

“Linking the Deserts in North Africa with the Load Centers in Europe”

**Results of a series of studies commissioned by the German Federal
Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**

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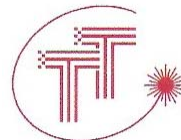
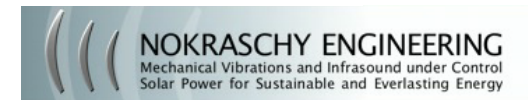
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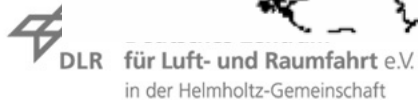
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Linking the Deserts in Africa with the Load Centers in Europe

Hans Müller-Steinhagen

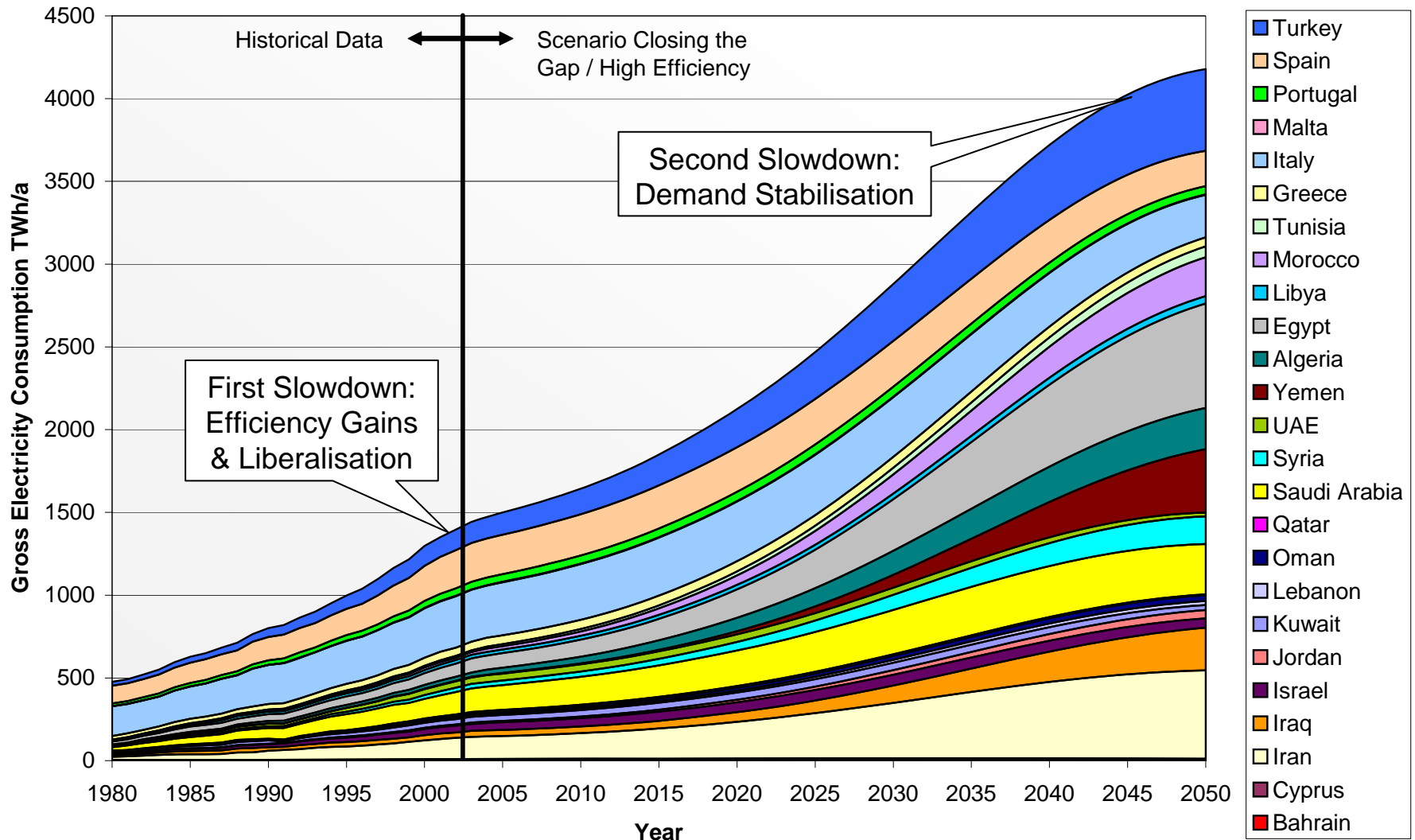




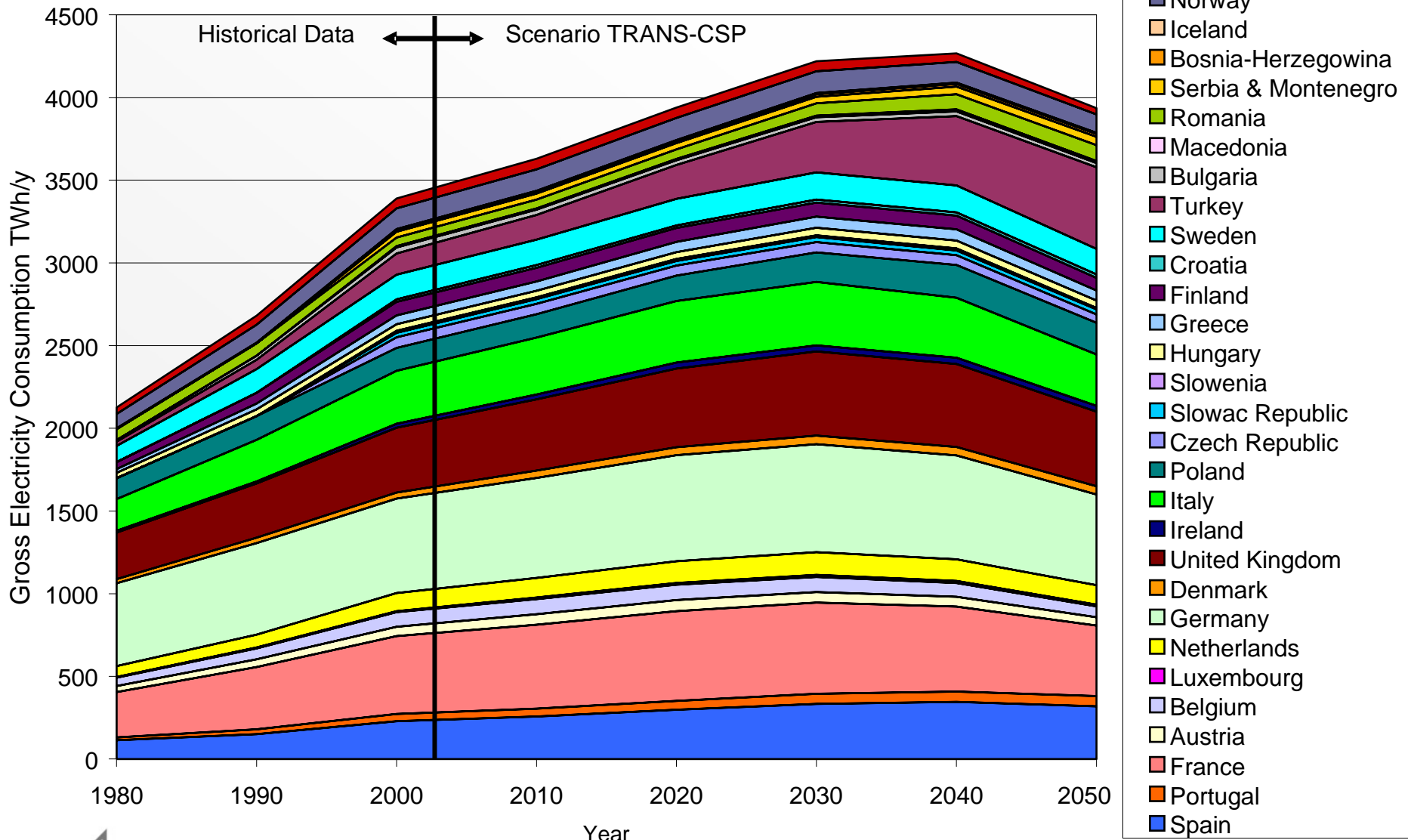
Parameters considered in the analyses

- Sustainability criteria
- Available resources
- Existing power plants in 2000 and their expected lifetime
- 100 % power availability
- Cost of fossil fuels (oriented at IEA Scenario)
- Existing grid Infrastructure
- Annual electricity demand
- Annual load curve
- Peaking power demand and 25 % reserve capacity
- Opportunities of finance
- Policies and energy economic frame conditions
- Maximum production growth rates of RE industry

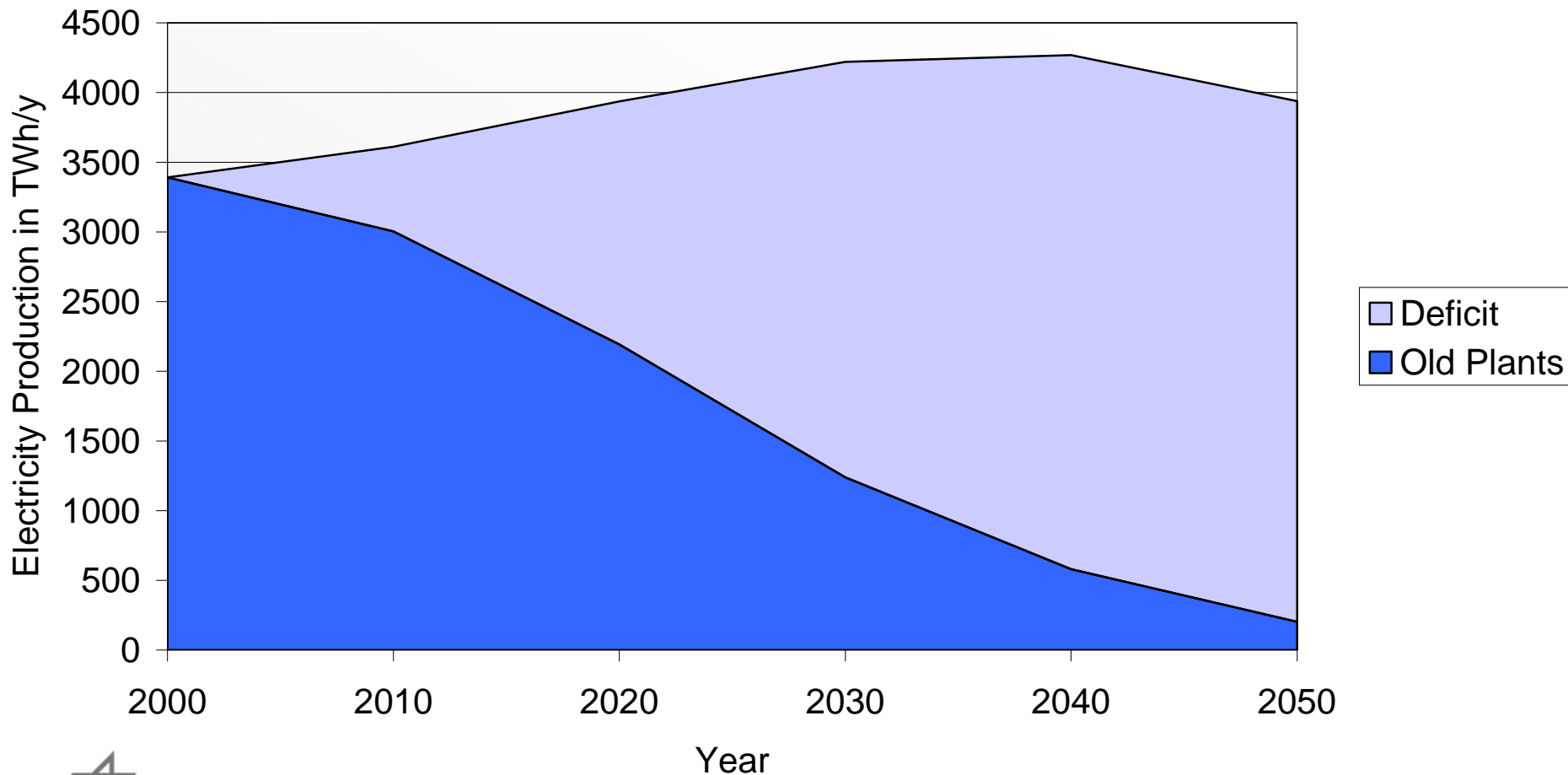
Gross electricity demand in the analysed MENA countries



Gross electricity demand in the analysed European countries

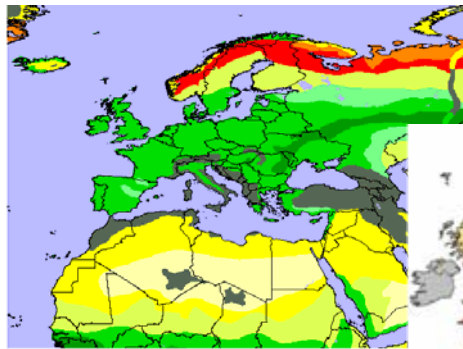


Electricity production of power plants already existing in 2000 and deficit to be covered by new plants until 2050, in the European countries analysed within TRANS-CSP

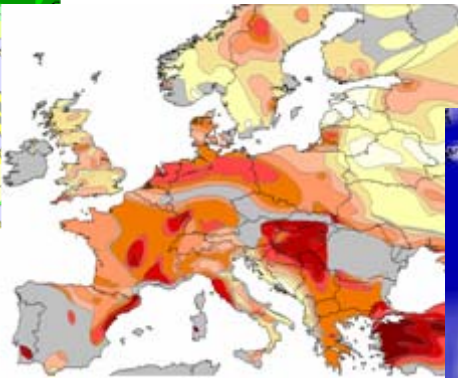


Renewable energy resources in Europe and MENA

Biomass (1)

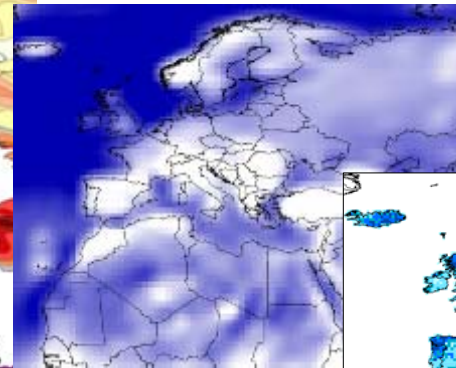


Geothermal (1)

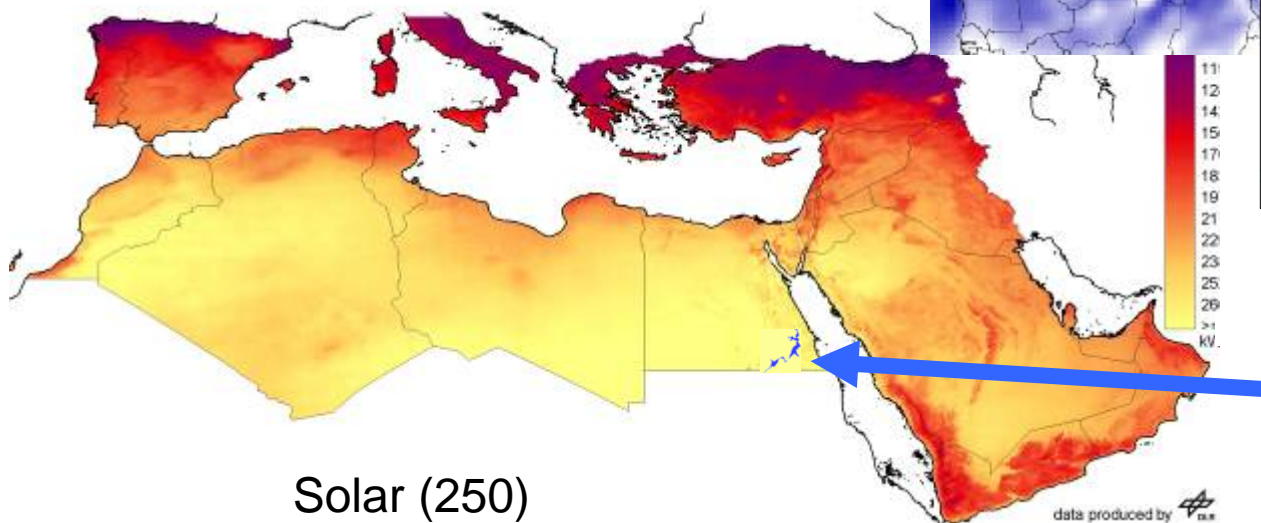
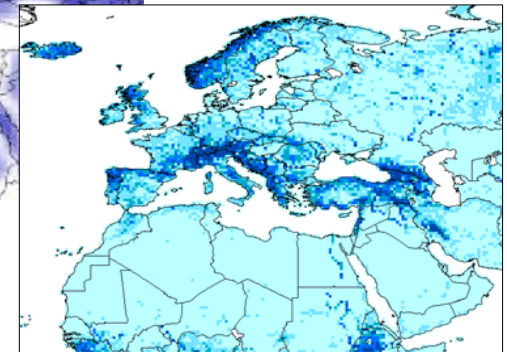


In brackets: (max. yield in $\text{GWh}_{\text{el}} / \text{km}^2 / \text{y}$)

Wind (50)



Hydropower (50)



Solar (250)

A CSP plant of the size of Lake Nasser equals the total Middle East oil production

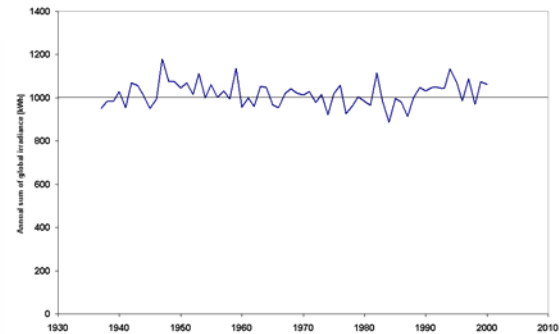
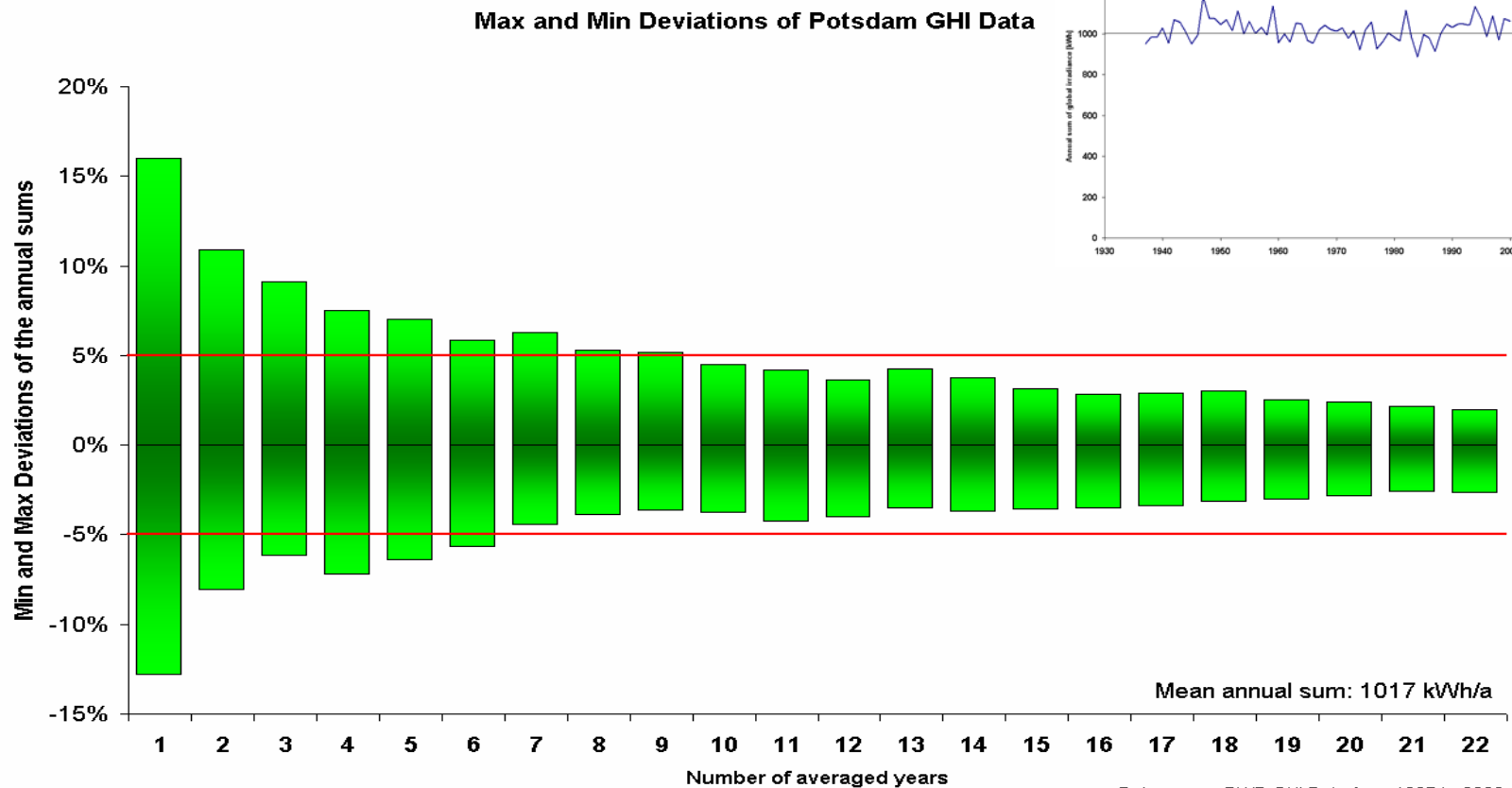


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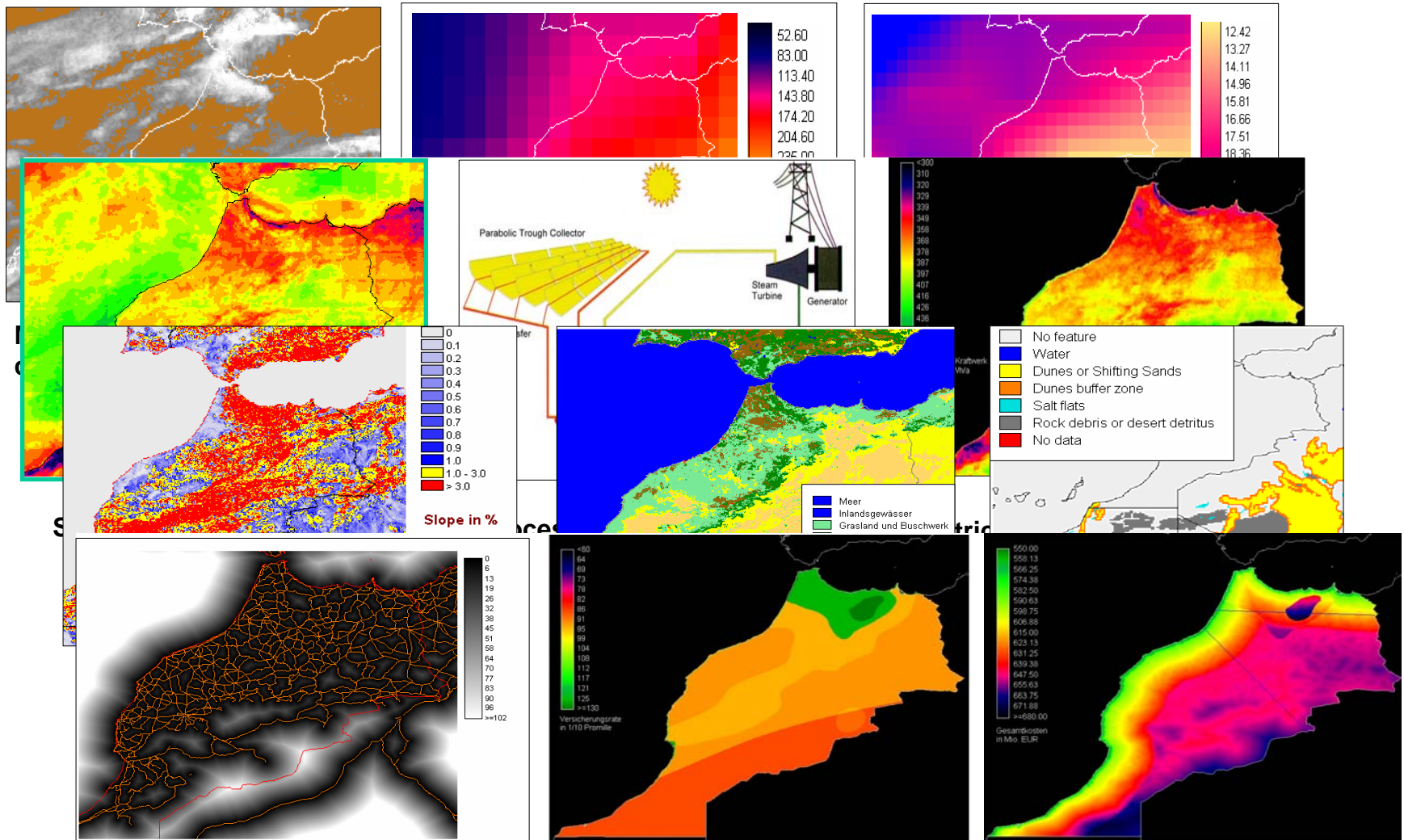
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Long term variability of solar irradiance



Identification of suitable sites using Meteosat data



Infrastructure costs

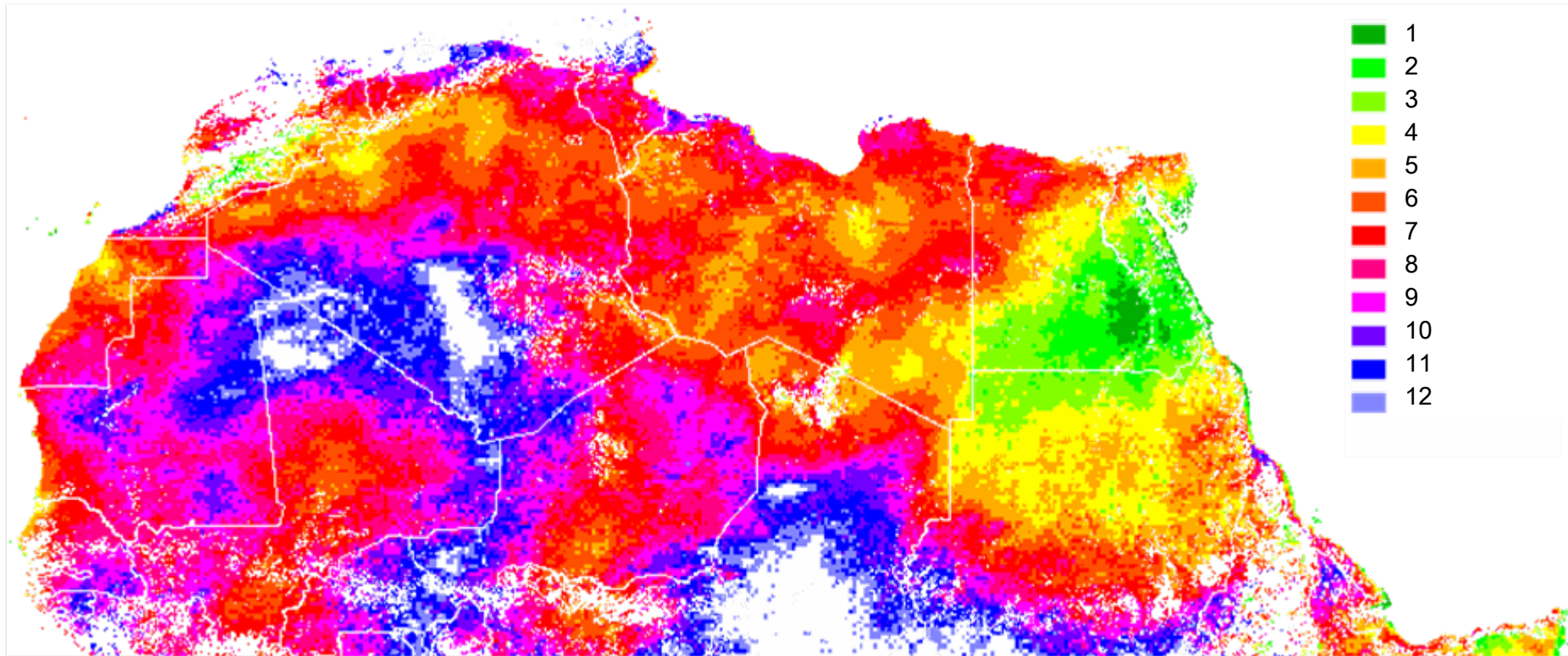
Insurance costs

Total cost

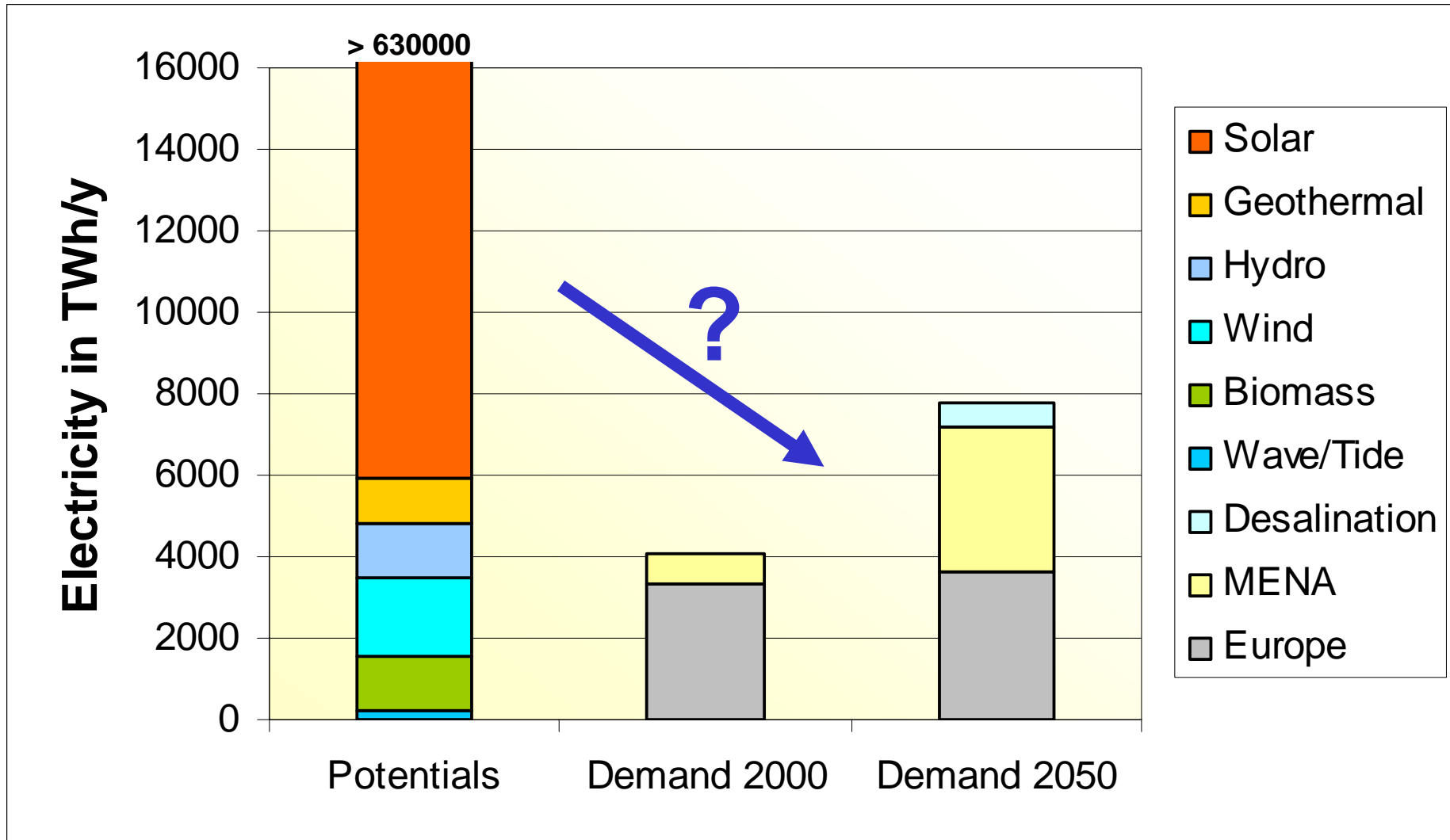
Identification of suitable sites using Meteosat data

North Africa – solar thermal electricity generation costs

North Africa - Solar Thermal Electricity Costs per kWh



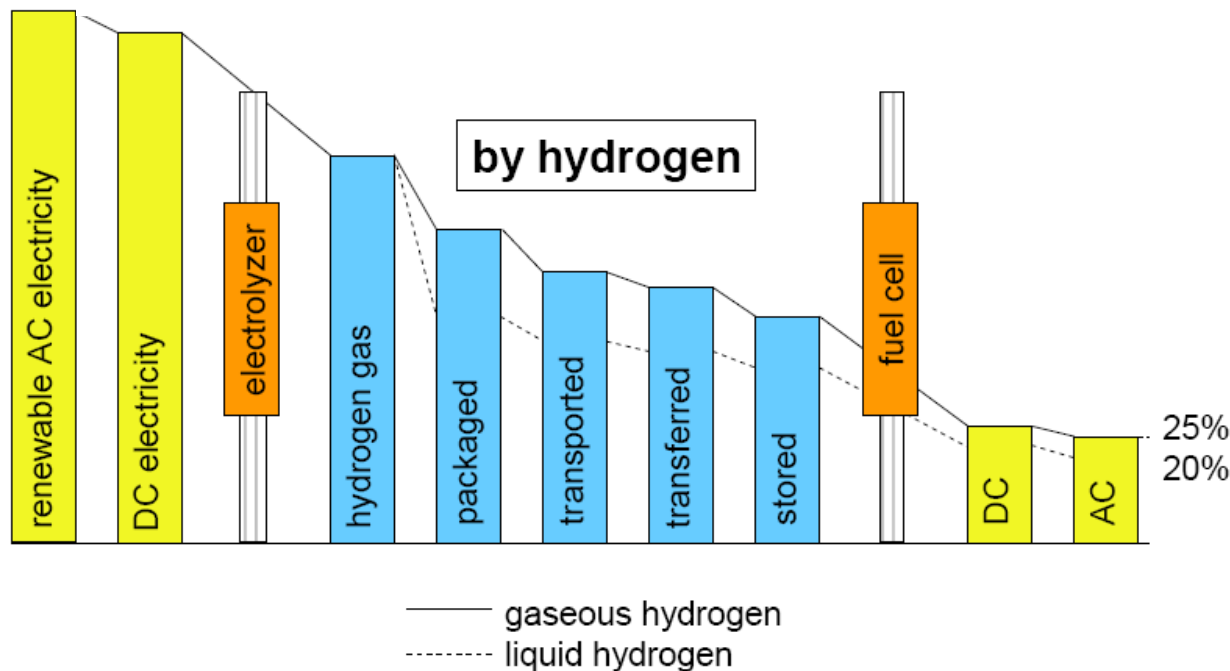
Economic renewable electricity potentials vs. demand in Europe and MENA



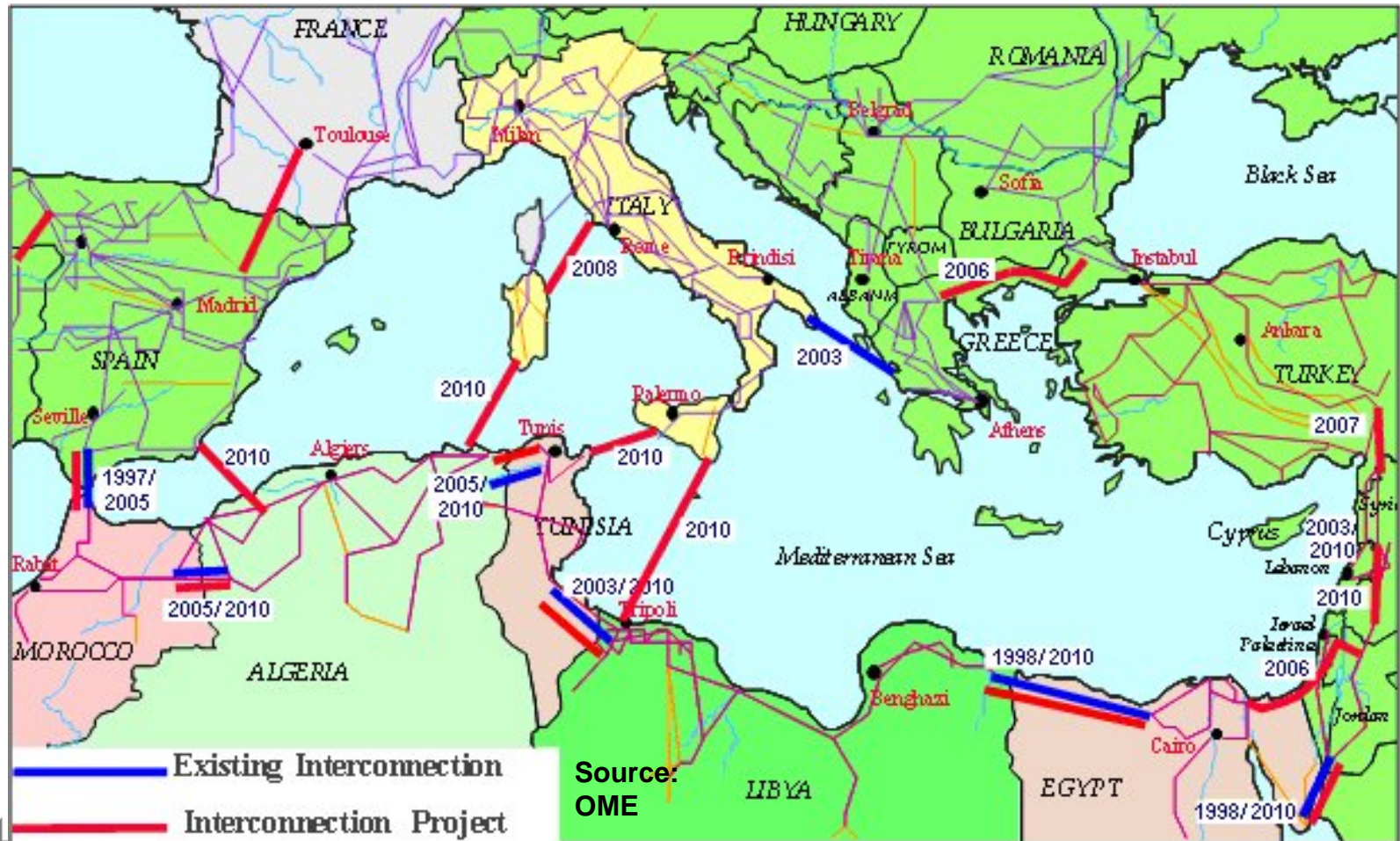
Power transmission via hydrogen is possible, but 75 % of the solar electricity would be lost.

Renewable
Source
Energy

Consumer



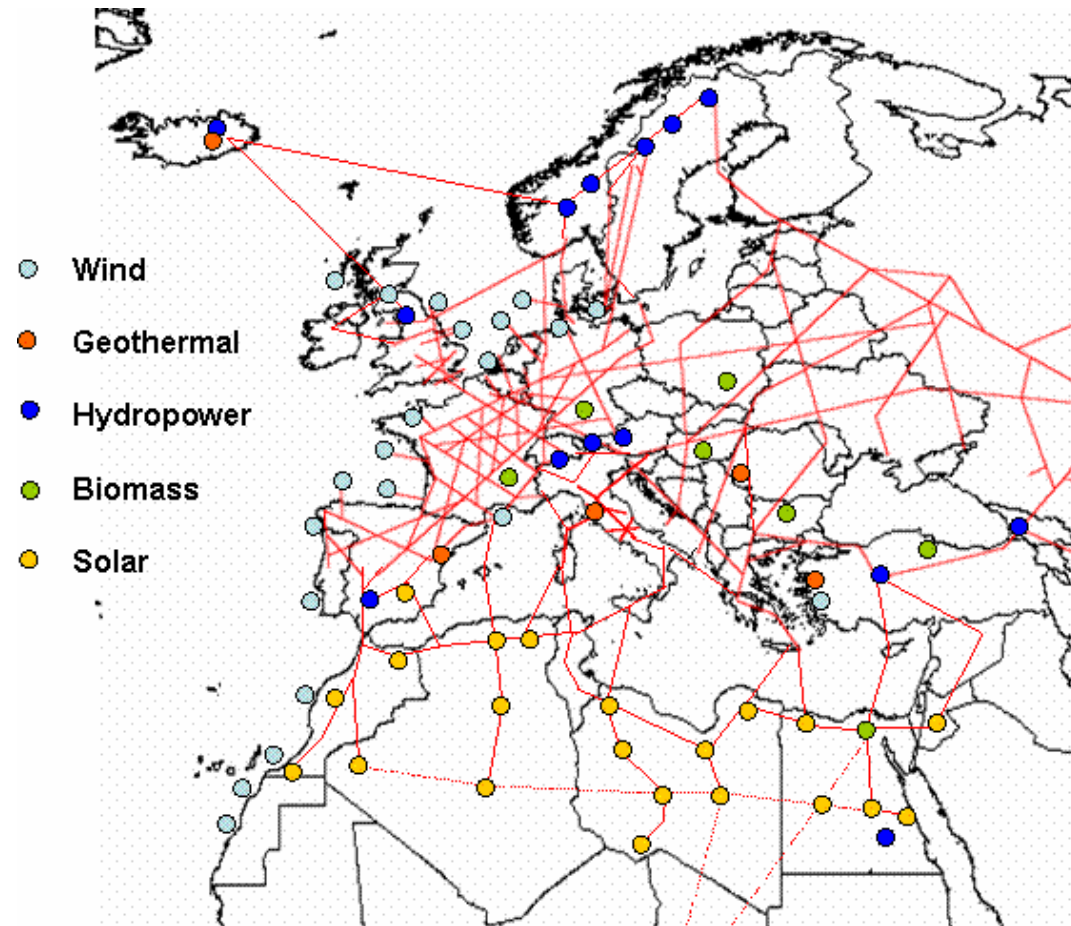
After closing the Mediterranean Ring in 2010, about 0.5 % of European electricity demand could be imported through the conventional AC grid. If upgraded to European standards, 3 %. However, 45 % of the solar electricity would be lost over 3000 km.



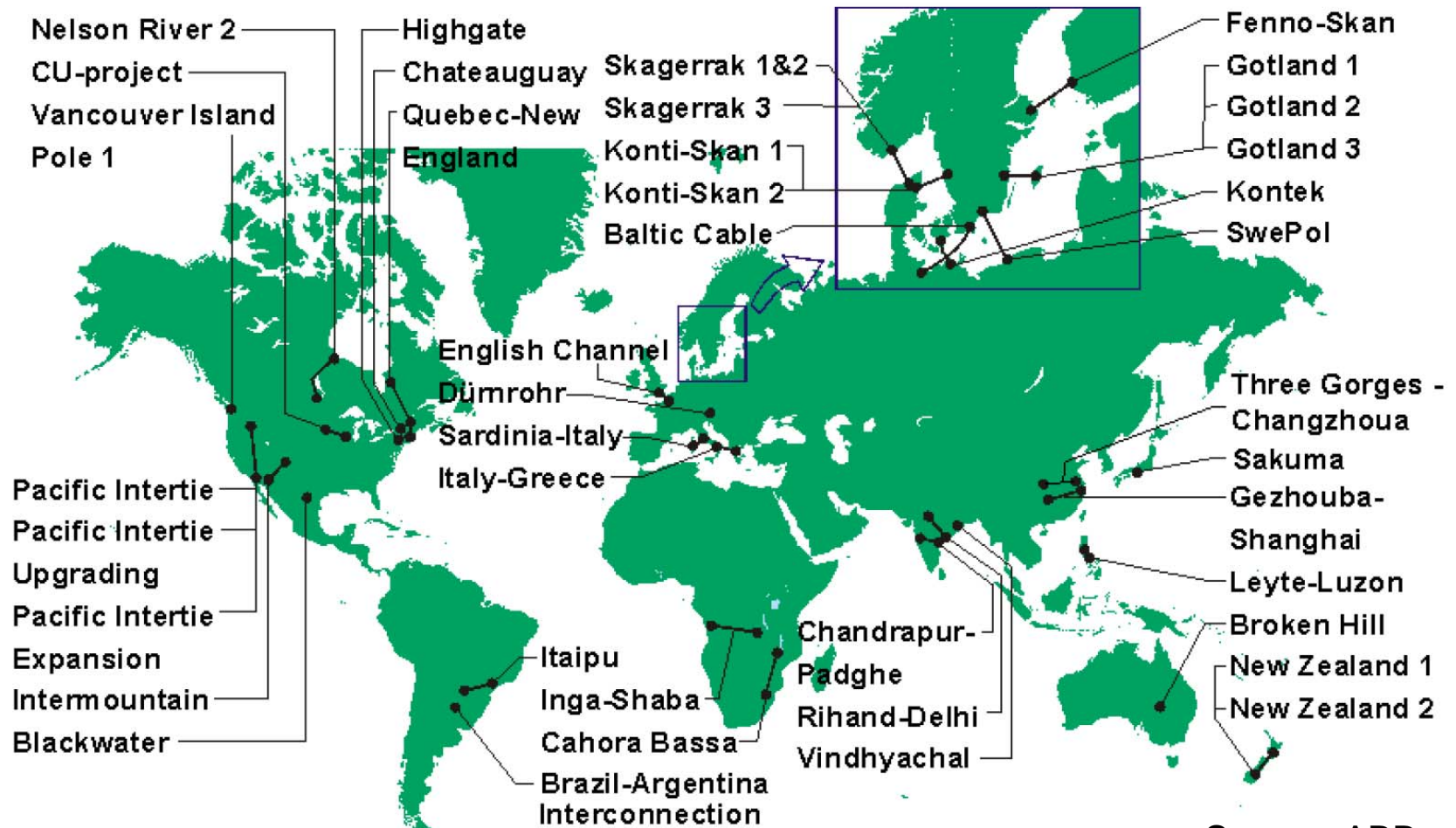
Security of power supply by a future trans-European HVDC grid

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power transmission loses only 10% over 3000 km distance.

HVDC lines will serve long distance transfer, with few outlets to the conventional alternating current (AC) grid.

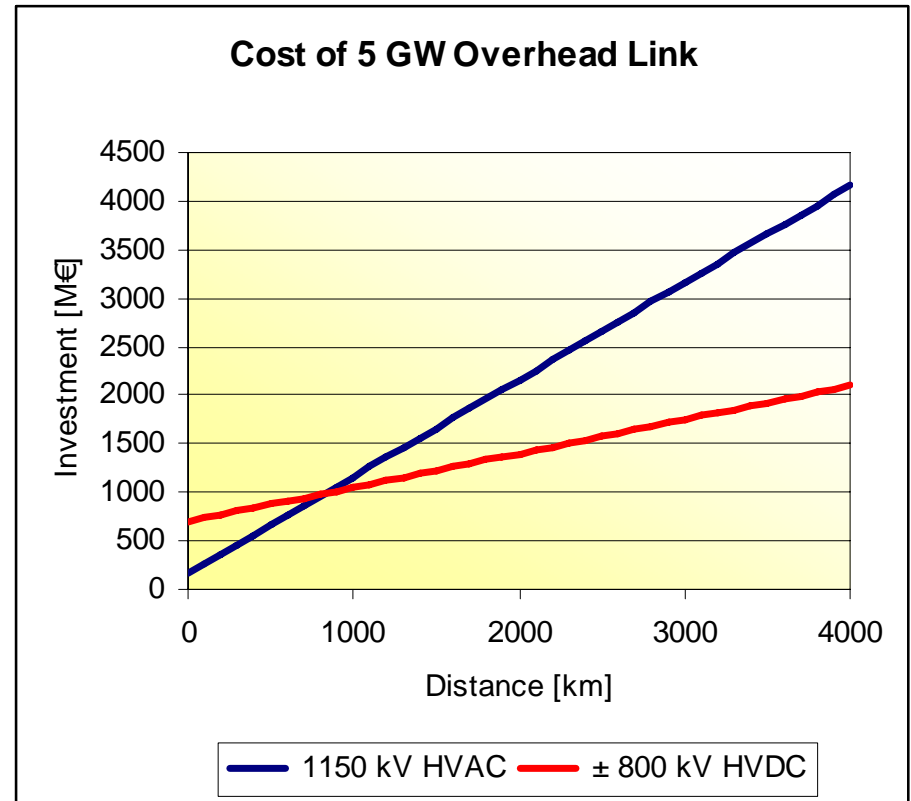
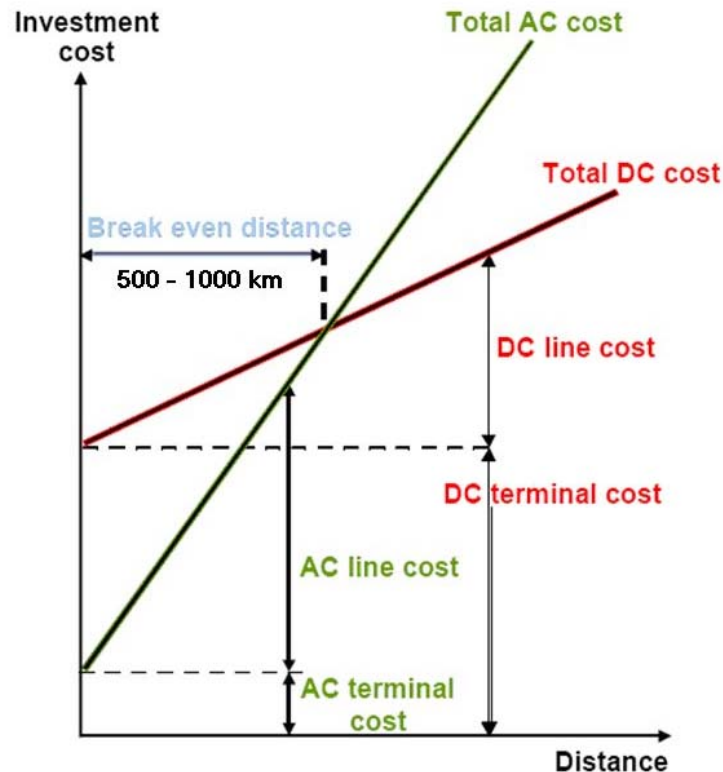


HVDC is a well-established technology, transmitting 75 GW world wide (mainly remote hydro- and geothermal power)



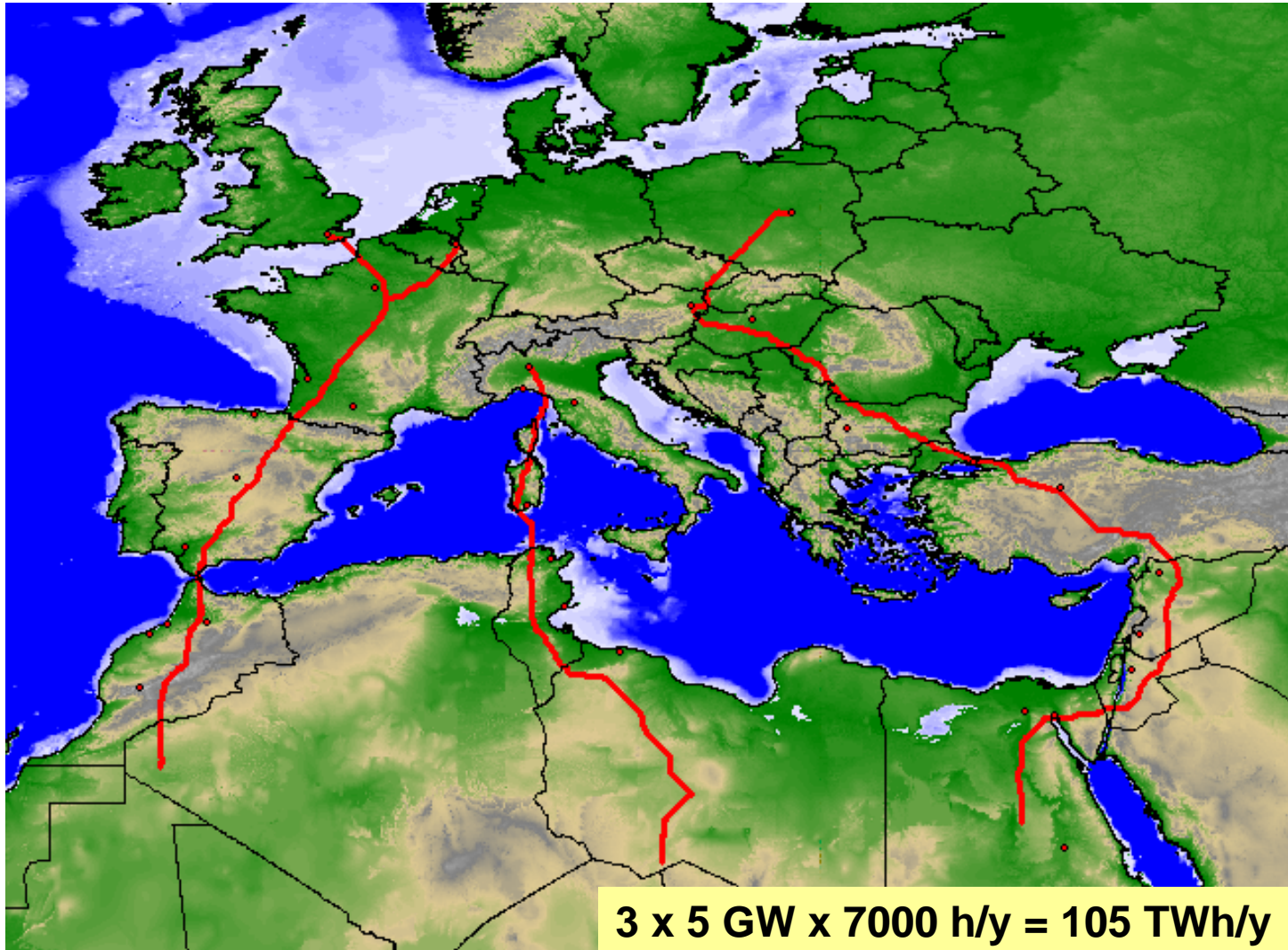
Source: ABB

Cost of HVDC and HVAC links with 5 GW capacity



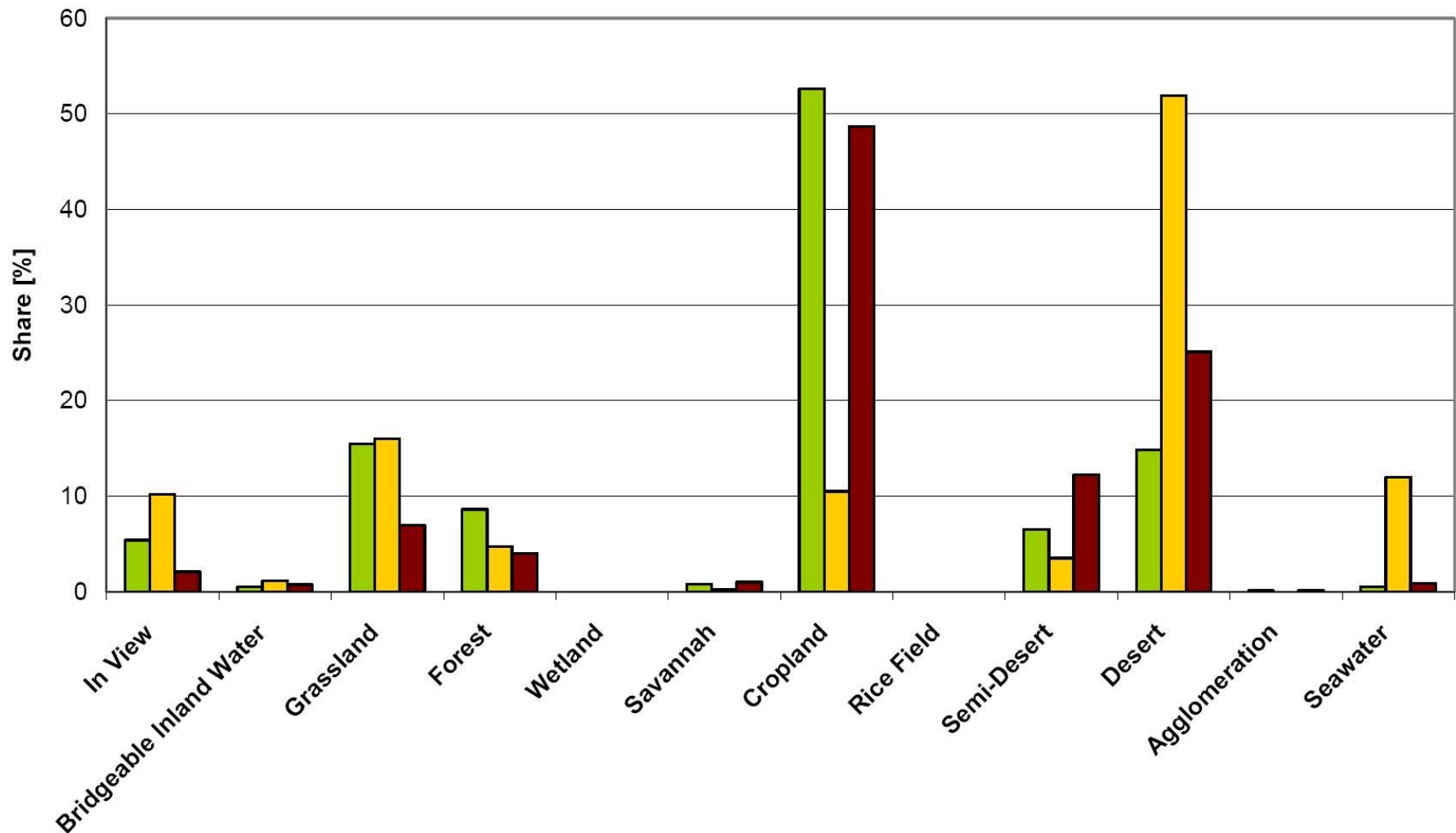
HVDC High Voltage Direct Current, HVAC High Voltage Alternating Current

Analysed Examples for EU-MENA HVDC Interconnection

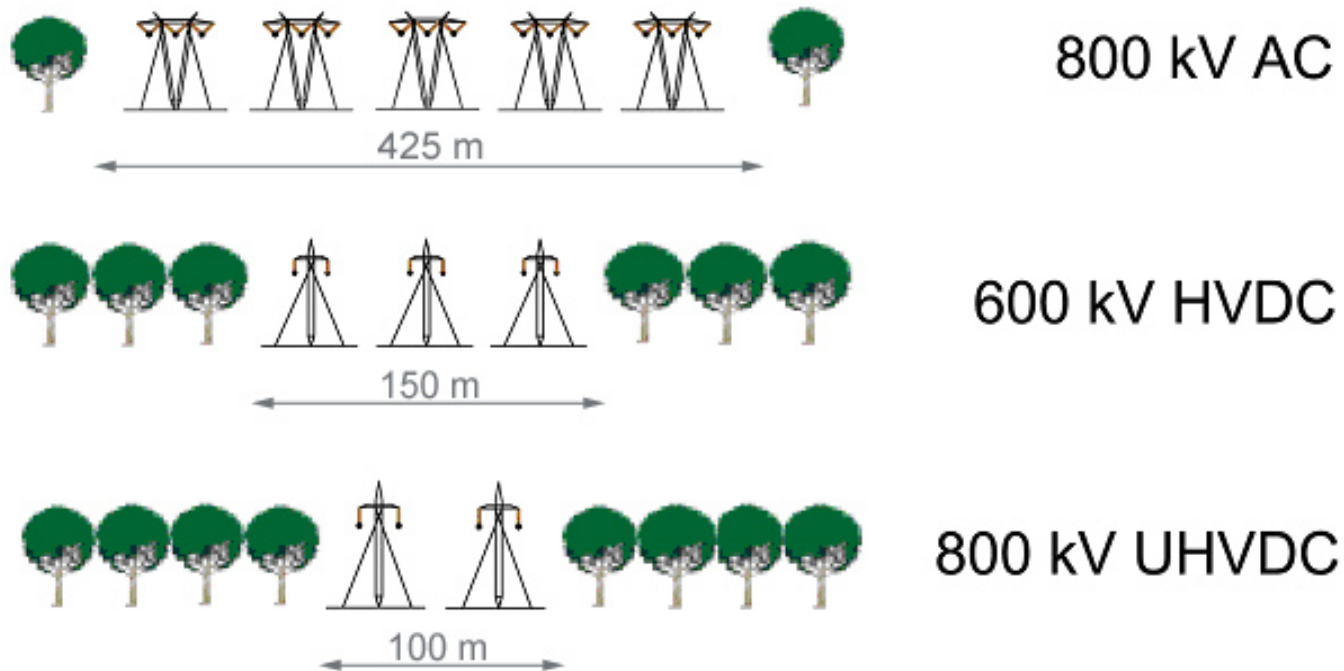


Impact of HVDC Lines on Landscape

■ Algeria-Aachen ■ Libya-Milano ■ Egypt-Warszaw



Space required for 10 GW power transmission



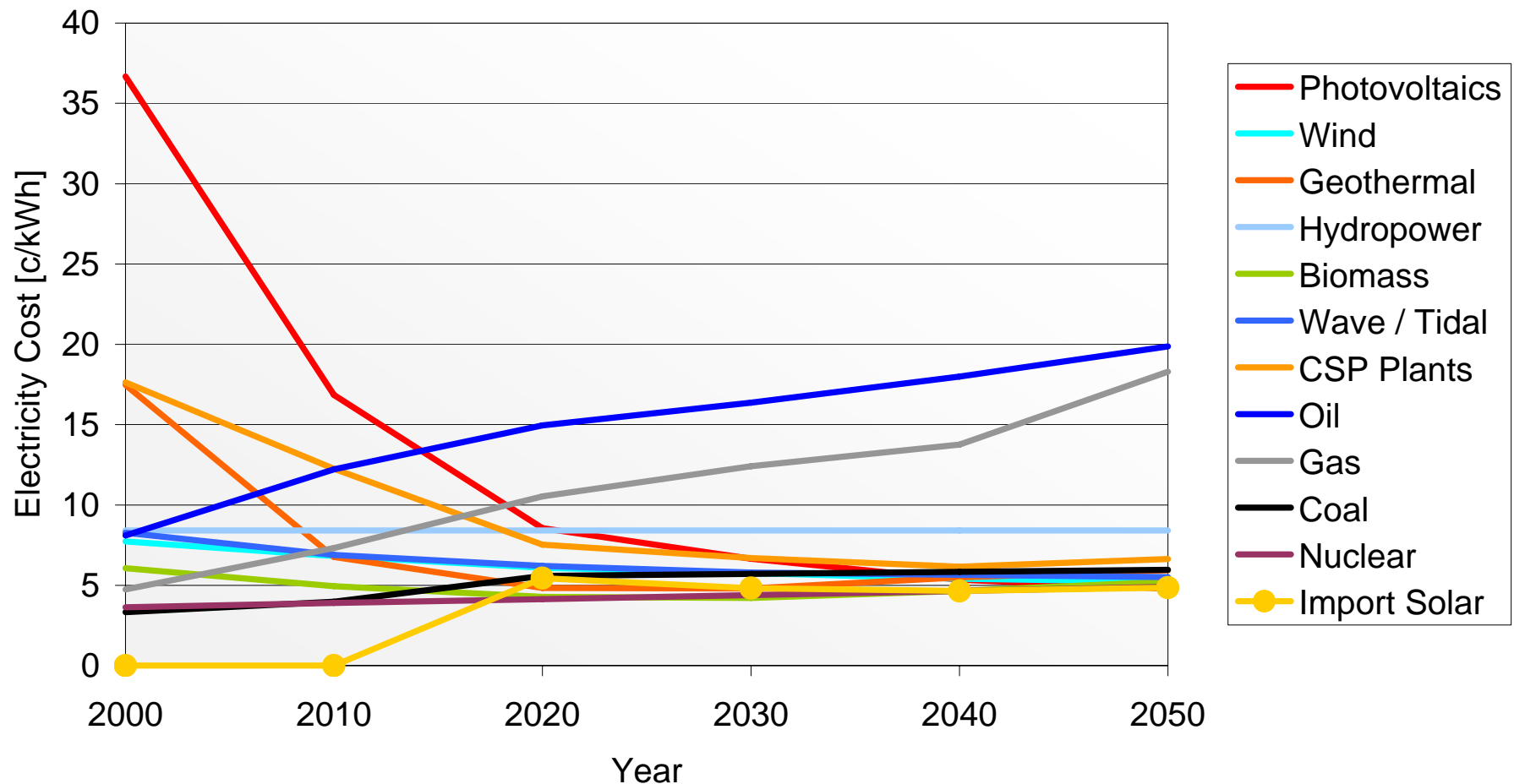
(Quelle: ABB, erweitert)

AC	Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
UHVDC	Ultra High Voltage Direct Current

Options for solar electricity transfer over 3000 km distance

Solar Power Transfer by:	Hydrogen	AC / HVAC	HVDC Line
Losses	75 %	45 % / 25 %	10 %
Cost	very high	high	low
Adaptation to Consumers (Transformer)	has to be transformed to AC first	directly transformable	has to be transformed to AC first
Over Sea Transport	by tankers or pipelines	not over 30 km	standard solution
Visibility Impact	very low	high	low
Materials and Emissions	moderate	moderate	low
Preferred Application	eventually fuel for transport	regional and local power	long distance power transfer

Electricity generation cost of various technologies



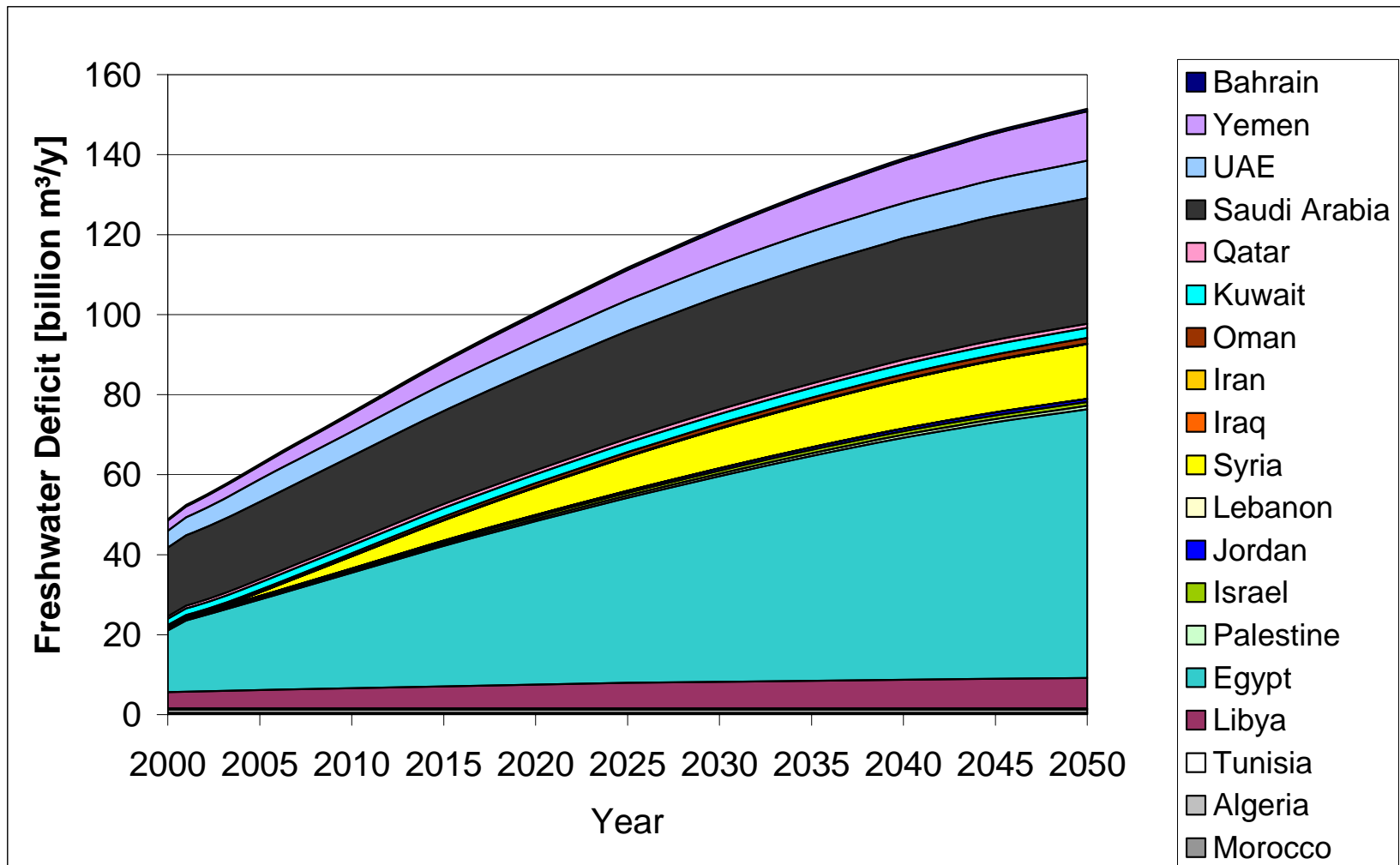
CO₂ Capture and Sequestration (CCS) included in fossil fueled generation costs after 2020
CSP in solar only operation

Scenario for total EU-MENA HVDC interconnection 2020 – 2050 *

Year		2020	2030	2040	2050
Capacity GW		2 x 5	8 x 5	14 x 5	20 x 5
Transfer TWh/y		60	230	470	700
Capacity Factor		0.60	0.67	0.75	0.80
Land Area km x km	CSP HVDC	15 x 15 3100 x 0.1	30 x 30 3600 x 0.4	40 x 40 3600 x 0.7	50 x 50 3600 x 1.0
Investment Billion €	CSP HVDC	42 5	134 16	245 31	350 45

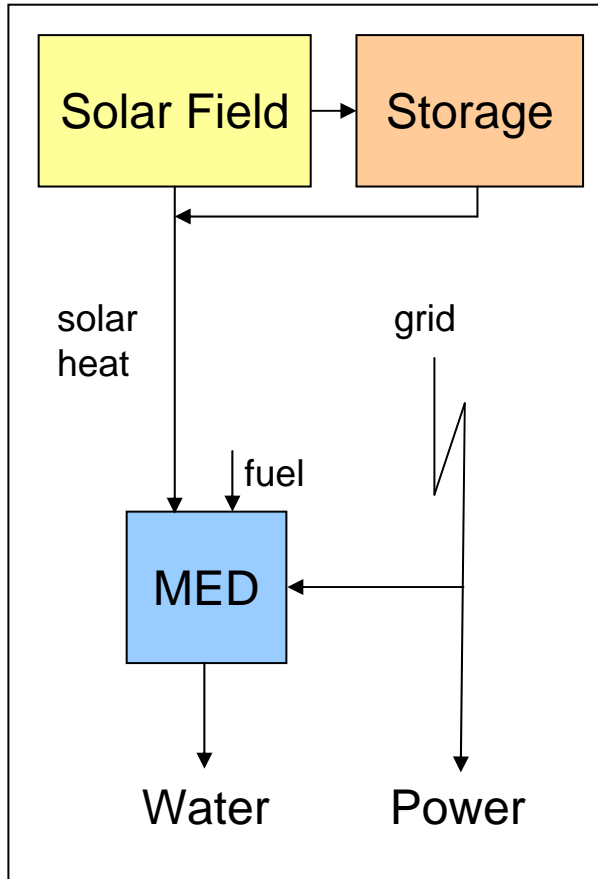
* All countries analysed in TRANS-CSP

Expected Water Deficits by Country

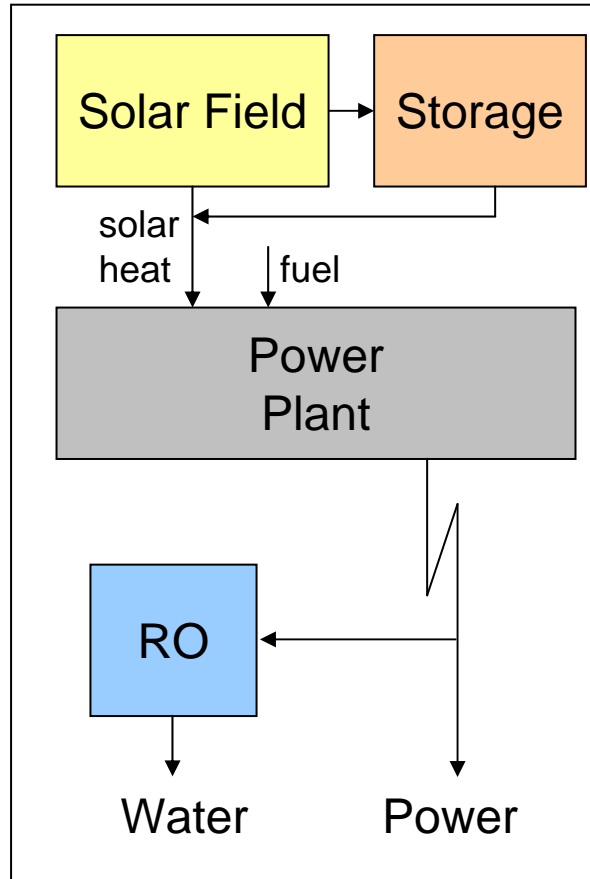


Concentrating Solar Thermal Power for Seawater Desalination (Options)

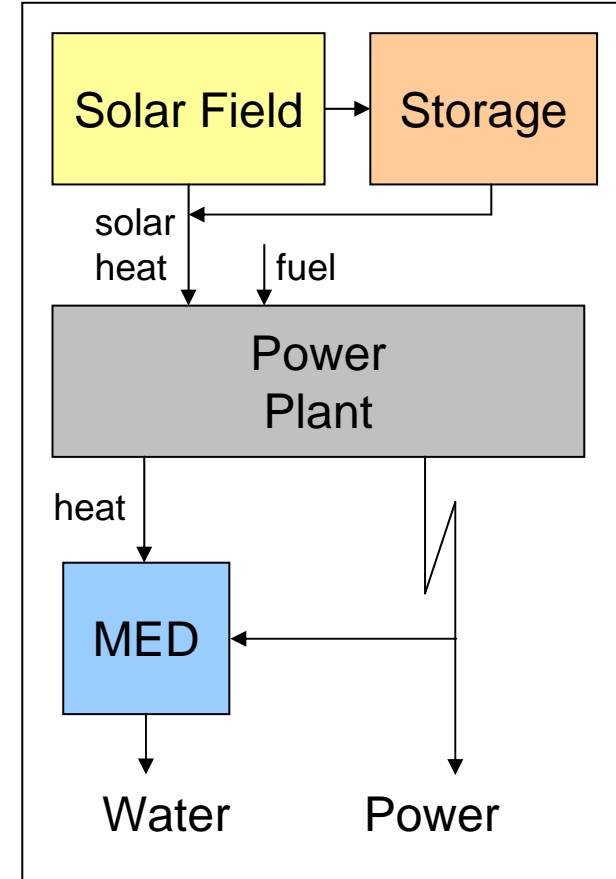
Heat Only



Power Only

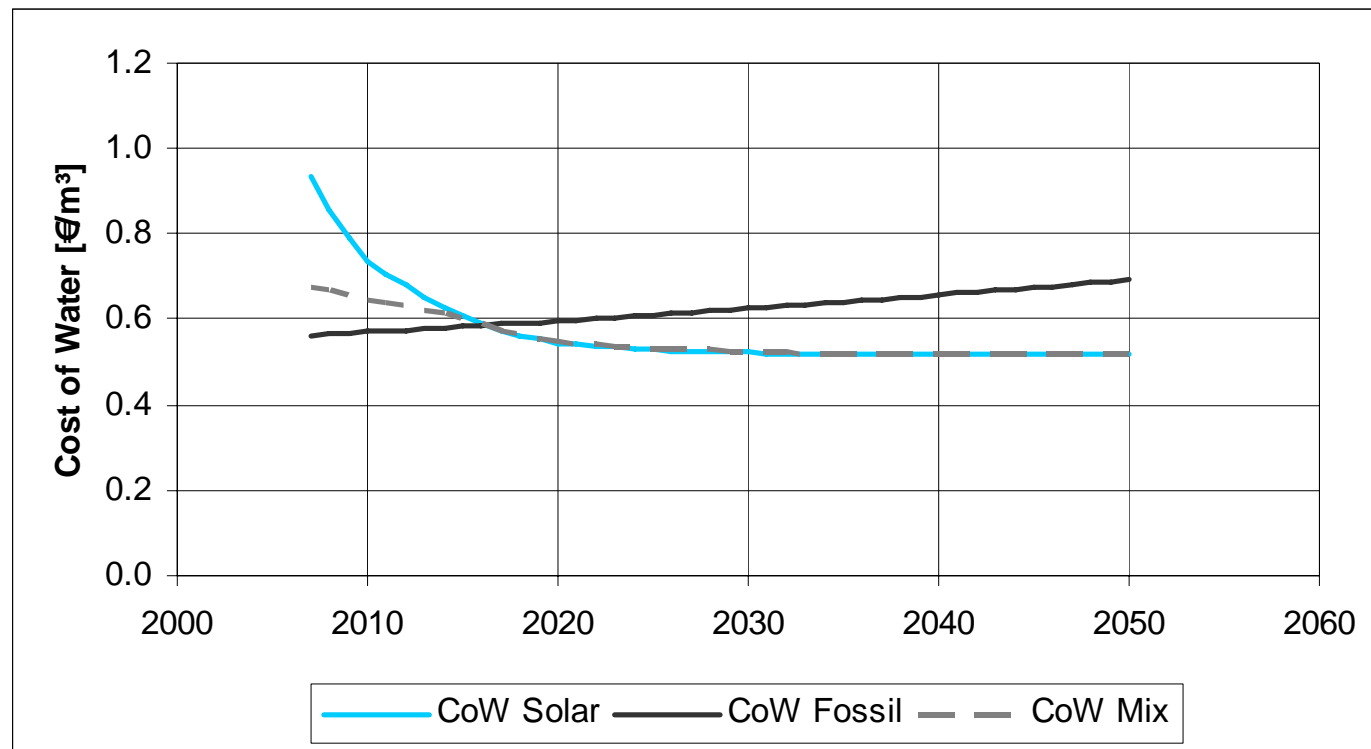


Combined Heat & Power

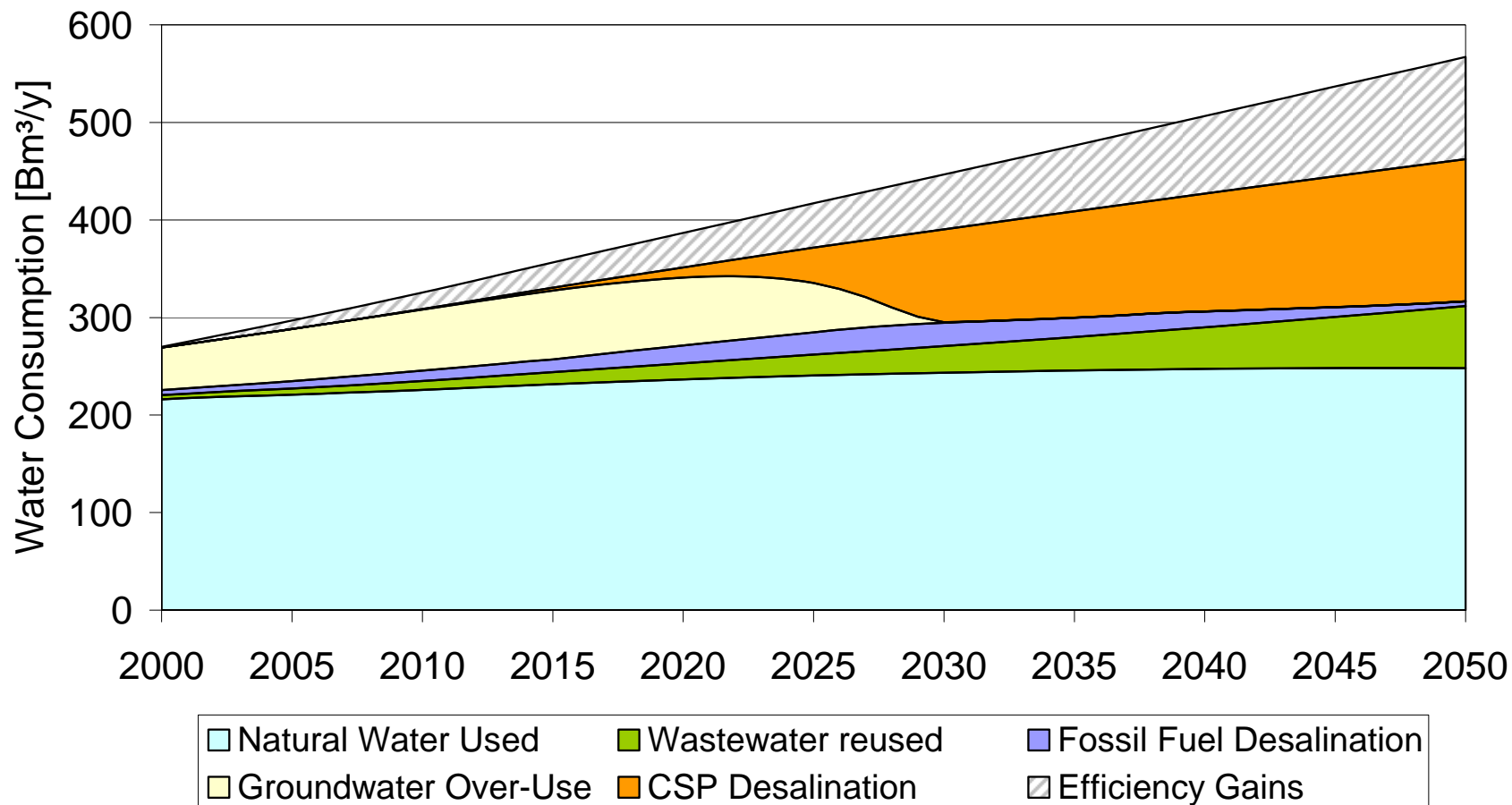


MED: Multi-Effect-Distillation; RO: Reverse Osmosis Membrane Desalination

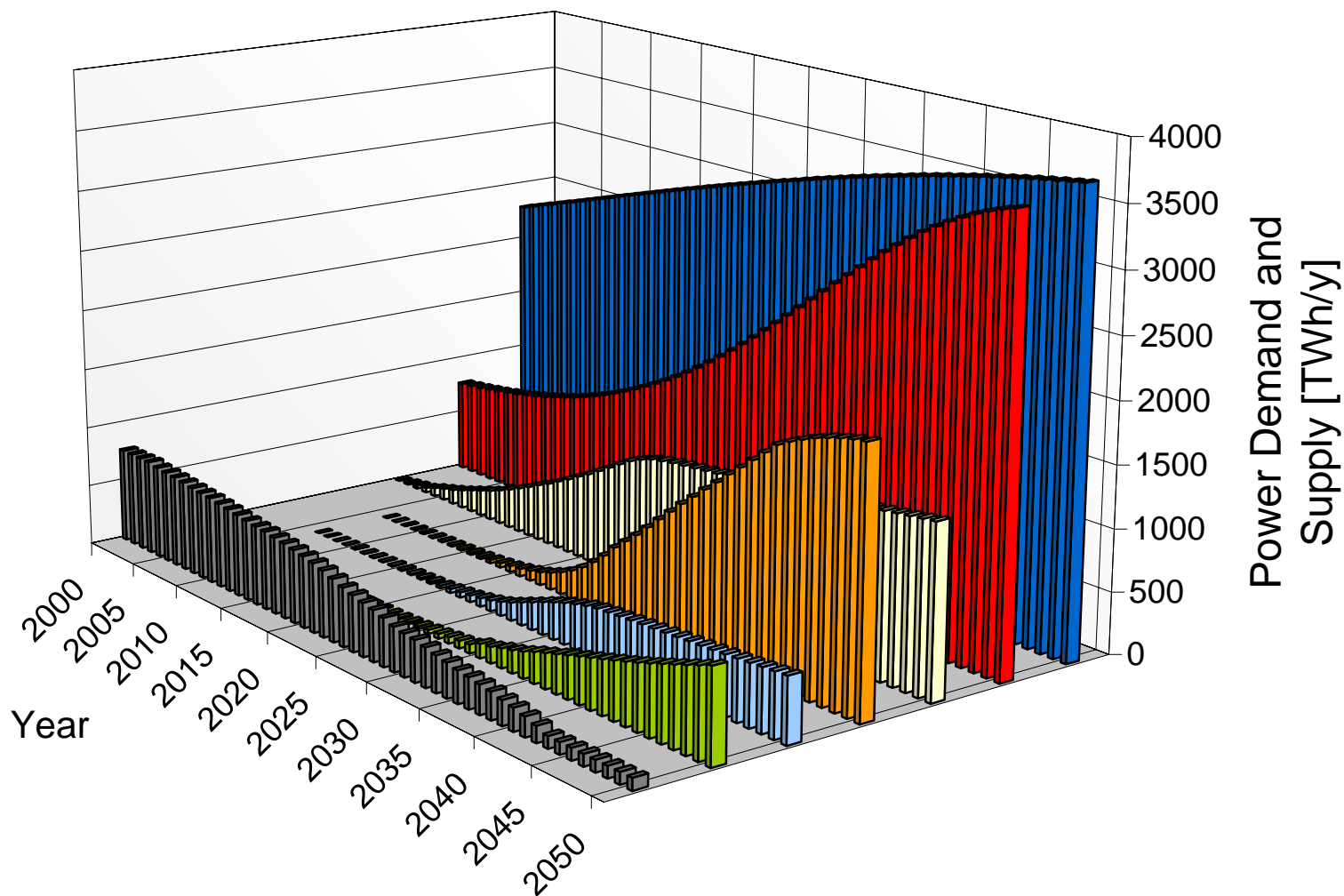
Projected cost of water (CoW) from RO using conventionally generated power or solar electricity



Middle East & North Africa



Electricity and fresh water provision in MENA



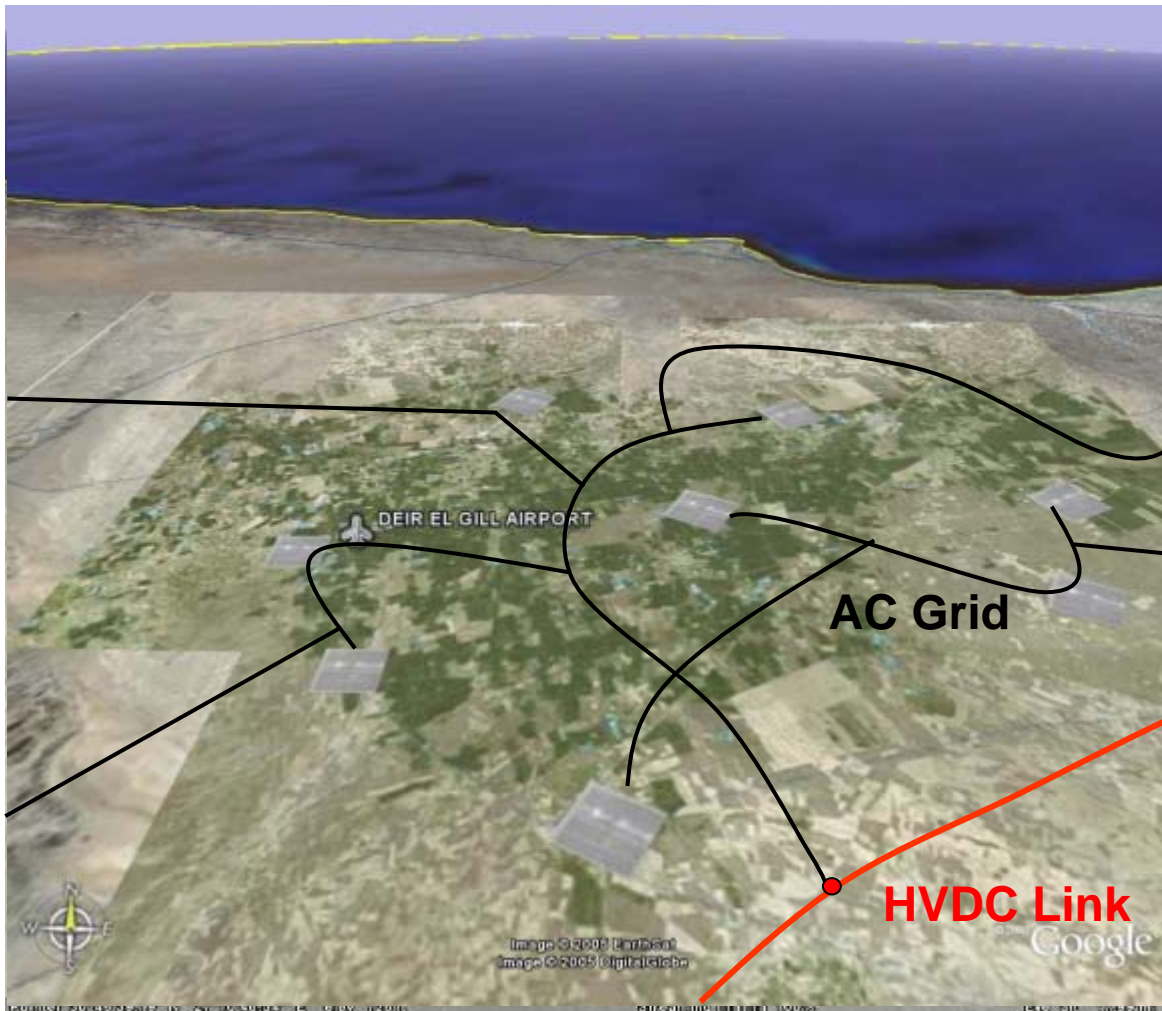
Old Plants MENA CSP Export CSP Desalination CSP MENA
New Plants MENA Total Demand MENA Total Demand EU



Conclusions

- Within 15 years, a well balanced power mix may lead to less expensive electricity than business as usual. Domestic sources reduce the import of fuels.
- Solar electricity from concentrating solar power stations in MENA can provide firm capacity for base load, intermediate and peaking power.
- The most efficient and economic way to transfer electricity from MENA to Europe is via high voltage direct current transmission lines, adding about 1.5-2 cents/kWh to the local generating cost.
- By 2050, 700 TWh/y solar electricity could be imported from 20 locations in MENA at a cost of 5 c/kWh, providing about 15 % of European electricity demand.
- MENA water deficits can only be alleviated by seawater desalination powered by CSP
- To establish and maintain such a trans-national HVDC electricity grid, strong political support will be required.

Deserts as Powerhouses and Waterworks



www.dlr.de/tt/med-csp
www.dlr.de/tt/trans-csp
www.dlr.de/tt/aqua-csp

(artist view created with
Google Earth)



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