

Eastern Enlargement and Decision Making in the EU

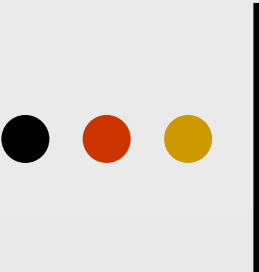
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Charles University Prague





outline of the presentation

- introduction – what has changed in EU key institutions
- legislative/decision-making production 2000-2004 and 2004-2006 compared
- dynamics of the process
- CM decision-making after EU enlargement - analysis



overview of main institutional changes after enlargement

- 2004 EP elections (→732)
- transformation of the Commission (20→30→25)
- Council of Ministers (15→25)
- Treaty of Nice decision-making rules of the CM as of November 2004

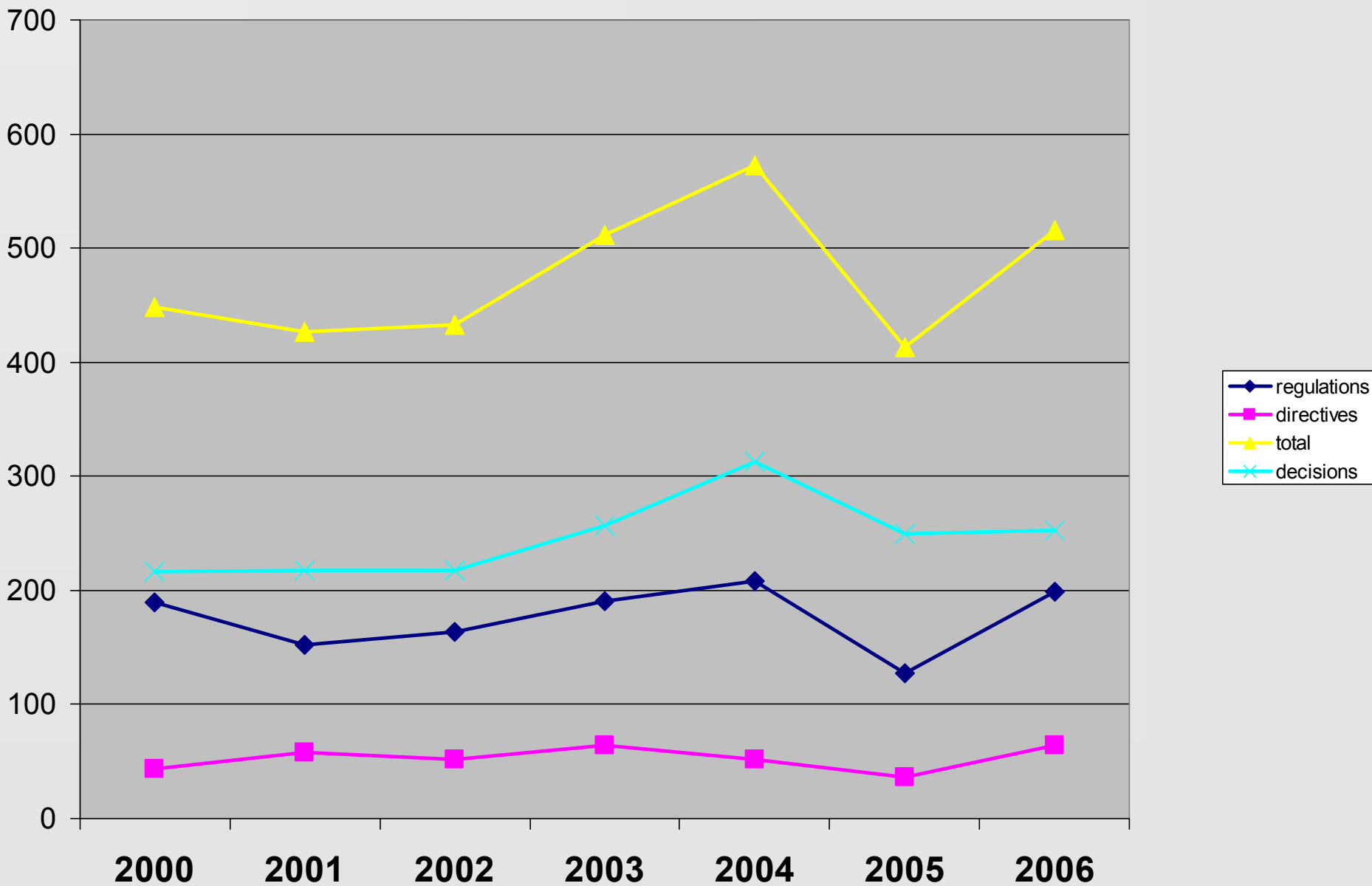


legislative process and eastern enlargement

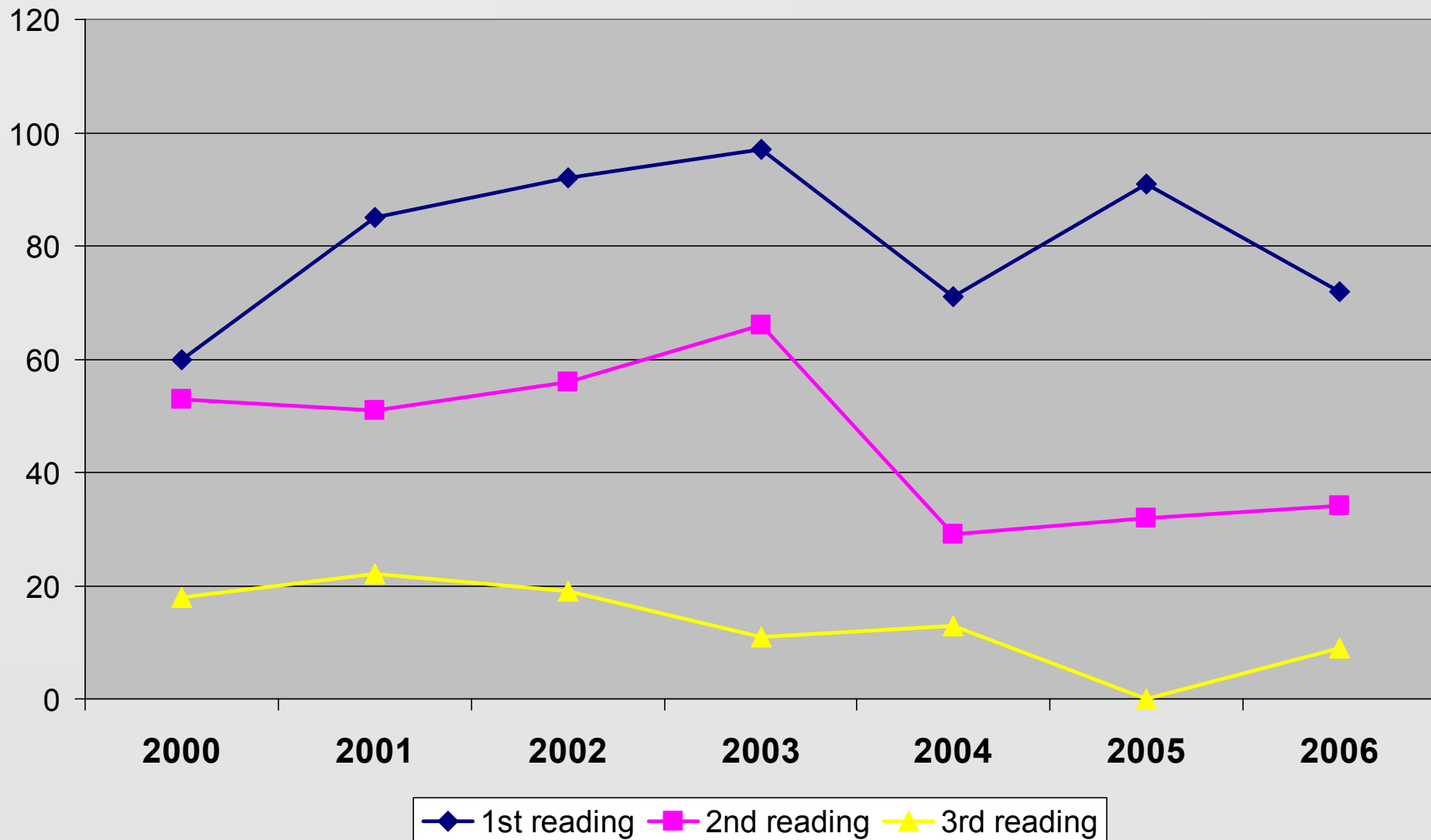
- tendency of the EU15 to spur the legislative production before the „big bang“
- 2005 – decline of legislative production
- 2004 – EP elections
- 2004 – new Commission

Legislative acts adopted 2000-2006

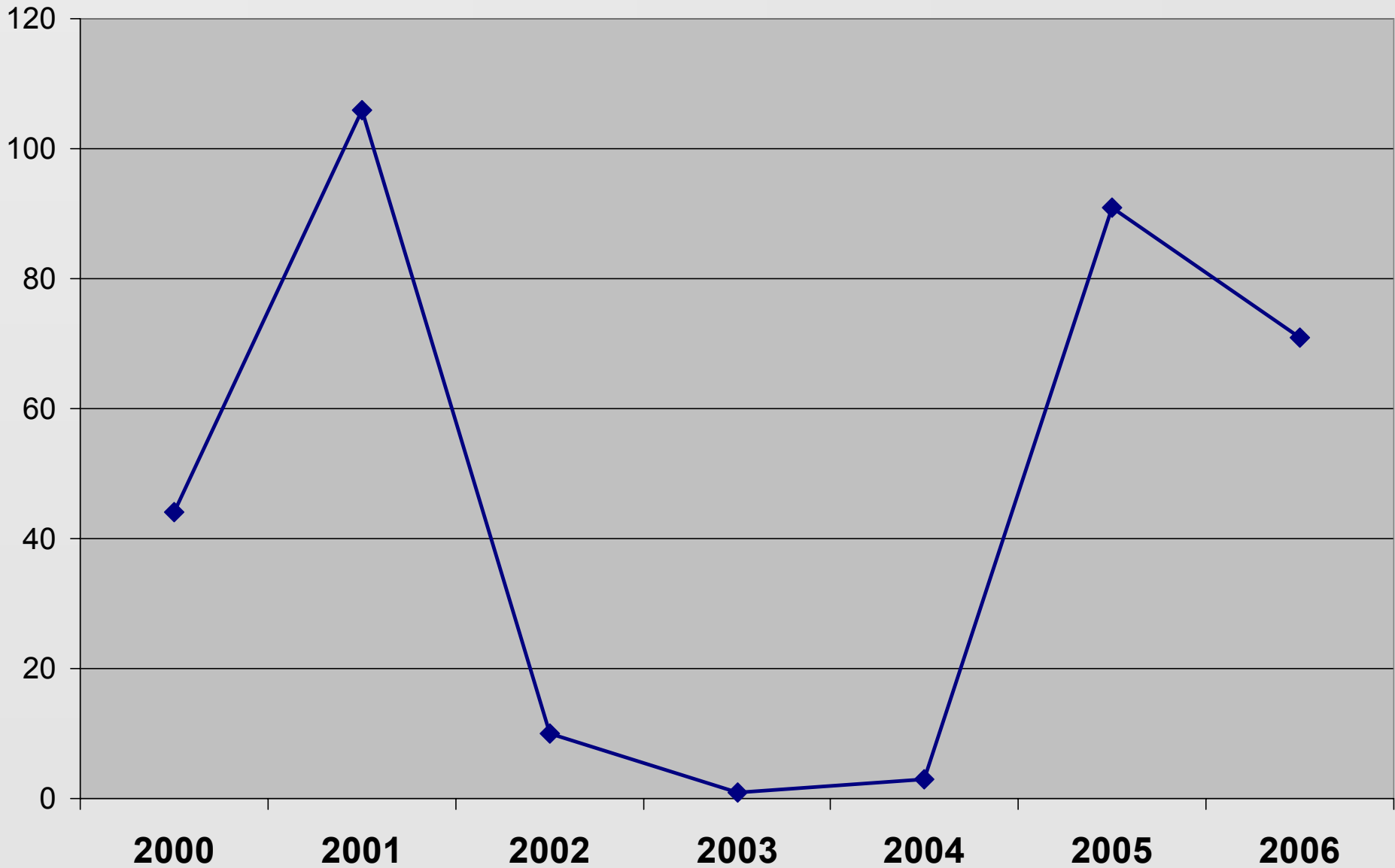
(Council regulations, decisions and Council and EP directives)



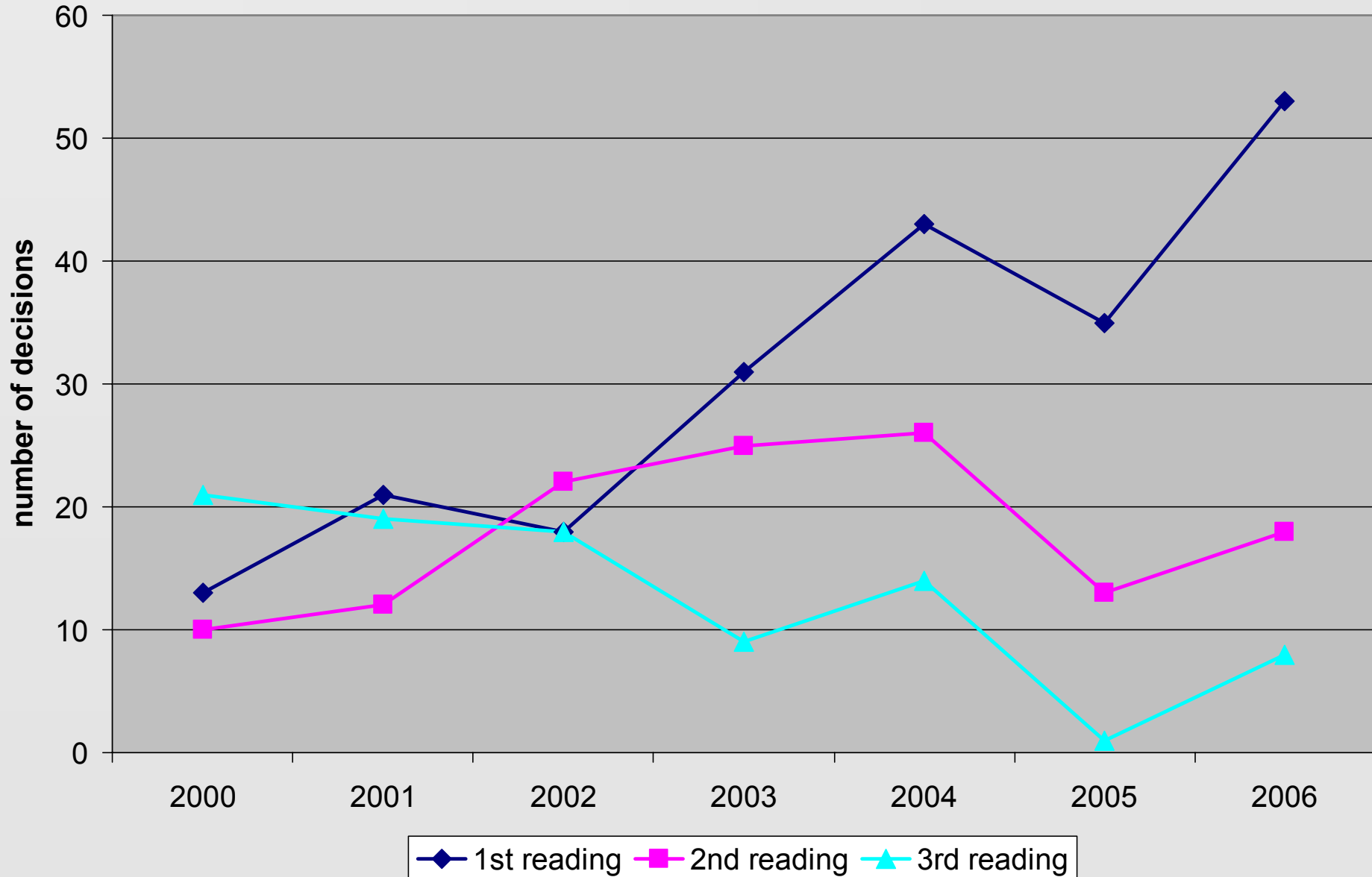
European Parliament - legislative decisions 2000-2006



Proposals withdrawn by the Commission



Council decisions 2000-2006





why CM?

- main decision-making body
- highest political sensitivity for MS
- **most significant changes** after enlargement
- **most significant changes** in the decision-making rules after Treaty of Nice
- **most significant changes** envisioned in the Constitution treaty



research area

- all Council decisions
 - legislative acts
 - approval
 - political agreement
 - common position etc.
 - operational decisions
 - opinions
 - recommendations etc



data summary

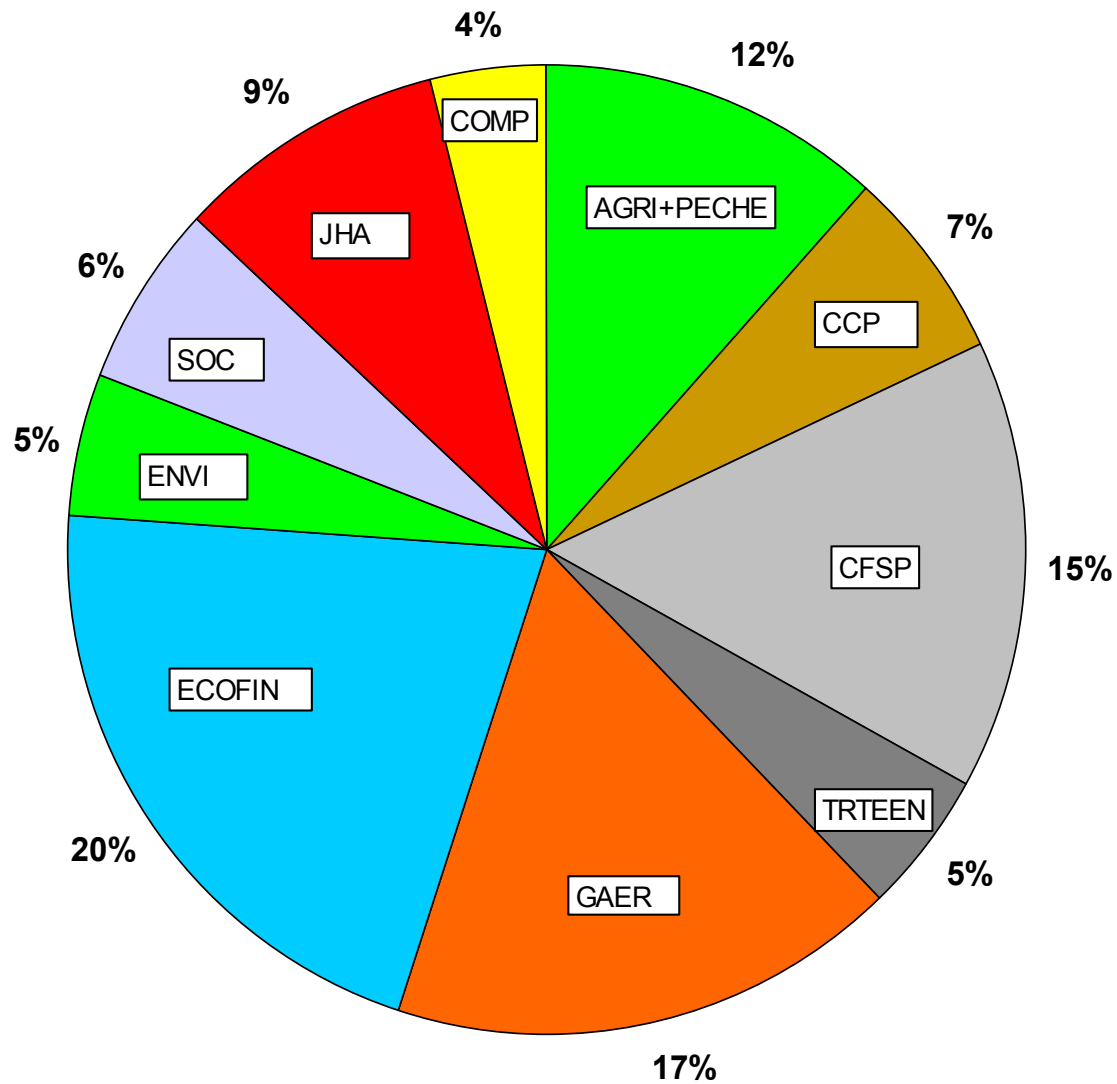
- 160 Council sessions (May 2004 – June 2006)
- 2723 proposals, app. 3 percent no relevant or complete data
 - 179 contested proposals – 6,6 percent
 - 158 contested proposals with voting records – 5,8 percent = data set for analysis
 - 477 dissenting votes (against + abstention)
 - ∅ 3 member states contested the proposal
 - 54 proposals contested by single dissenters – 34 percent



legislative acts

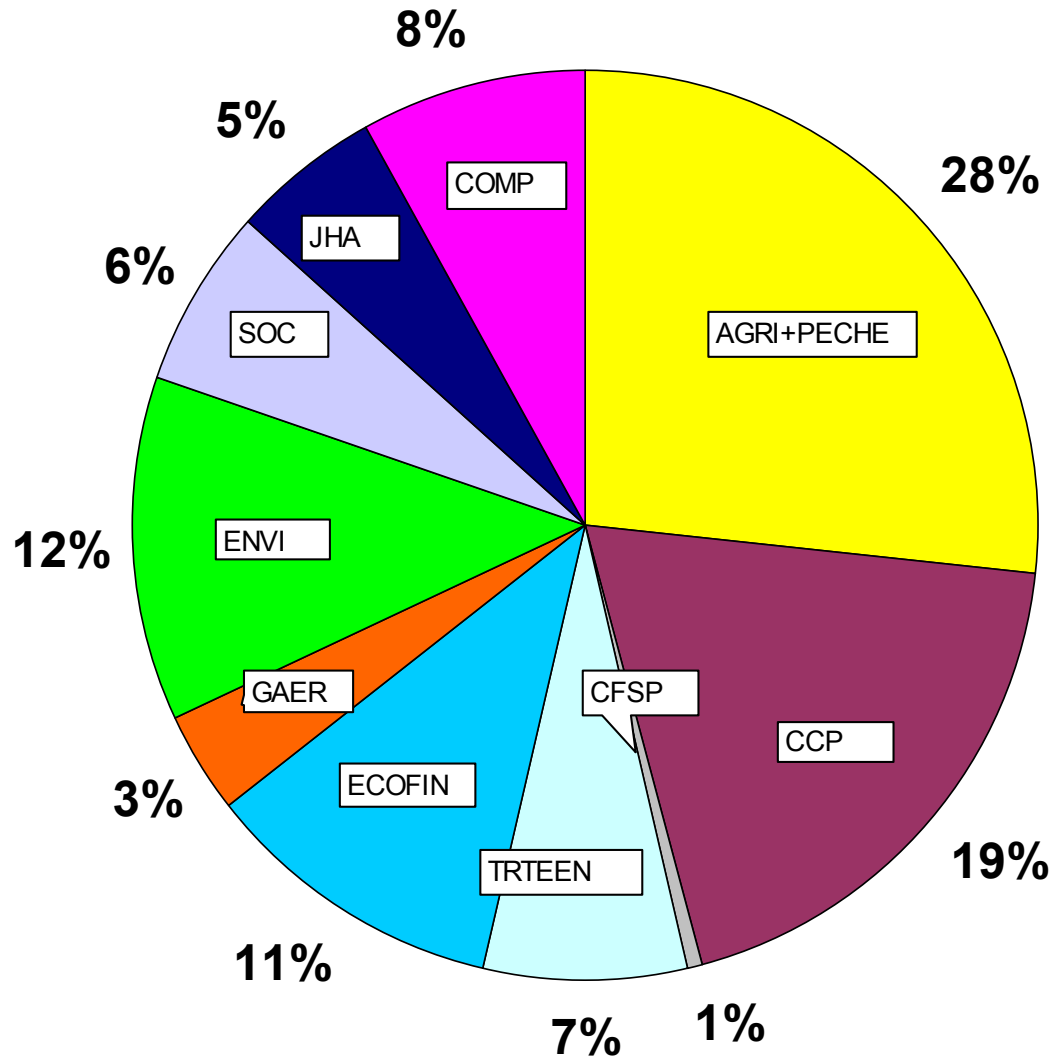
- 480 proposals of legislative acts
 - 103 contested proposals – 21 percent
 - 91 contested proposals with voting records – 19 percent
 - 268 dissenting votes (against + abstention)
 - 0 3 member states contested the proposal
 - 28 contested by single dissenters – 31 percent

Composition of Council agenda (2723 proposals; May 2004-June 2006)



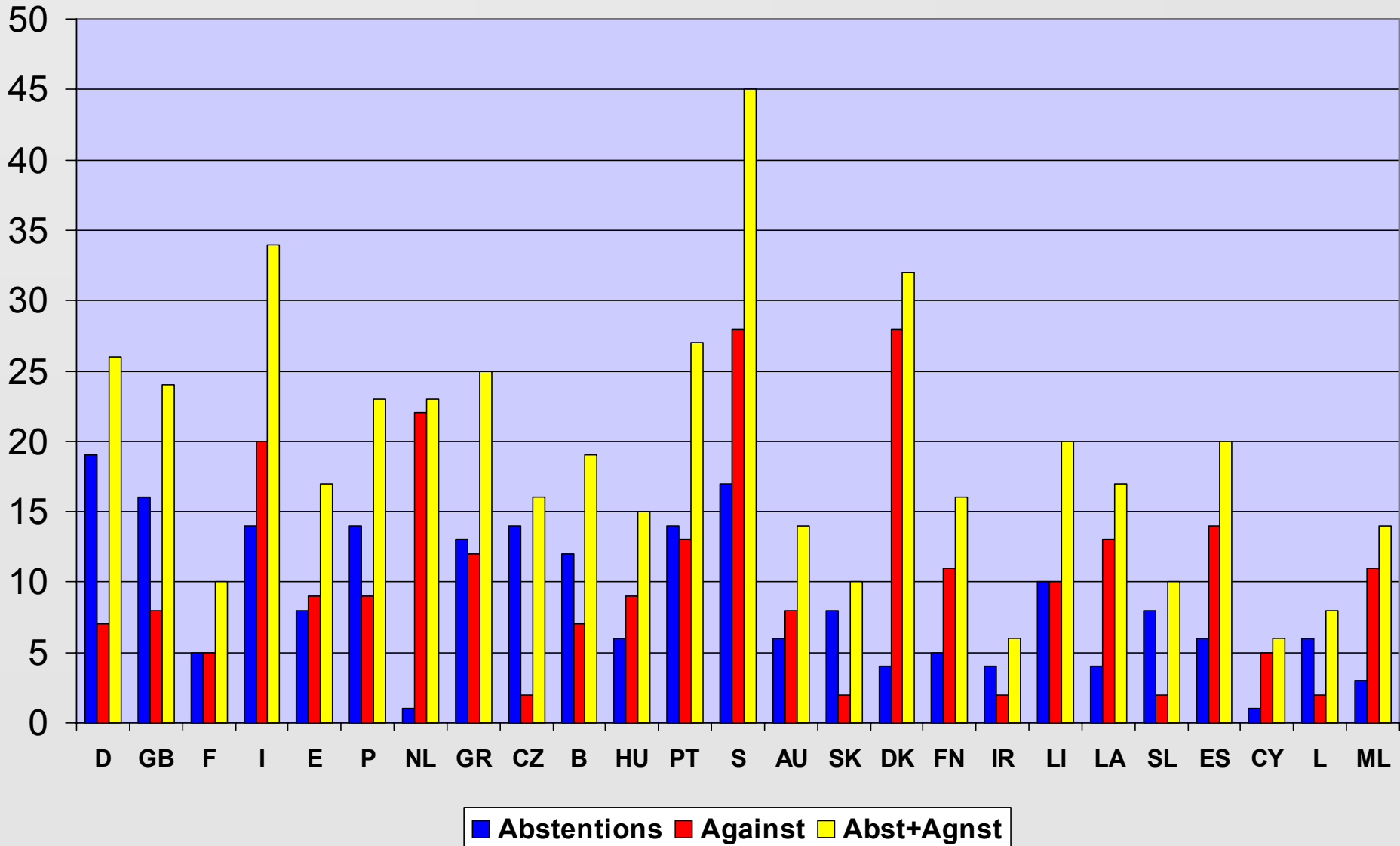
Contested proposals by agenda

(158 proposals; 5,8%; May 2004-June 2006)



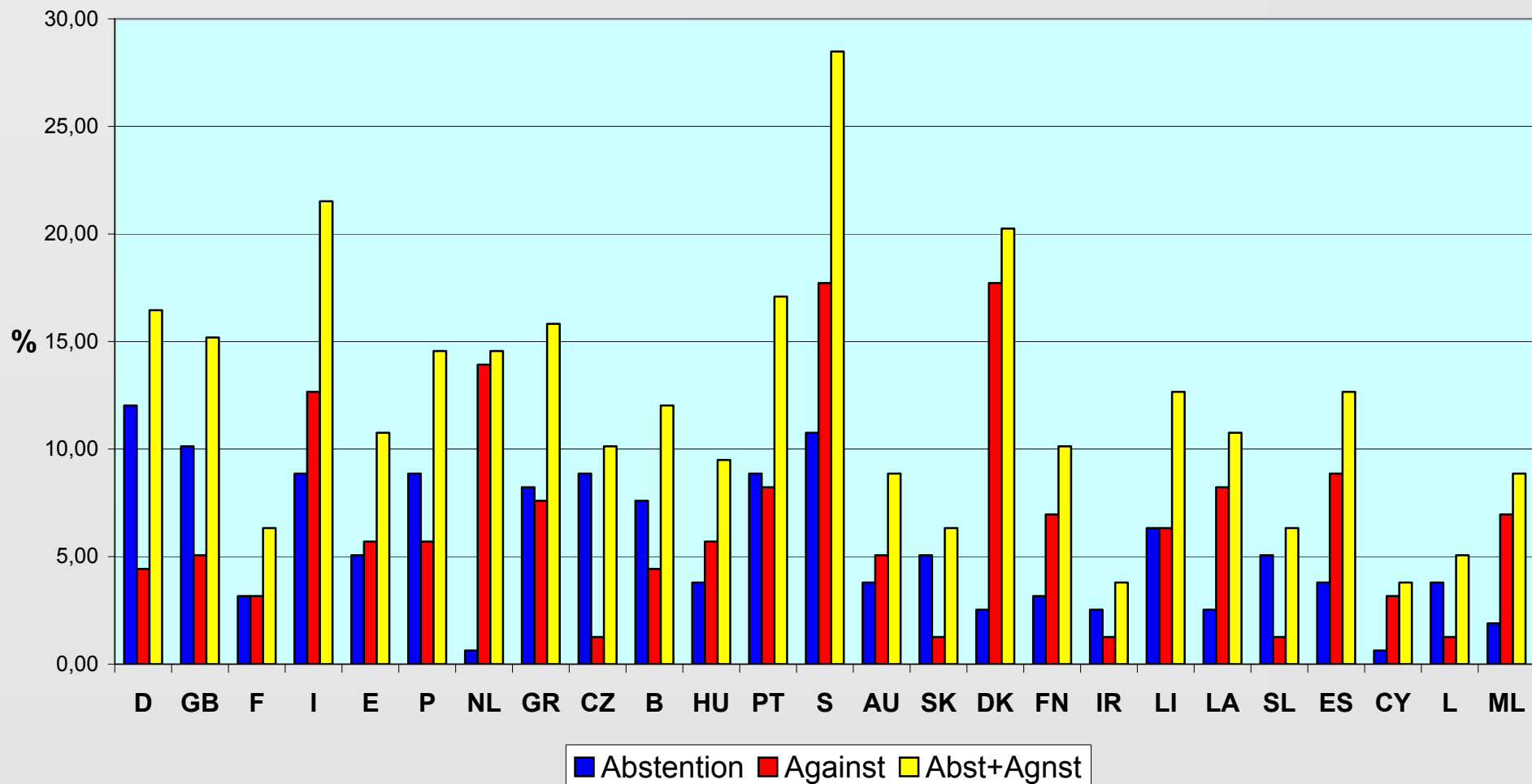
Contested proposals

(158 proposals; Σ 477 negative votes; \emptyset 19,1 per member state)

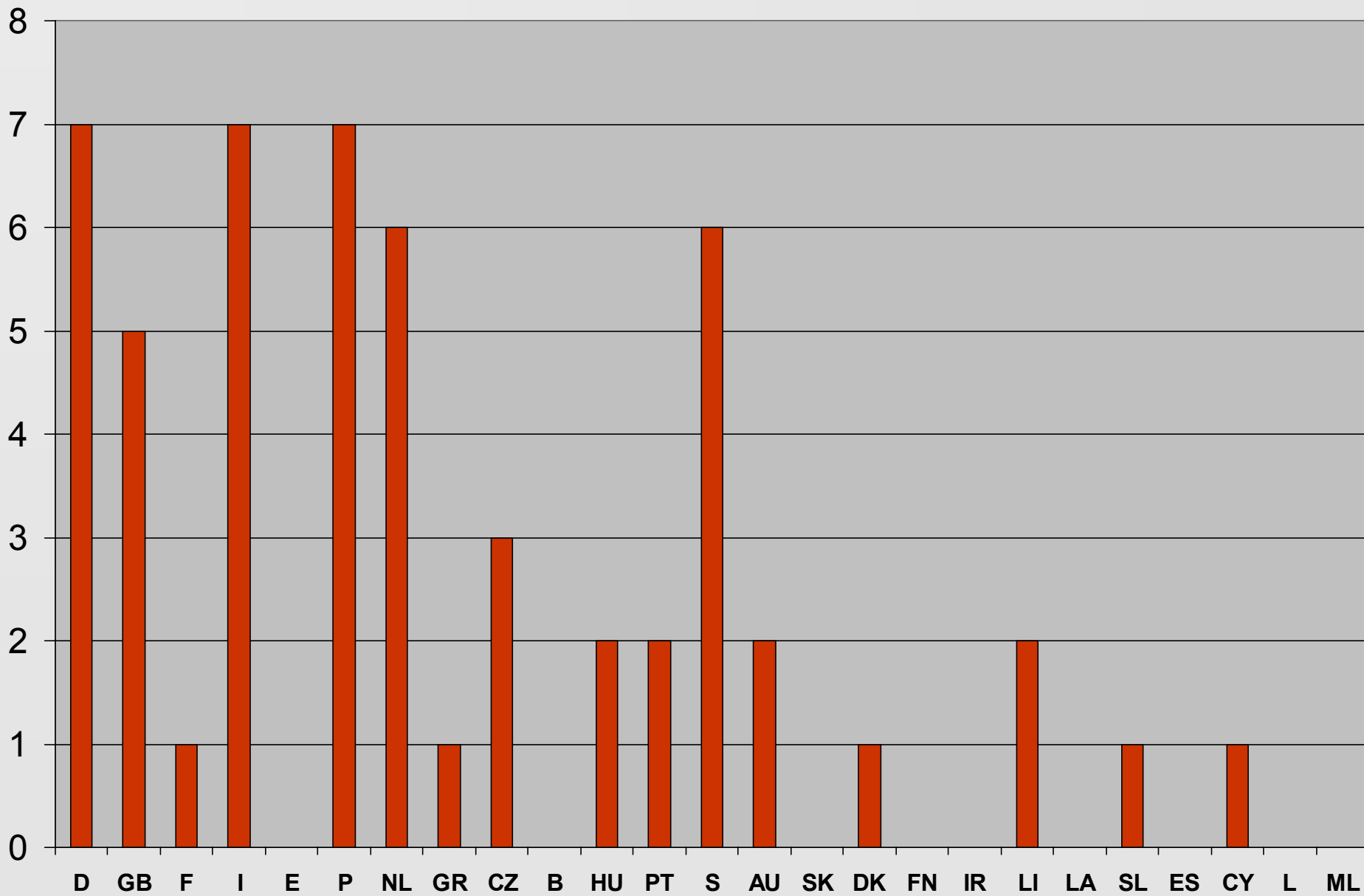


Contested proposals

- negative votes by member states; Ø 12,1 percent per member state

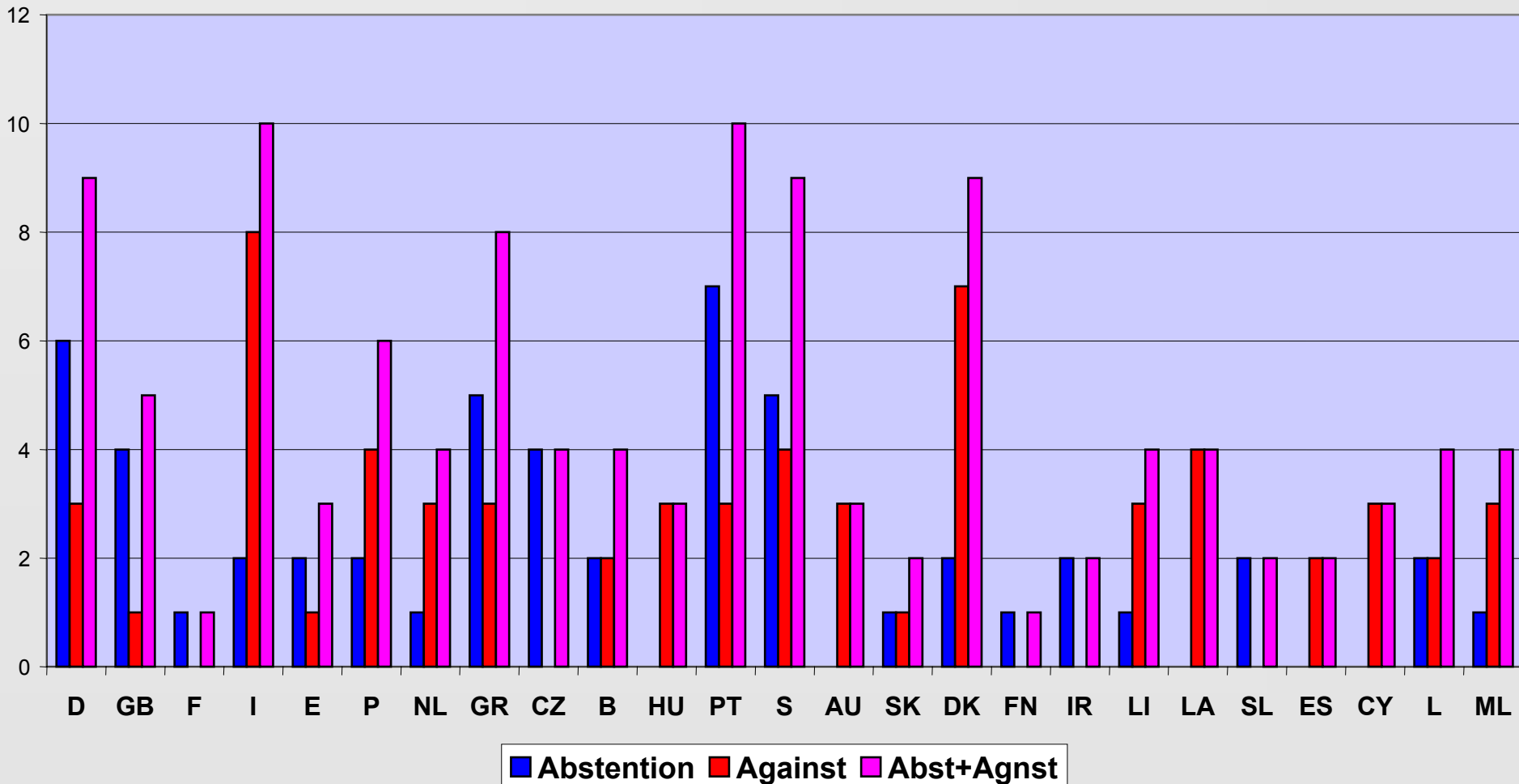


Single member state contesting the proposal (54 cases)



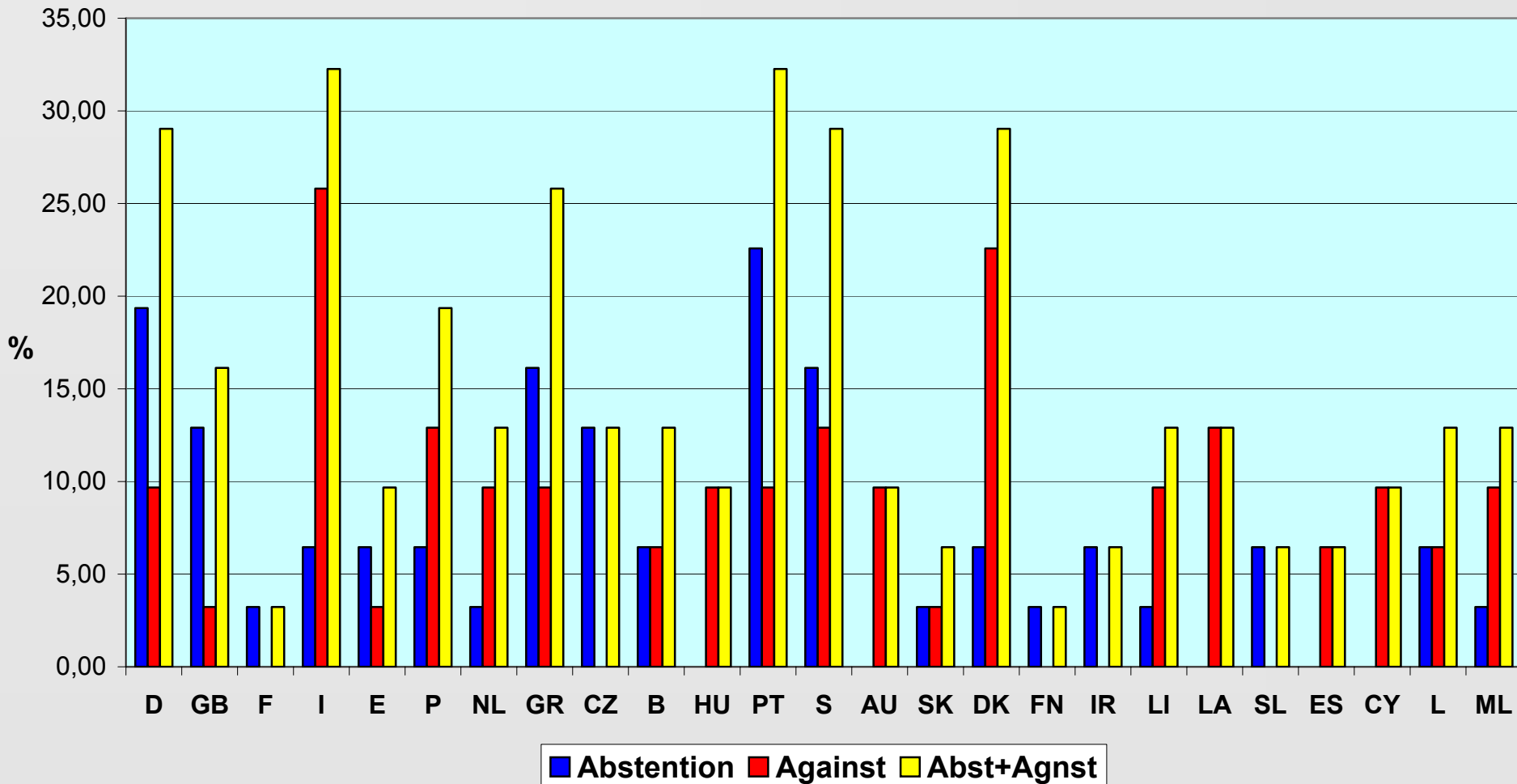
Contested proposals - AGRI

(31 proposals; \sum 116 negative votes; \emptyset 3,7 per member state)



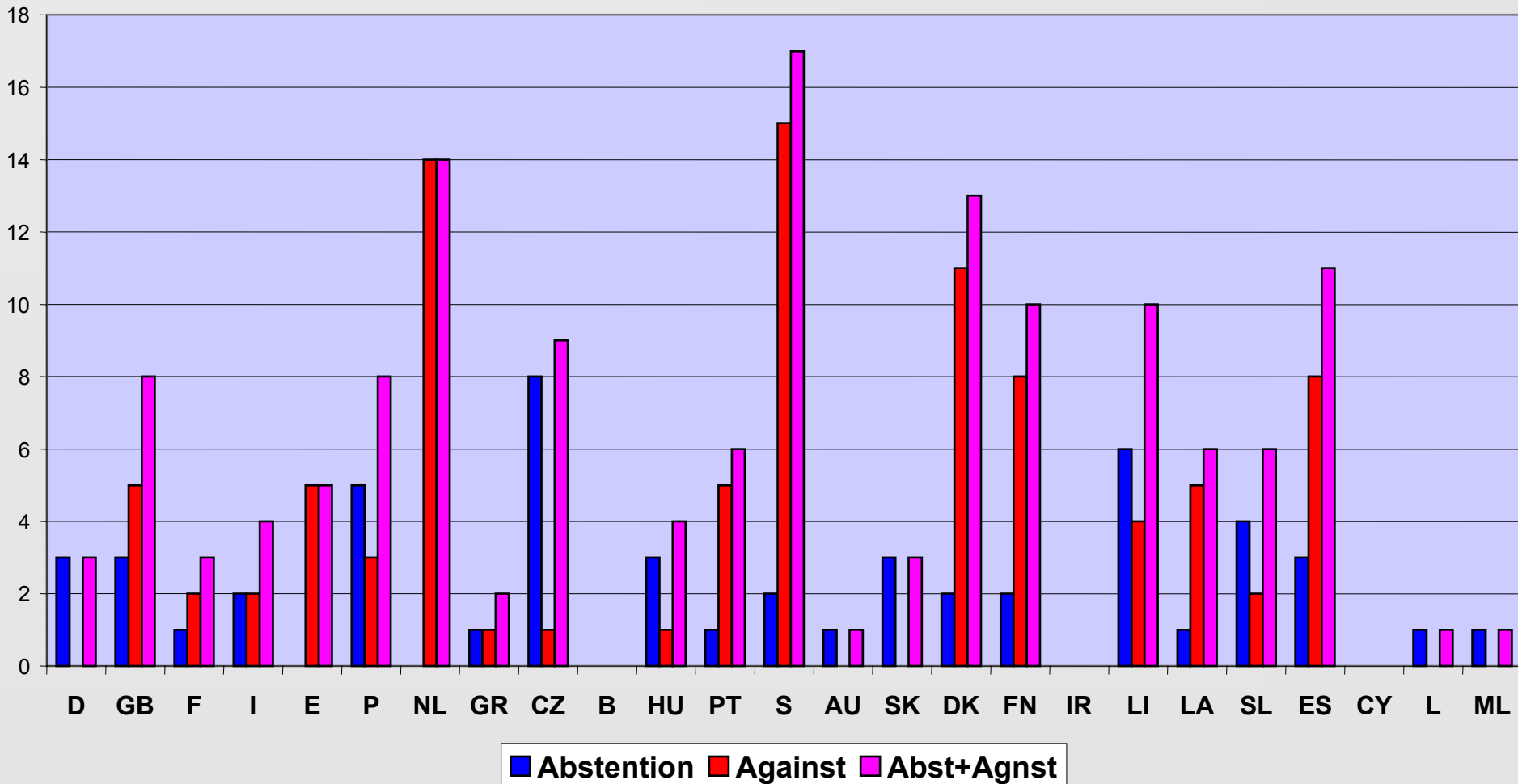
Contested proposals - AGRI

negative votes by member states; Ø 12,1 percent per member state



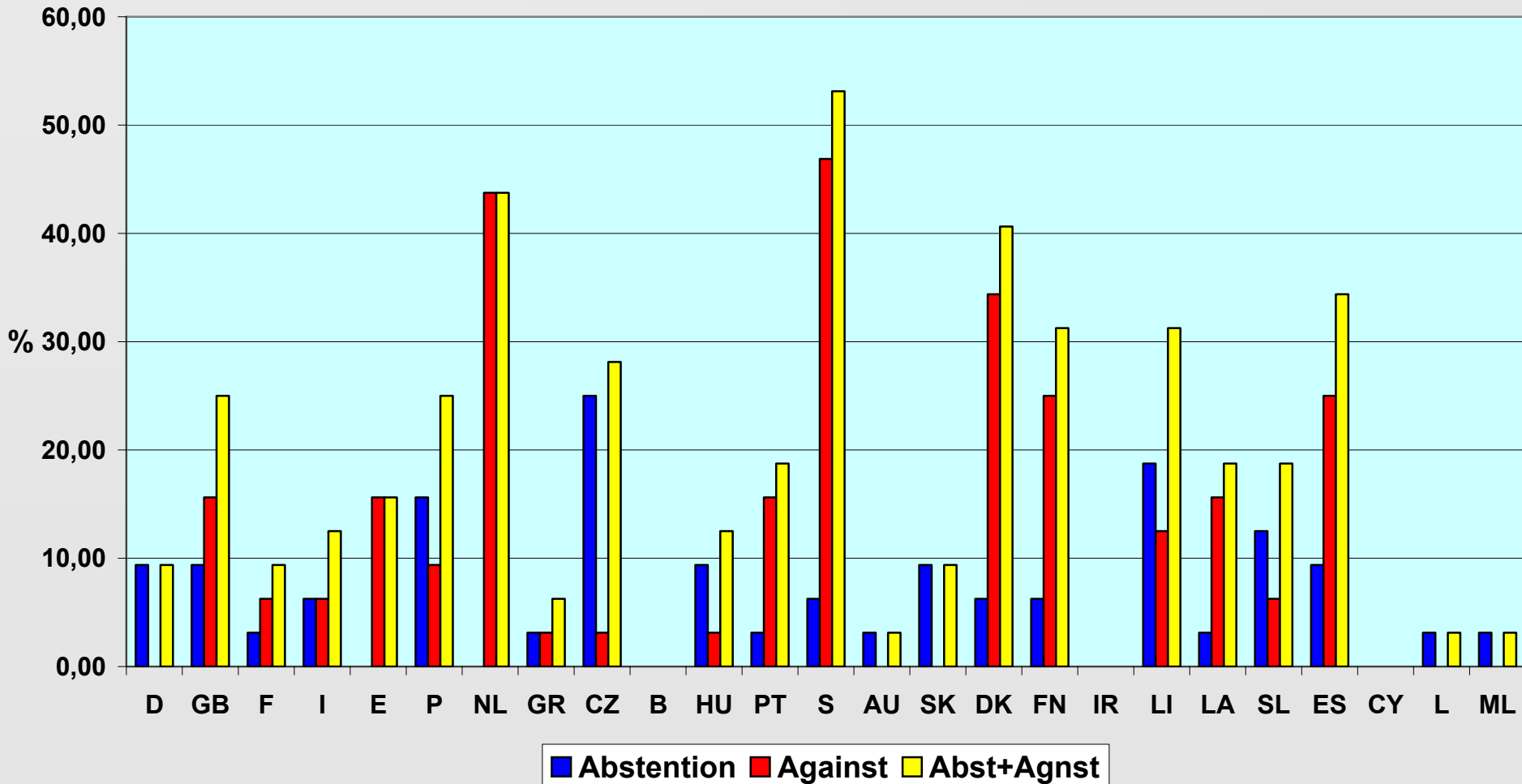
Contested proposals by member states - COMER

(32 proposals; \sum 145 negative votes; \emptyset 4,53 per member state))



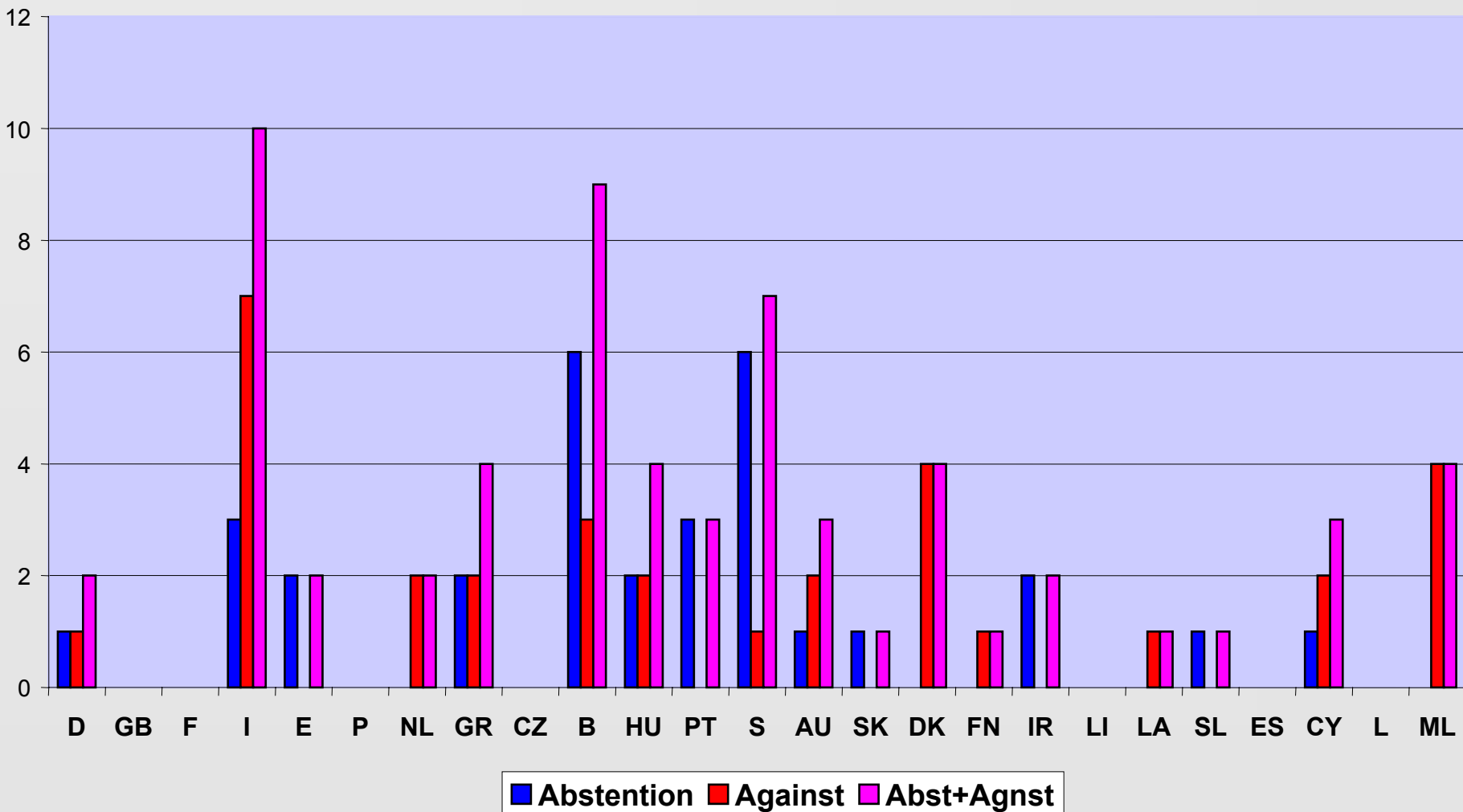
Contested proposals - COMER

negative votes by member states; Ø 18,1 percent per member state



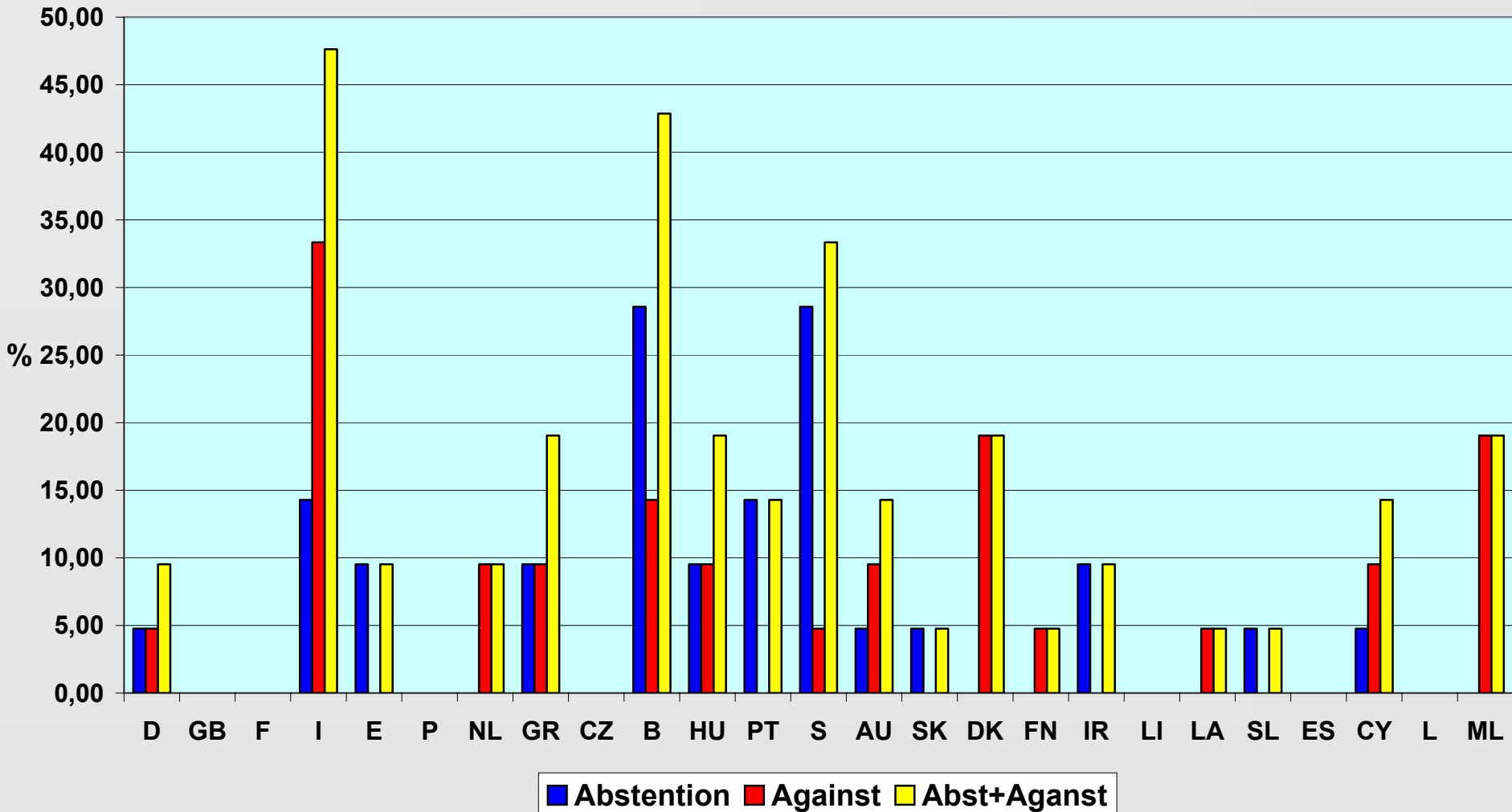
Contested proposals by member states - ENVI

(21 proposals; \sum 63 negative votes; \emptyset 3 per member state)



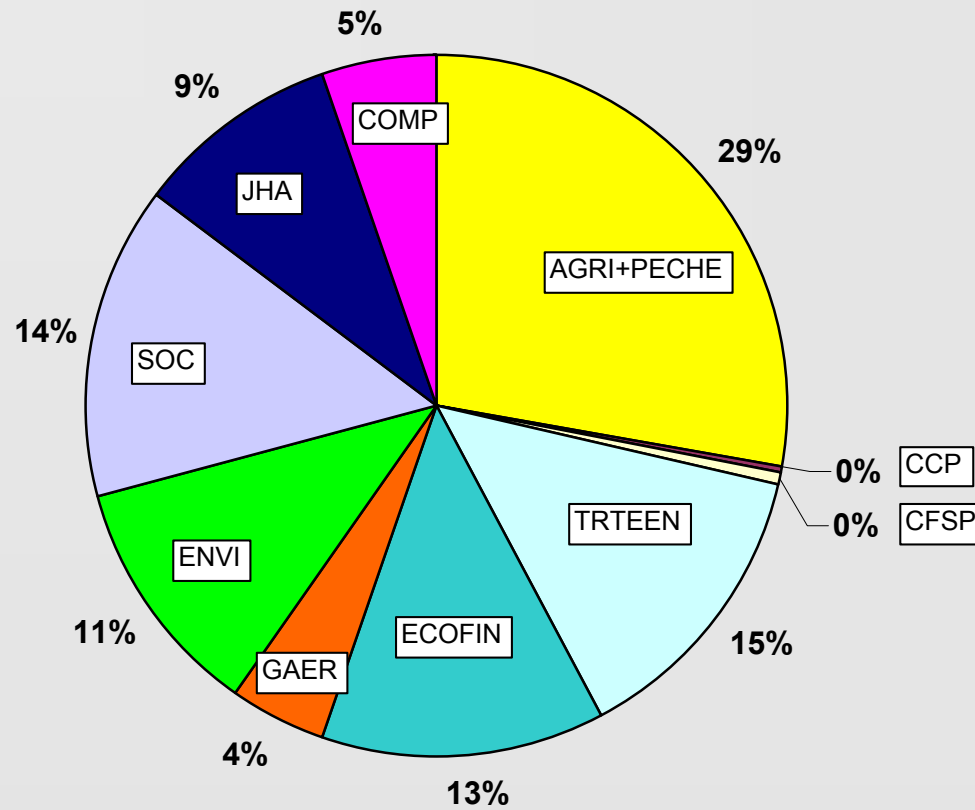
Contested proposals - ENVI

negative votes by member states; Ø 12 percent per member state

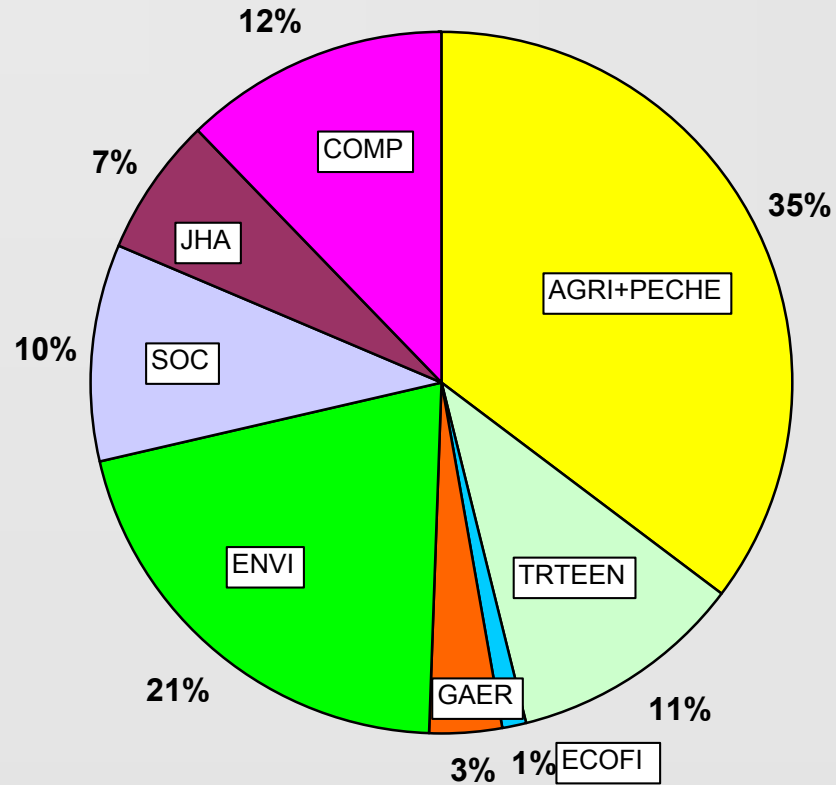


Structure of legislative acts

(480 legislative acts; May 2004-June 2006)

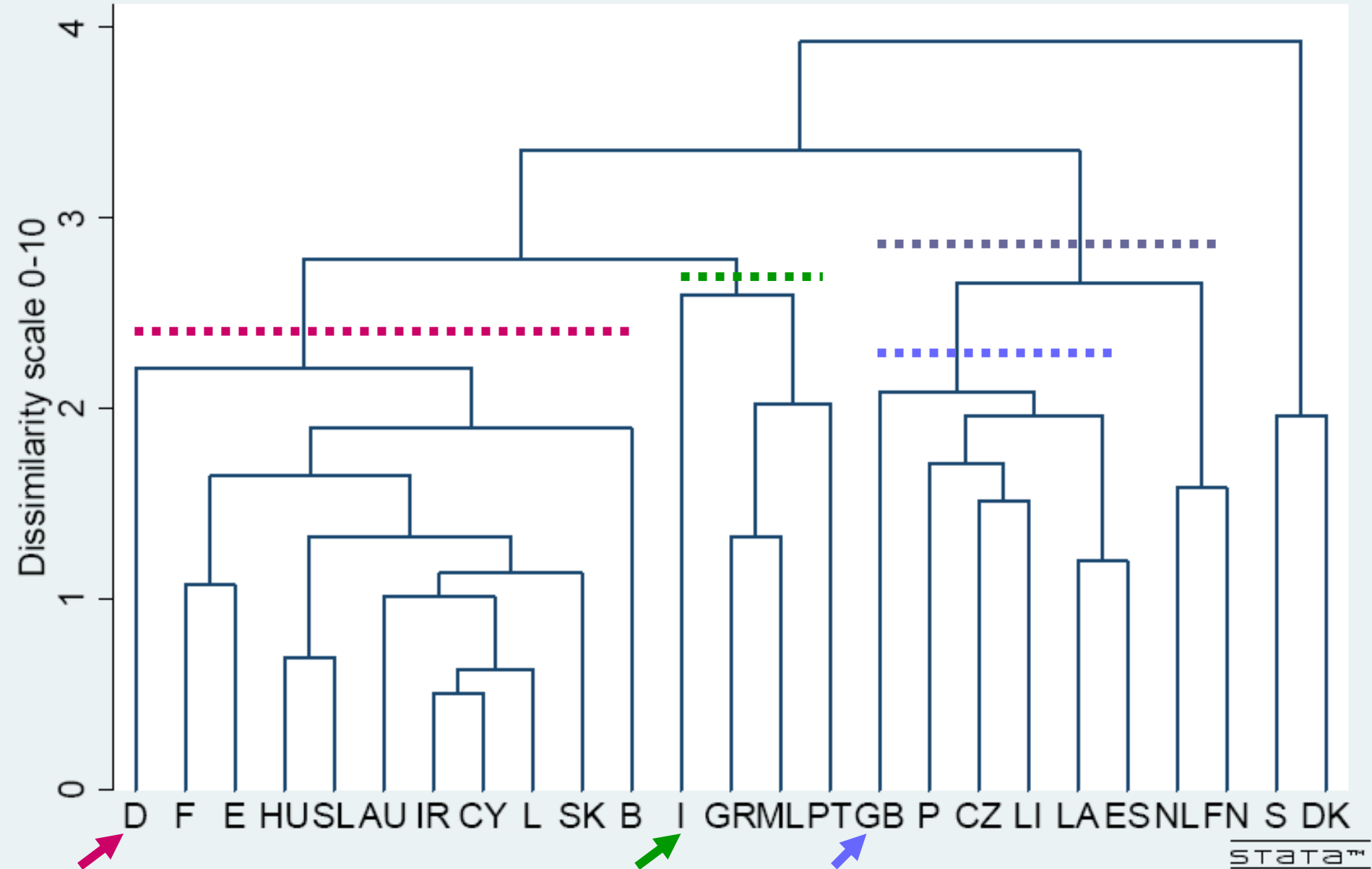


Contested legislative acts by agenda (91 legislative acts; May 2004 -June 2006)

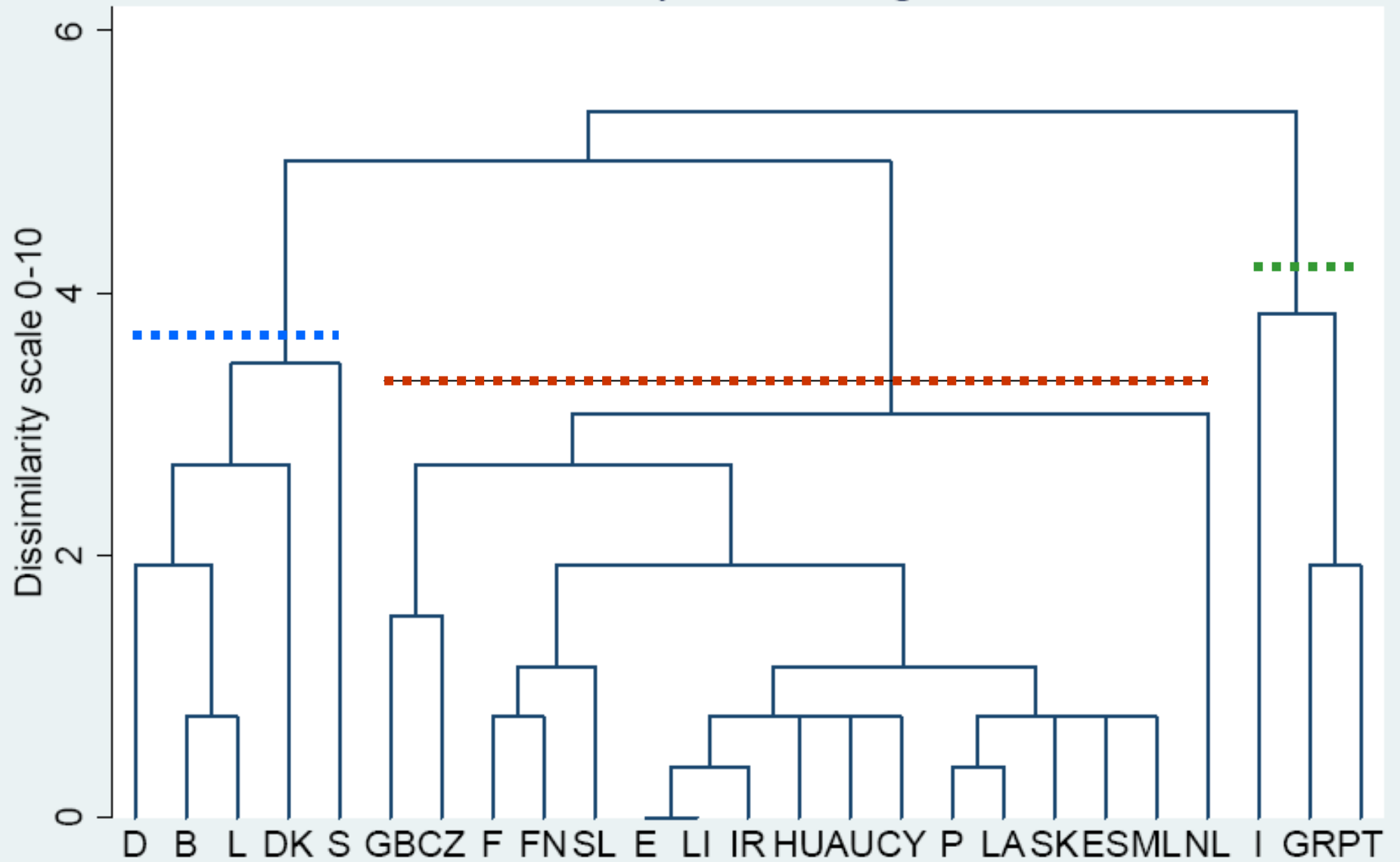


All voted points - Abst, Agst combined

Complete linkage

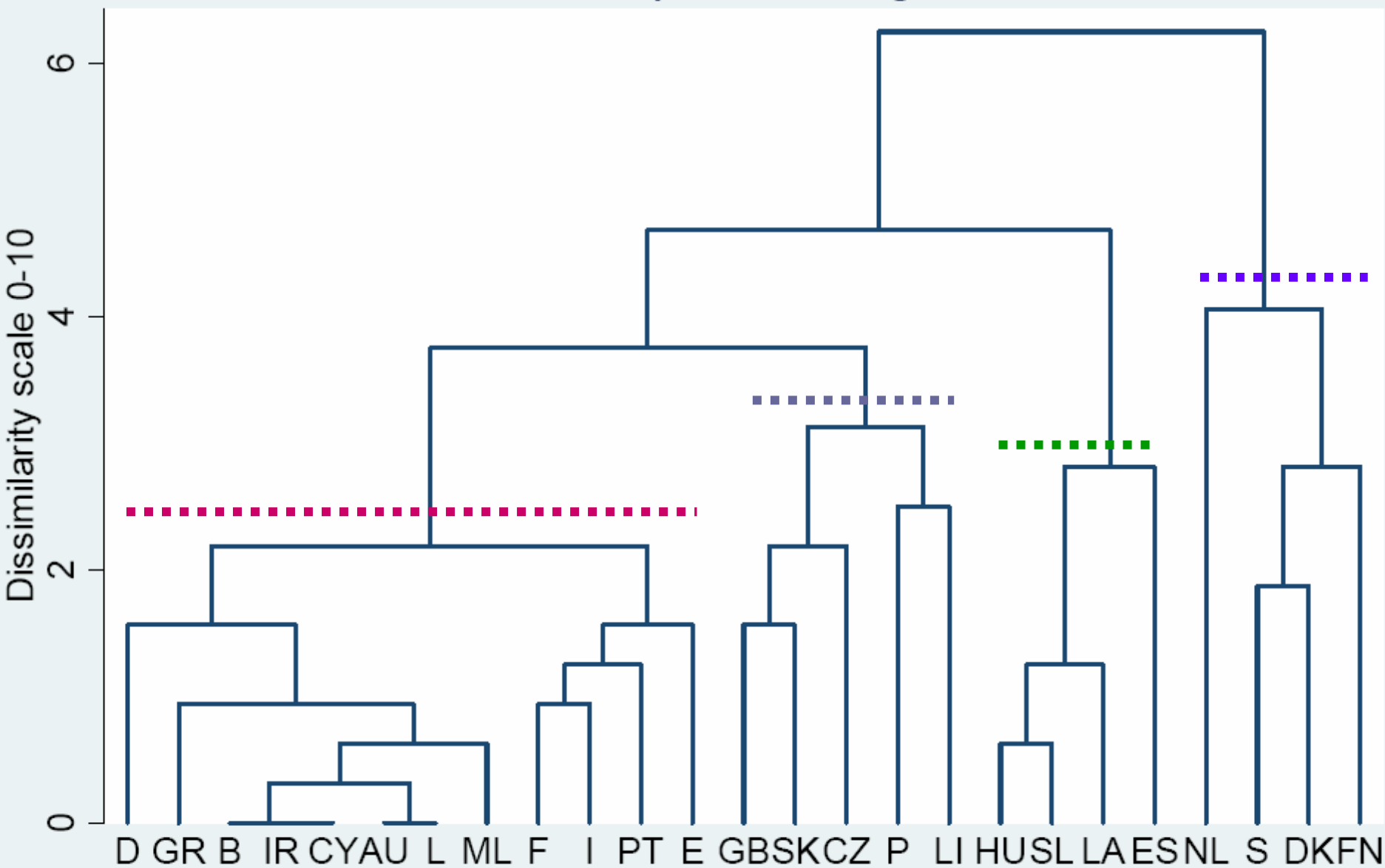


AGRI voted points - Abst, Agst combined Complete linkage

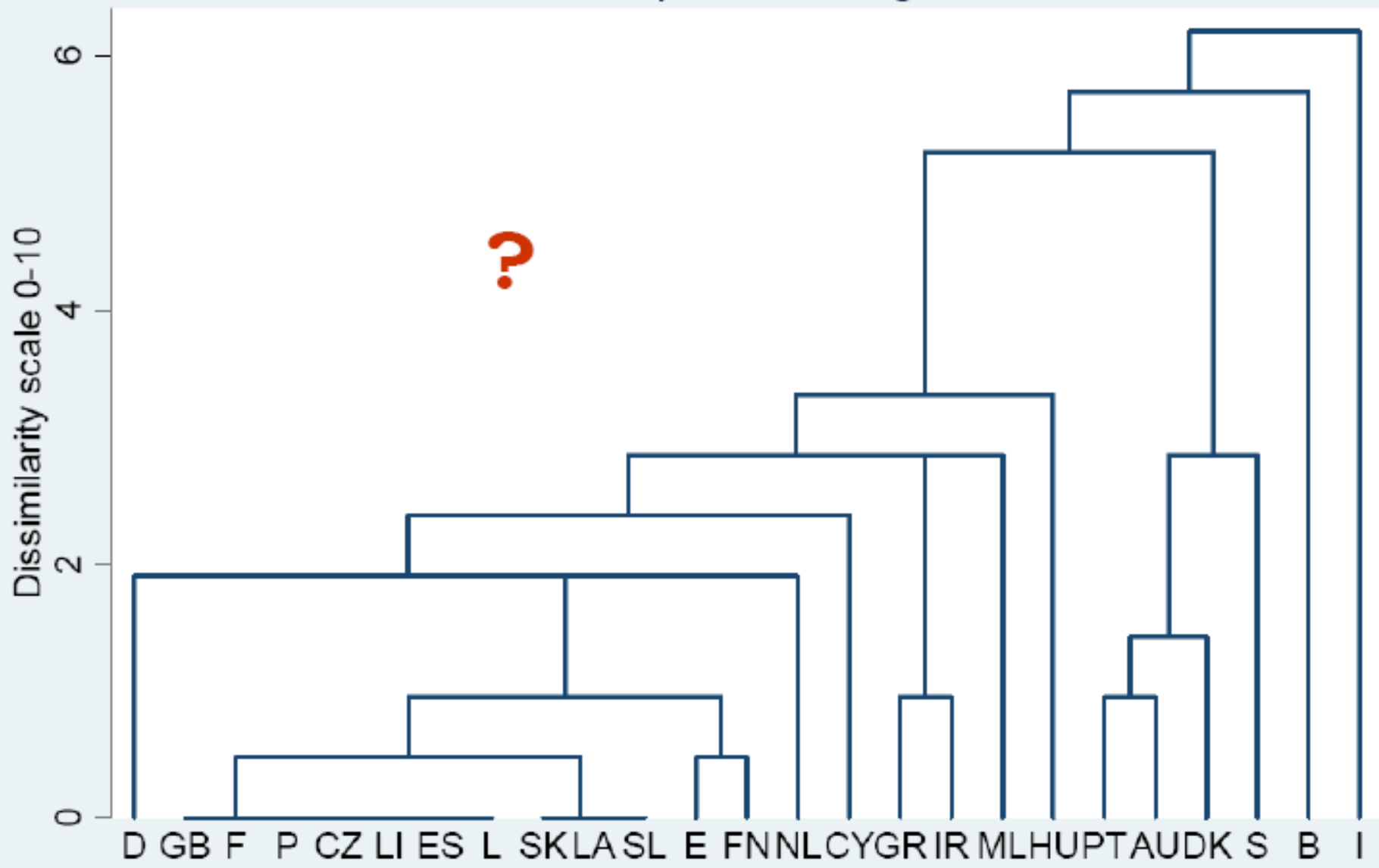


COMER voted points - Abst, Agst combined

Complete linkage



ENVIR voted points - Abst, Agst combined Complete linkage





conclusions?

- dynamics of the legislative process have slowed down after accession but have revived quickly, the loss of impetus may be attributed partly also to other factors – EP elections, new Commission, parallel IGC and ratification process of the CT etc.



cont.

- no significant changes in the decision-making mode in the CM
 - overall level of contestation of the proposals remained roughly comparable – problem of comparability of the data surveys
 - the level of contestation of individual policy areas – agendas – remained similar, higher level is noticeable in commercial policy and environment area, lower in agricultural agenda



cont.

- behavior of member states in the CM
 - „old“ members – slight shifts – most often dissenting Sweden, Italy, Germany, UK; rarely – Ireland, Finland – Ø 21,7 negative votes
 - „new“ members – were accommodated quite smoothly - Ø 15,1 negative votes



cont.

- cluster analysis results ? – discernible groups of members
 - „German“ – D, F, E, B, HU, SK, CY, SL, IR, AU
 - „Italian“ – I, GR, ML, PT
 - „UK“ – GB, P, CZ, LI, LA, ES + NL, FN
 - S, DK – most distant
- interpretation?



thank you for your
attention