2002**
  - **Relation with results**
- **Main events in 2004**
  - **What to expect from results in round 2**
- **New Fields to cover. New questions to make?**

TV watching and newspaper reading total time on average in a week day



European's spend in average between half and one hour reading newspapers and between one hour and half and two hours watching TV. UK and Greece take more time than the others with TV. Norway and Ireland spend more time reading newspapers. Portugal and Greece, where there's more people with few years of schooling, have the lowest average time spent in reading newspapers.

## TV watching and newspaper reading politics/current affairs on average weekday



Politics and current affairs occupy only between half an hour to one hour of European's time each weekday. The attention to political issues and current affairs on television and newspapers is very much similar in ESS countries. Is this an indicator of an average high or small level of interest in those issues? We should compare with other regions.

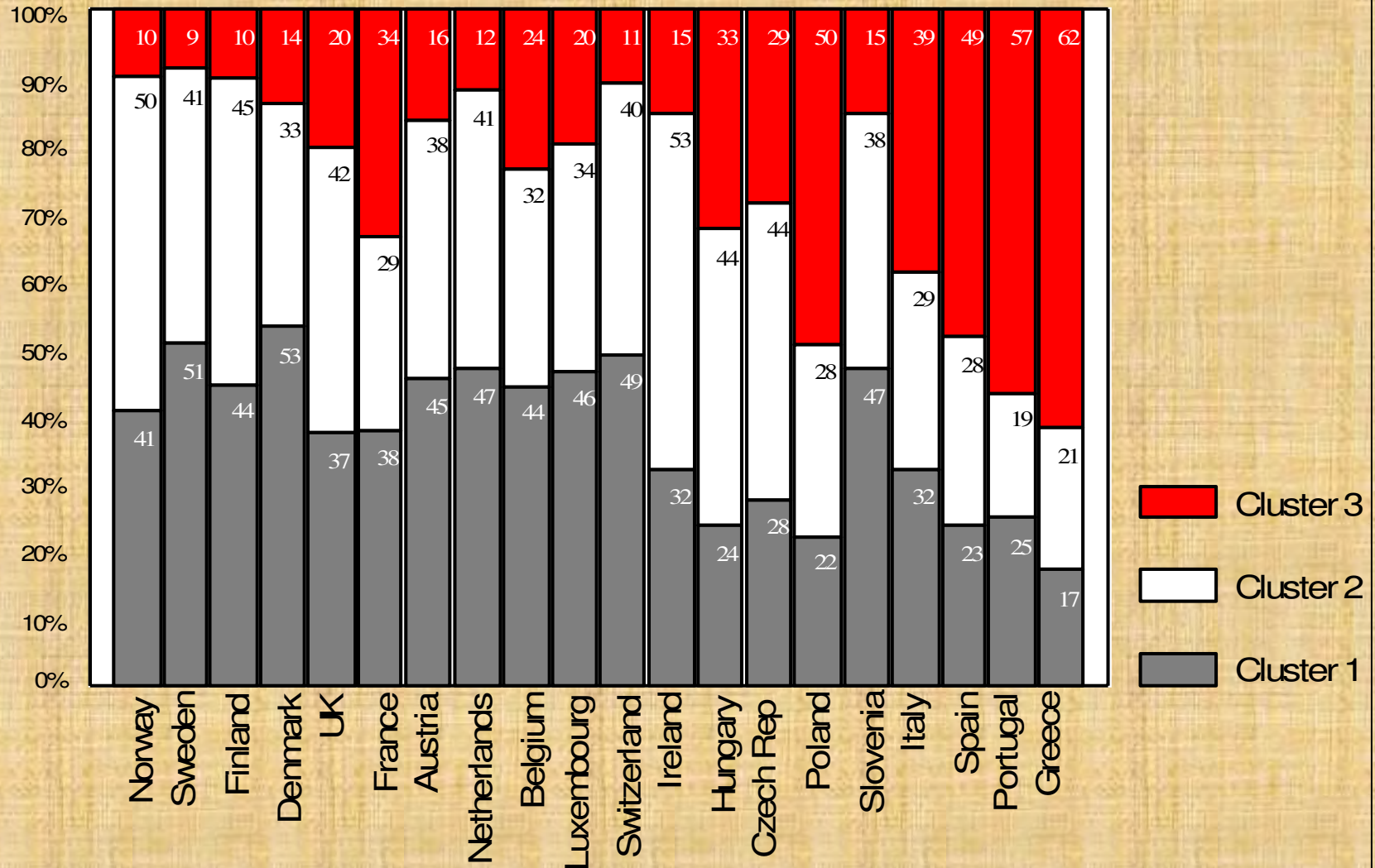
## How are these results distributed by groups?

**Cluster 1:** younger, more educated, less exposed to television, until 1 hour of newspaper reading and more personal use of *internet/e-mail*;

**Cluster 2:** average age of 50 years old; medium education (between 11 and 12 years old), high exposure to television, read more the newspaper and use less the *internet/e-mail* for personal ends;

**Cluster 3:** older, less educated, high exposure to television, more than half don't read newspapers and don't have access to the *internet/e-mail* for personal use.

### TV, Newspaper, Internet/e-mail, Age and Education



Two Step/SPSS

- **We might conclude that only the big events may have direct effects on the majority of the European. TV and newspapers concentrate their headlines on the events that might concern all. Even if there are special publics.**
- **Event data on concentrating on headlines may capture those big events that might disturb and influence perceptions, attitudes and eventually values.**
- **In 2002 and 2004 there were some disturbing and potentially influent events of this kind. But big events also forget easily or, at least, diminish their impact. So the analysis of event data should be – as it is – concentrated on the same global period of the application of ESS at the same time in every country.**

# **Main Events in 2002**

(from October to January 2003)

## **International**

### **Violent events**

- **Terrorist acts (Israel, Spain (ETA), Indonesia)**
- **USA preparation of the intervention in Iraq (tension and disagreement between Europeans and the USA)**
- **Natural disasters, ecological problems**

## **Portugal**

- **First months of a new right wing government (March 2002).**
- **Financial and economical problems (public debt). Social conflicts.**
- **Child abuse scandal involving famous people and politicians.**



# What to expect from ESS data, round 1?

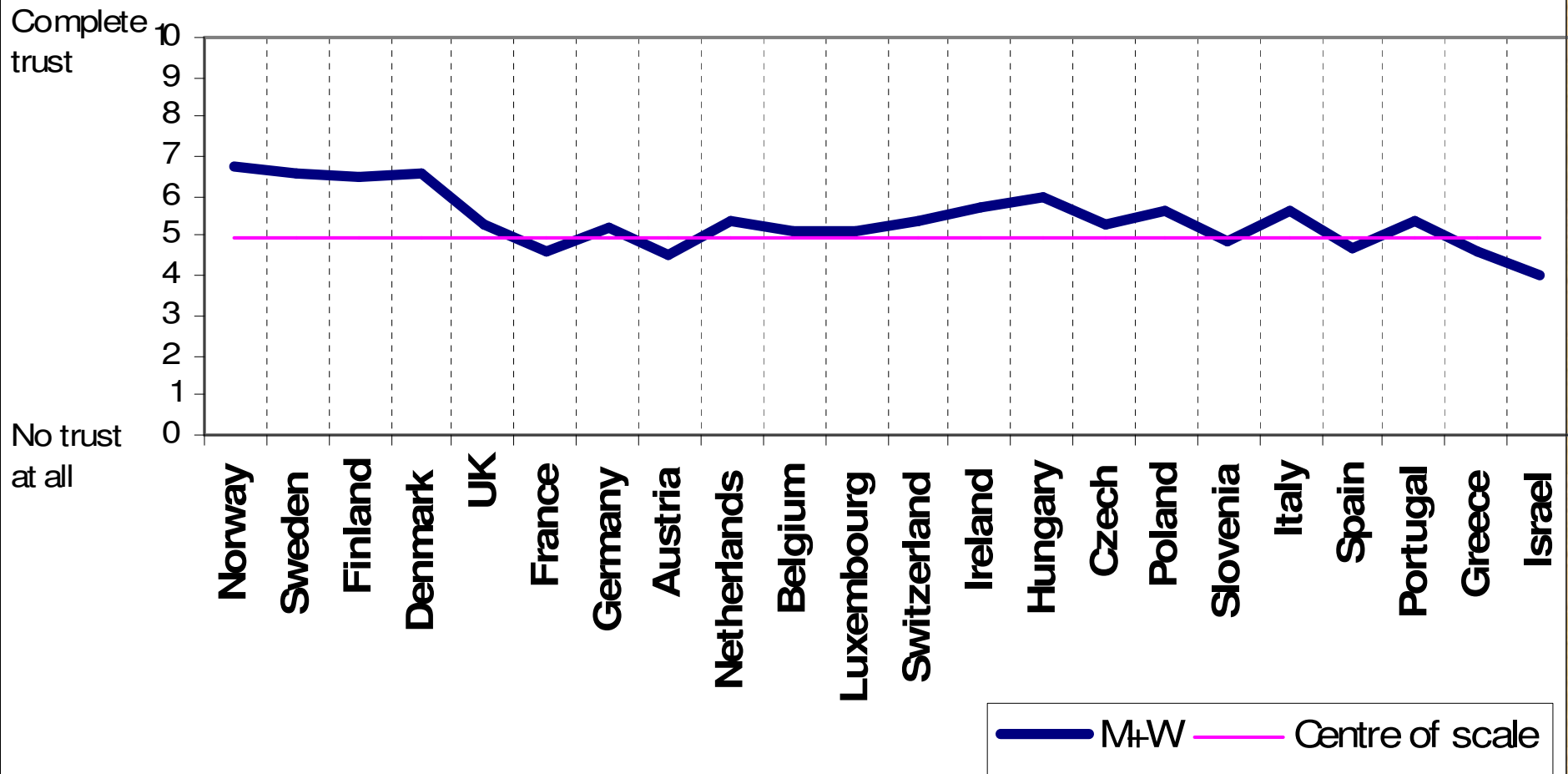
## International and National

- Security items: perception of insecurity (have we got the right question to capture those feelings?)
- Iraq's crisis revealed a deep disagreement between governmental decisions to join USA troops (Spain, UK, Italy, Portugal) and public national's opinions. The satisfaction and trust with governments should be lower in those countries.
- Trust on national and international institutional organisations

## Portugal

- Trust in economy, legal system, parliament, politicians, government;

## Trust in the United Nations

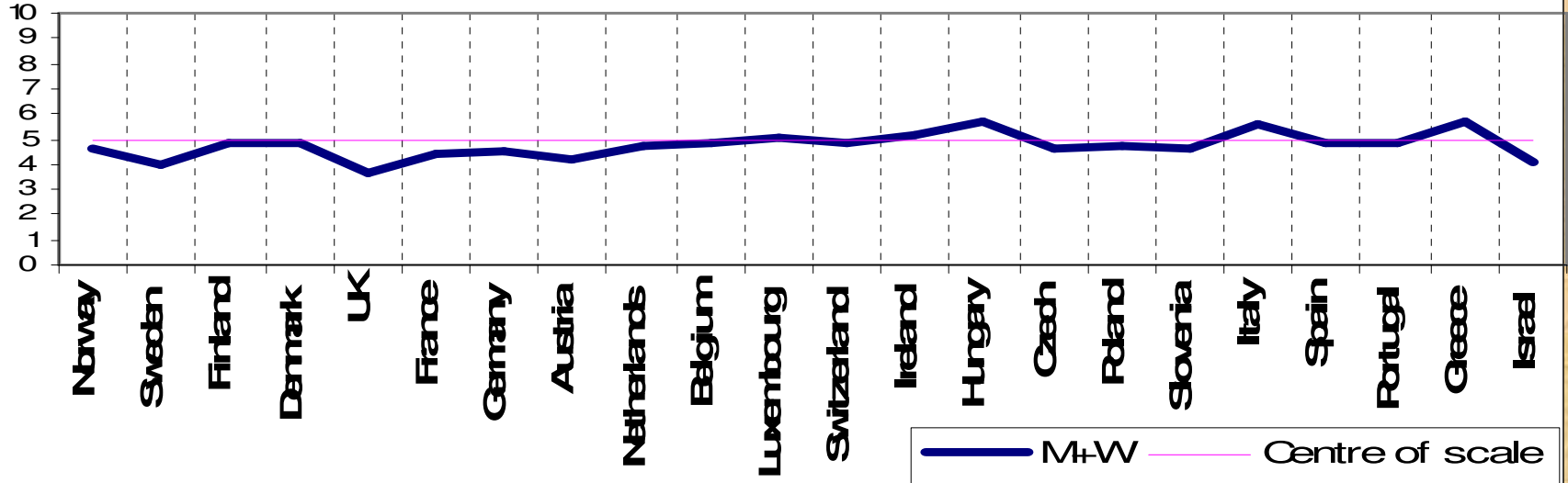


- Trust in the United Nations is around the centre of the scale with the clear exception of the Scandinavian countries.
- While the USA were preparing the invasion of Iraq - this was the time of the search for weapons of mass destruction by a team of the U. Nations – European's public opinion were discussing and questioning the legitimacy of such an intervention. The role of the UN was at stake. What should we expect for 2004? Will people trust less or more in the UN?

### Trust in the European Parliament

Complete trust

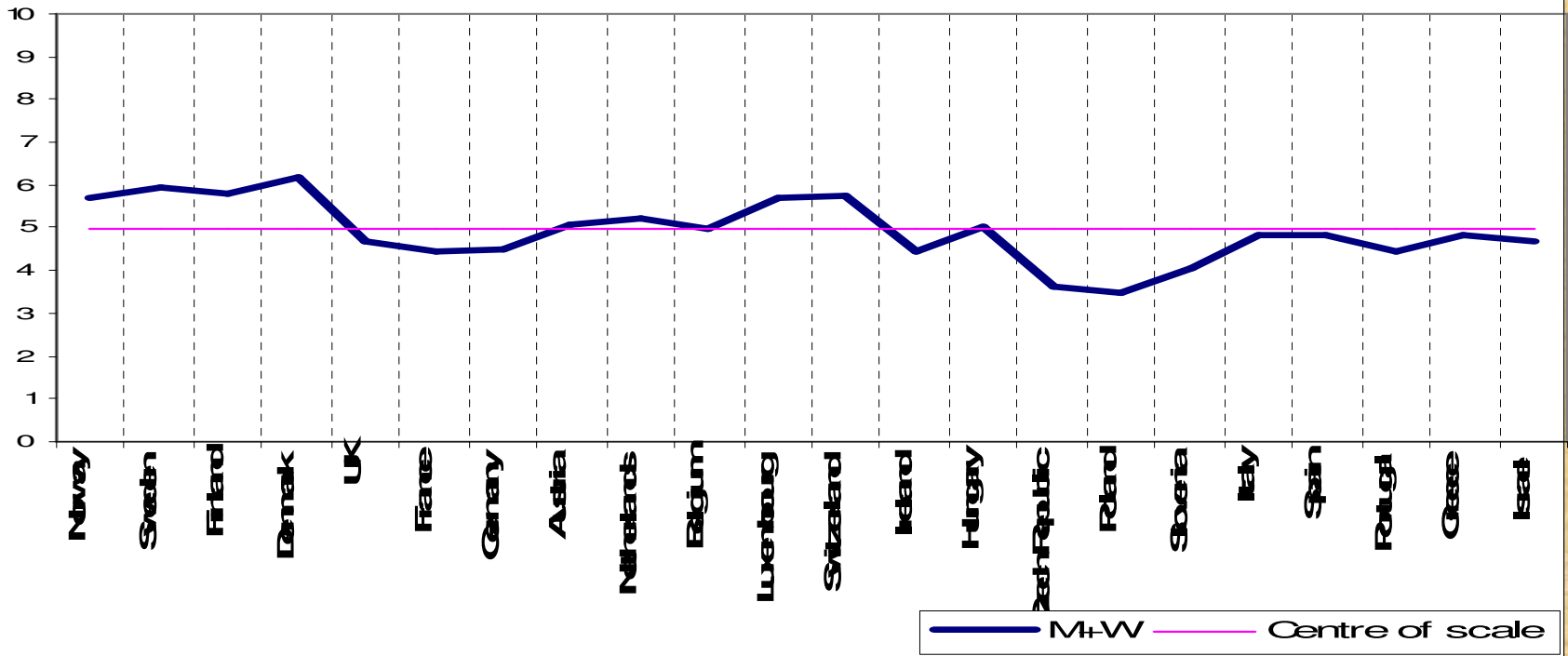
No trust at all



### Trust in country's parliament

Complete trust

No trust at all

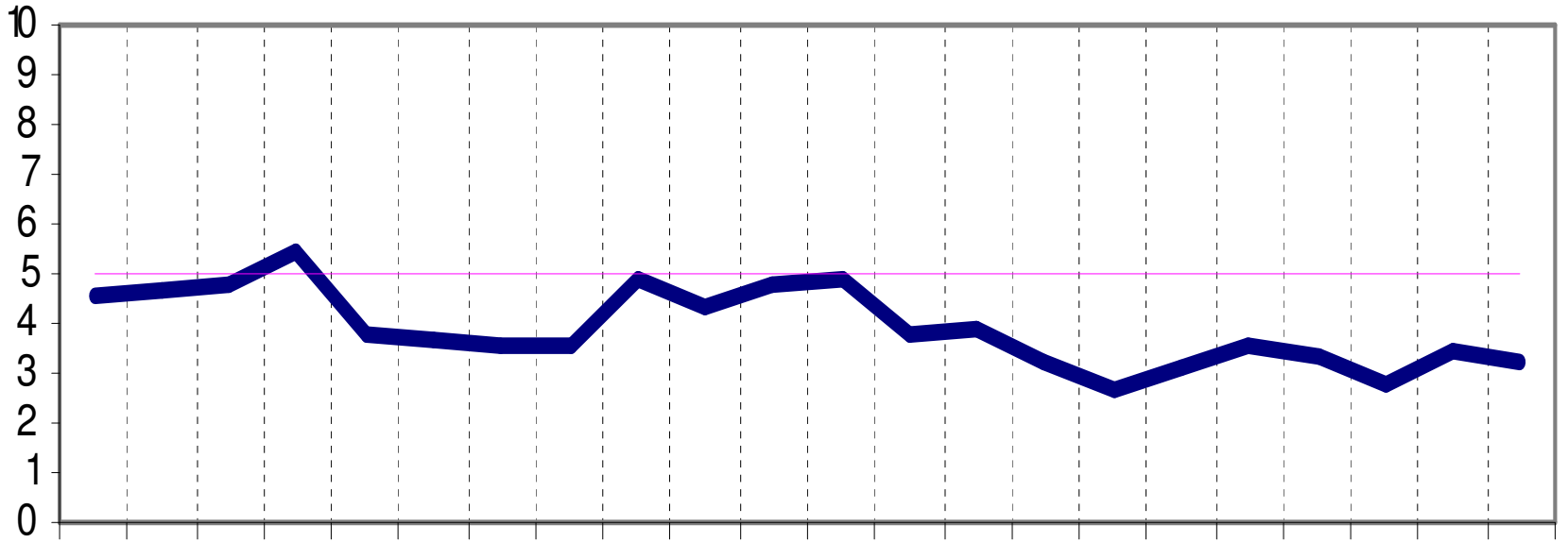


- **The Scandinavians have more trust in their own parliament than in the European parliament which is relatively low.**
- **UK, France, Germany have the same trust in national than in European's parliament as it happens in Spain and Portugal.**
- **But the enlargement countries – recent democracies – have much more trust in the EP than in their own parliament. Is this a sign – already noticed in political literature – of a relative lack of confidence on the way democratic processes are being led in those countries?**

# Trust in politicians

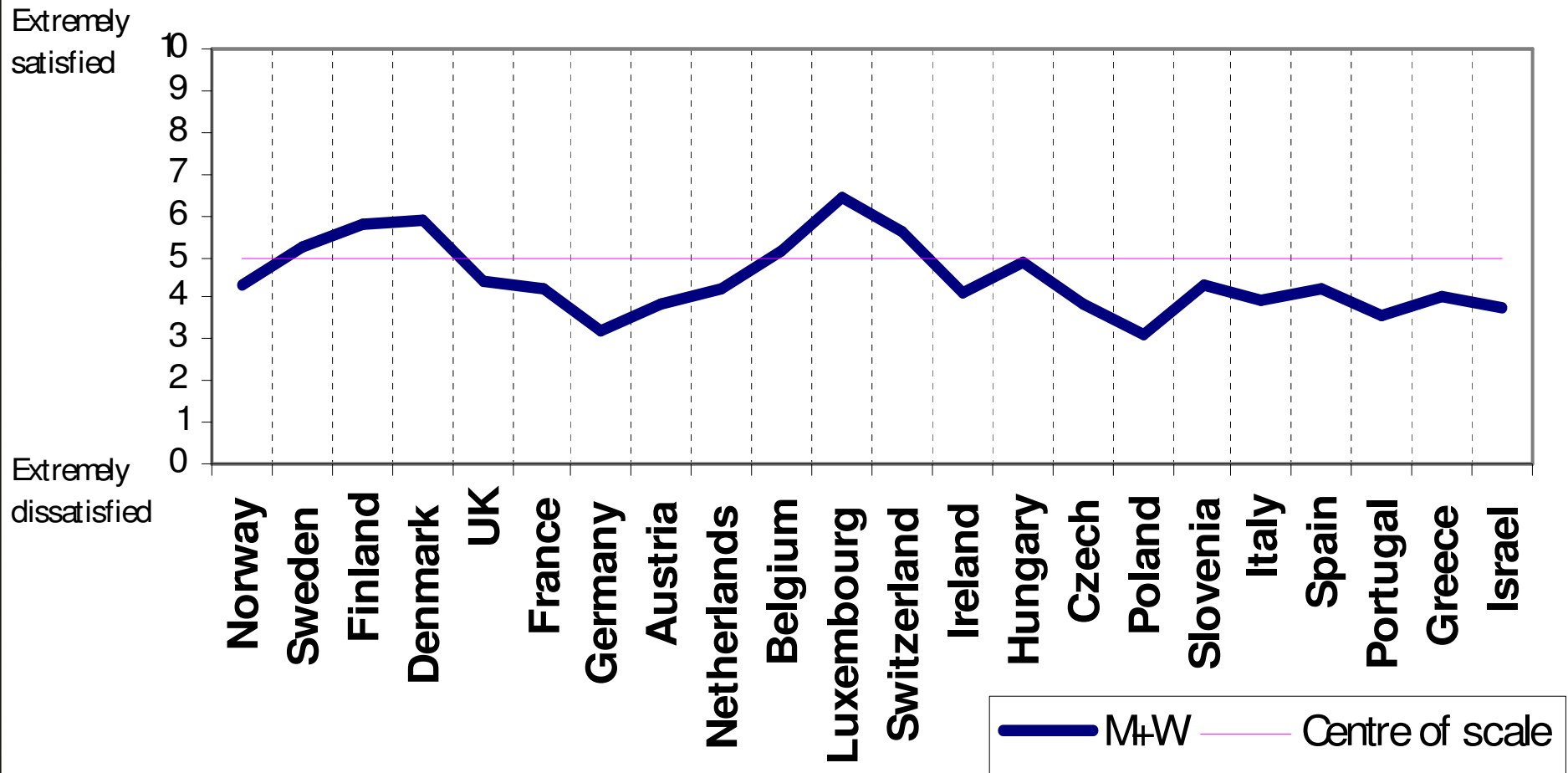
Complete trust

No trust at all



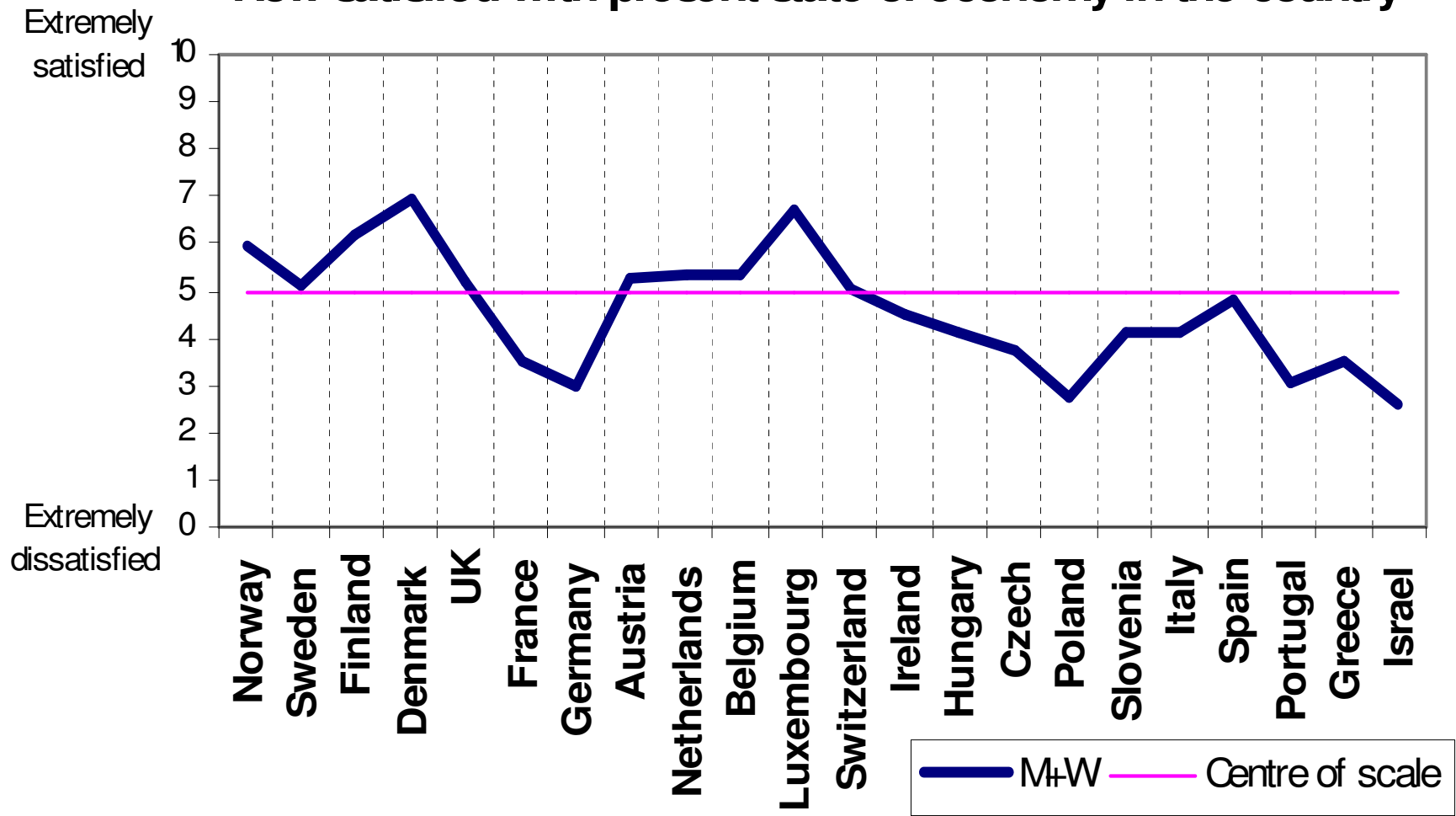
— M+W — Centre of scale

## How satisfied with the national government



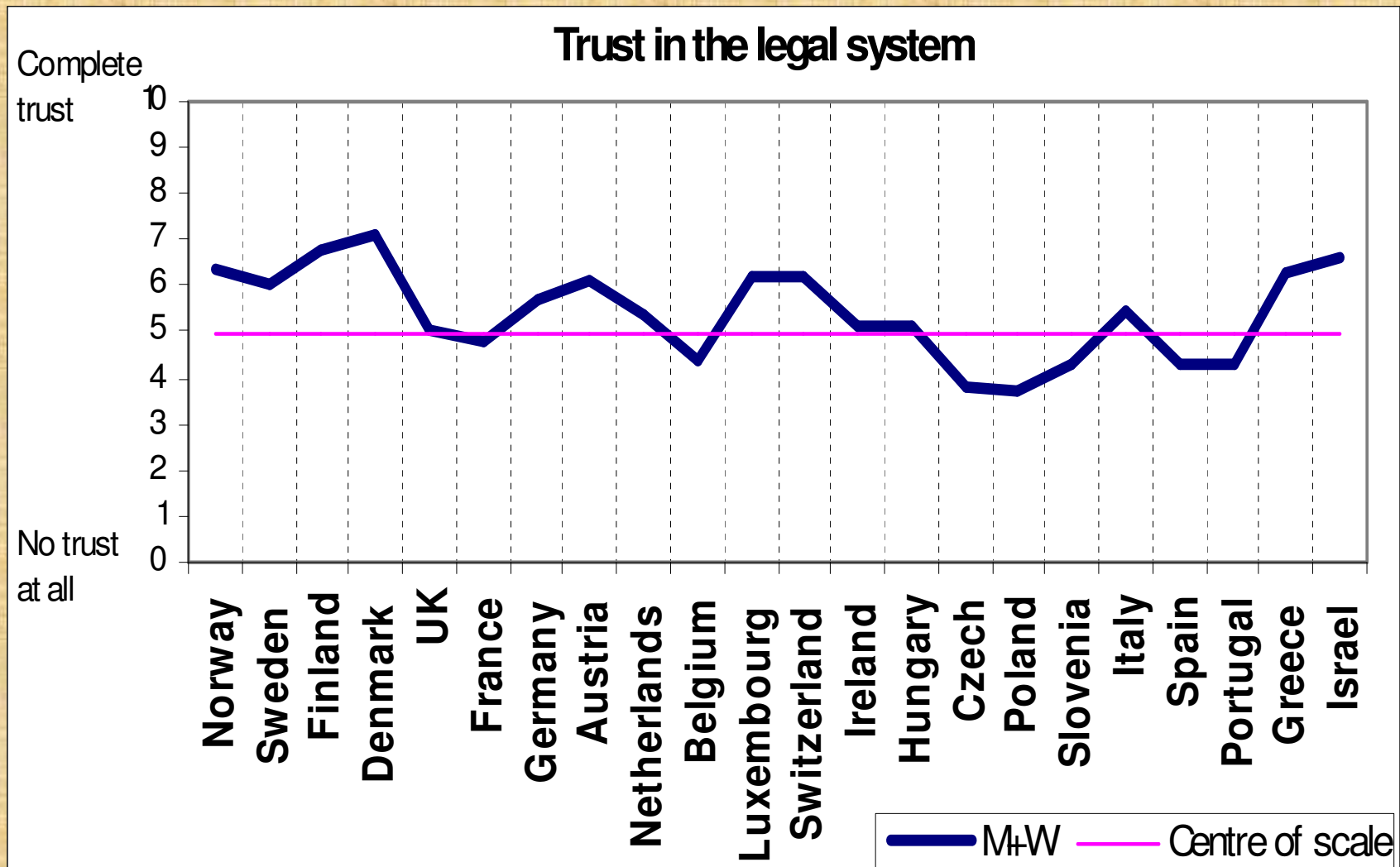
We can see here, possibly, the influence of Iraq's crisis in countries like UK, Spain, Italy, Portugal; but also, of course, national issues (Germany, France, ...).

## How satisfied with present state of economy in the country



Germany, France, Poland, Portugal, Greece and Israel are clearly the most unsatisfied. From event data, and for Portugal, that could also be clearly guessed.

Did it happen also in other countries? What shall happen in 2004?



**Portugal and Belgium: lack of trust on legal system (child's abusers trials?). Lack of trust also in most of the enlargement countries.**



# **Main Events in 2004**

**(October 2004- February 2005)**

## **International level**

**The military situation in Iraq;**

**Arafat's death and the evolution of the situation in the Middle East;**

**Elections in the USA;**

**Bush's visit to Europe**

## **European**

**Buttiglione's declarations about homosexuals, marriage and the role of women;**

## **Portugal**

**Dismissal of the government of the prime minister (20 Feb. 2005) that substituted Jose Manuel Barroso.**

**Child sexual abuse in State's institution (ongoing developments of the Casa Pia's case);**

**'Golden Whistle' (suspicions of corruption in football);**

**Economical (recession) and financial crisis (public debt).**

# What might we expect from ESS data round 2?

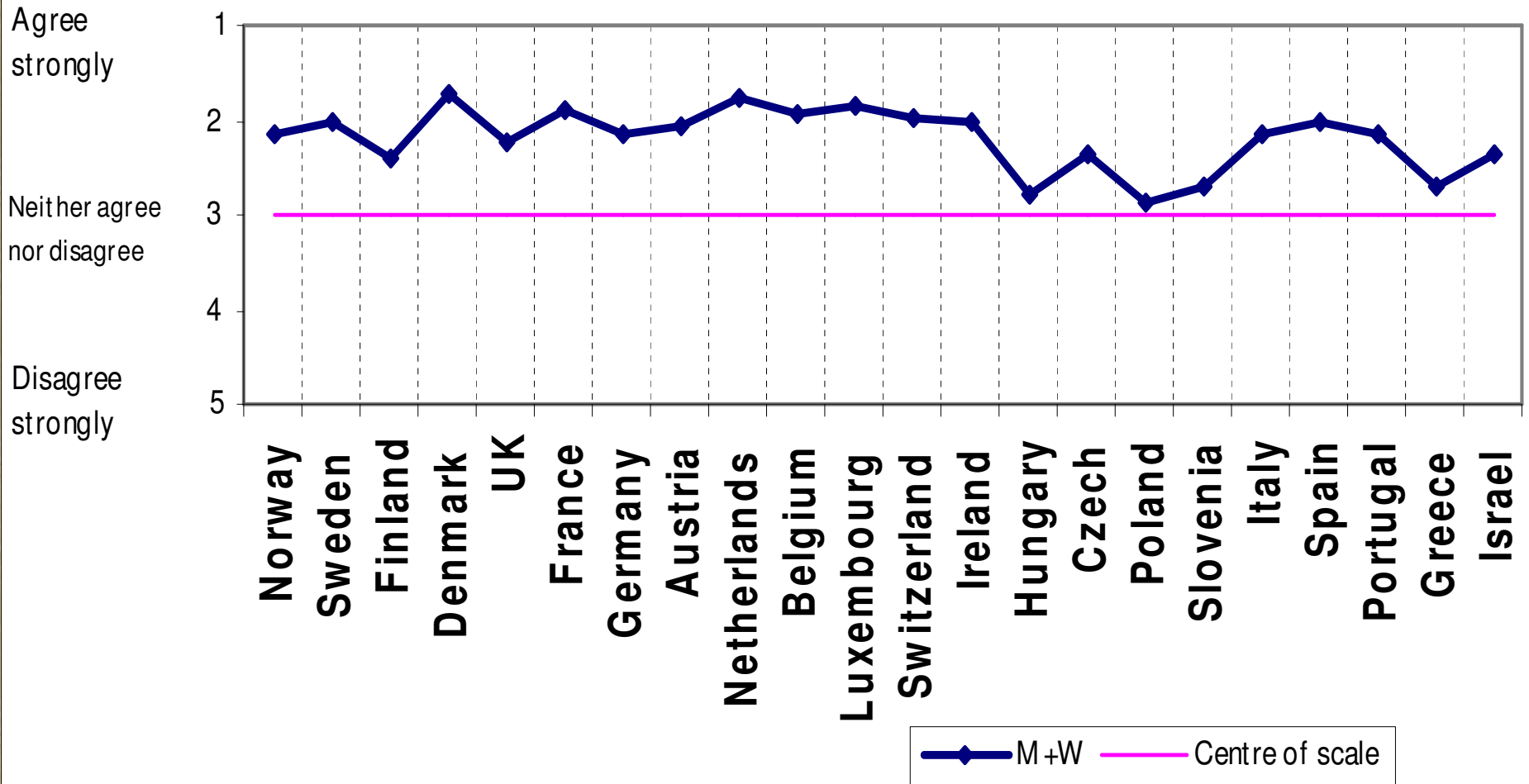
## International level

- Trust on international political institutions and organisations. More or less trust?

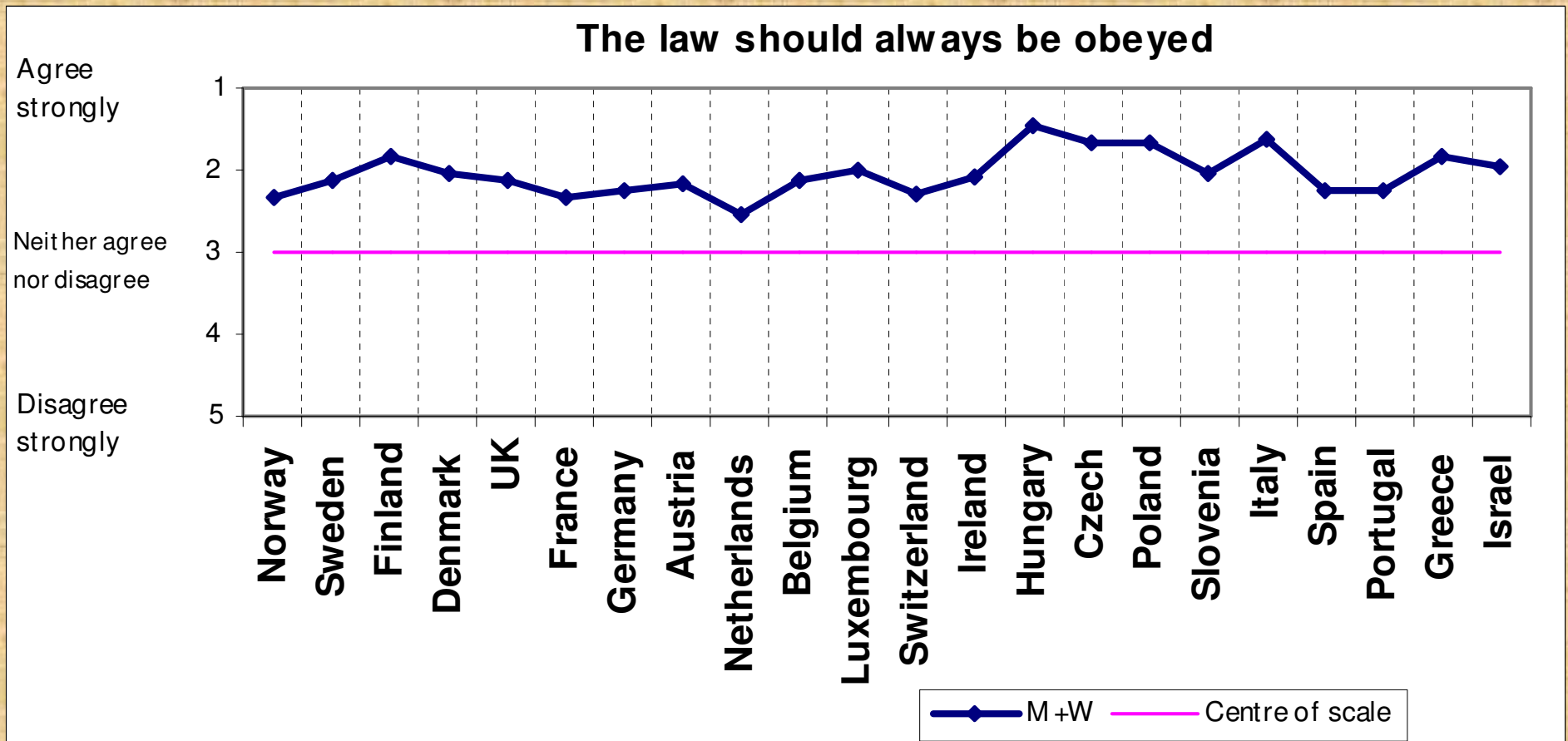
## European level

- Trust on European Parliament.
- Do Europeans feel that they are well represented in the EP ?
- What impacts on questions about homosexuality and about women and maternity?

## Gays and lesbians free to live life as they wish

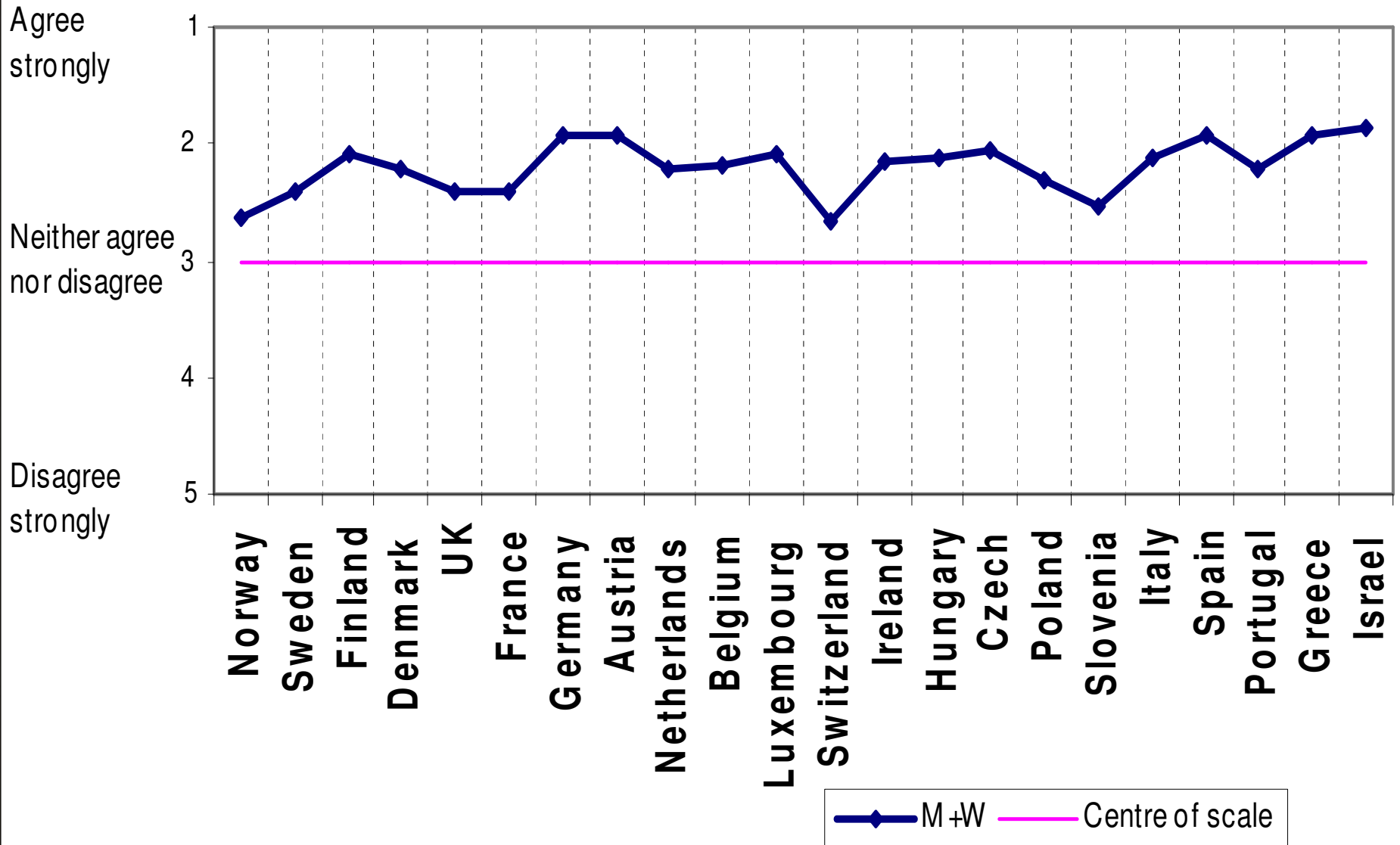


The rejection of Buttiglione's ideas was very clear. If the European Parliament represents the people of EU, than we might expect in round 2 a large (bigger?) consensus and acceptance of this statement. In round 2 we should pay attention to the new questions (G6 – G10) and perhaps expect the rejection of an image of women only concerned, and identified, with maternity.



**Shall terrorism in Europe increase the number of respondents agreeing that people should always “obey the law” or that “political parties that stand against democracy should be banned” even more than they did in 2002?**

## Ban political parties that wish to overthrow democracy



Will this consensus still go up in 2004?

# **Some comments and questions**

**Elections in the USA confirmed and amplified the trend of 2002, that is, the military command of the USA in the world. And also that European's feel different from some of their governments about Iraq's military intervention (UK, Spain, Italy, Portugal).**

**Will European slowly feel the USA as apart from Europe? Will the role of the United Nations be even more erased? Will ESS respondents attribute less or more importance to the UN?**

**Situation in Iraq, and in the Middle East, tends to long last instability. How is all that perceived? Have we got the right questions to capture this?**

**How shall we capture the effects of terrorism? And the fear of terrorism? Do certain European states, or certain groups, fill more safe and secure than others? And how far can go the measures to combat it? How can we grasp those new questions?**

# Conclusions

Event data can be a very useful instrument to analyse the effects of context on the answers to ESS. Users of ESS data should have the information quiet close when analysing the data. Specially for some economical and political national and international issues.

But we must not forget that events forget easily... After holidays, in October, will the events of London be so fresh as they are now? Will it's effects be so present?

Besides analysing the data it is probably necessary to think about the possibility of adding some questions to capture some of those – after 9/11 - structural problems, including insecurity and crime.