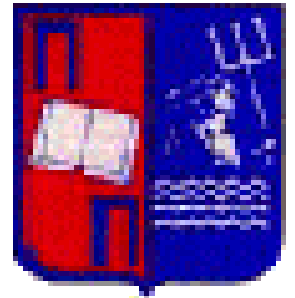


# Trapped in Greek Crisis Phase II ?

**Gikas A. Hardouvelis**

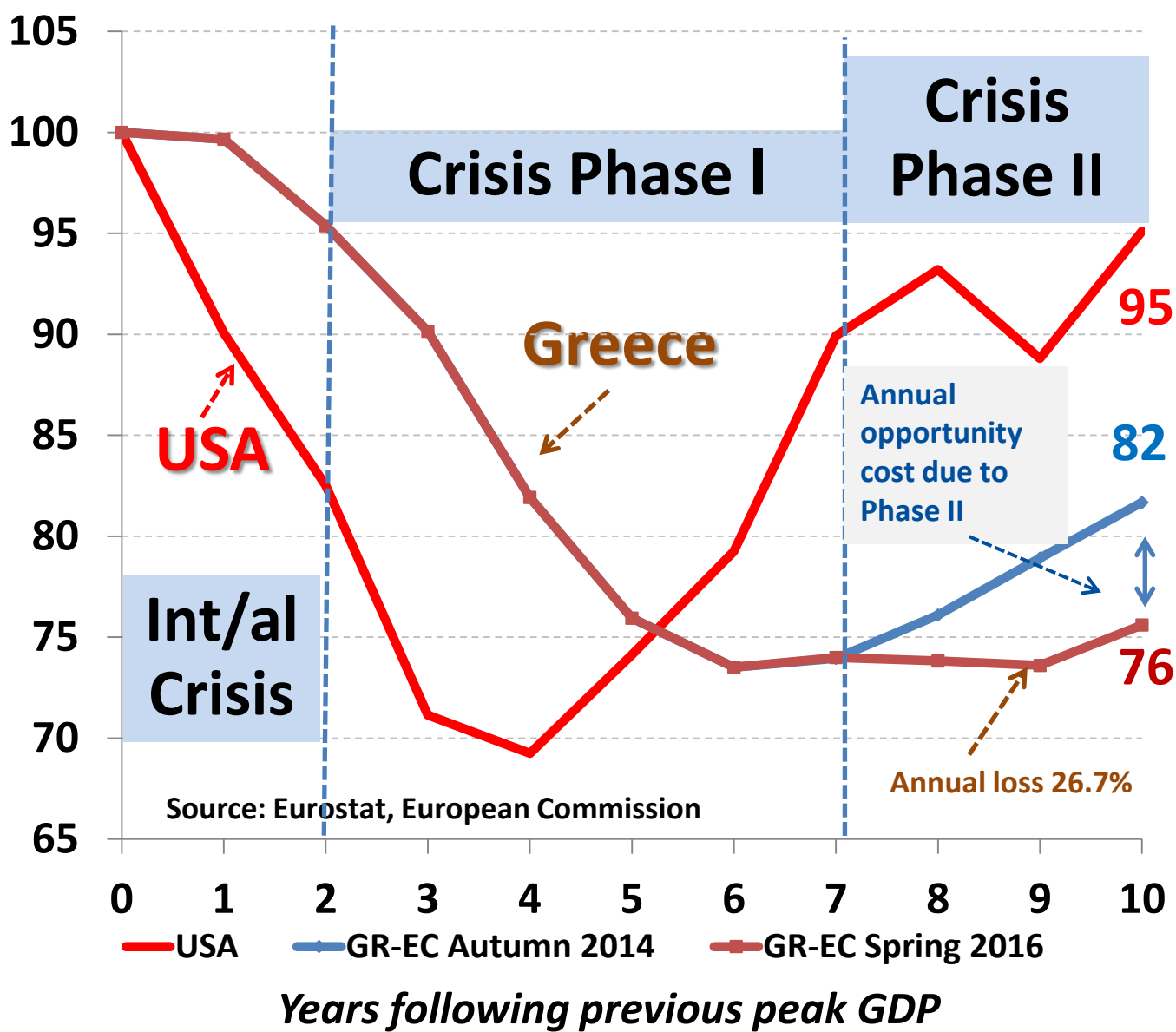
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**Delphi Economic Forum**  
**March 3, 2017**



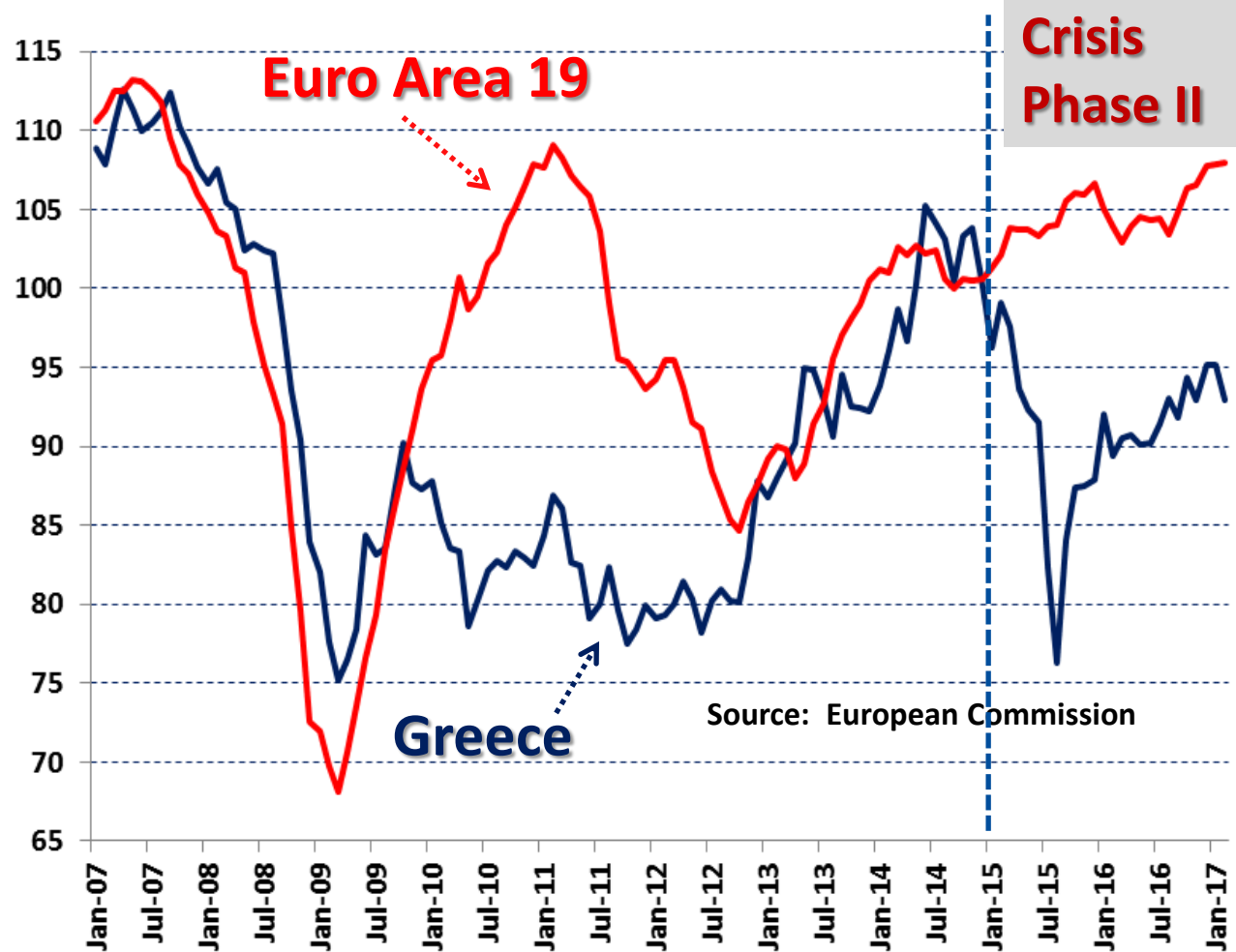
# Unusual length of Greek crisis due to its Phase II plus the earlier international crisis

- ❑ Date 0 is 1929 for the US and 2007 for Greece: Real GDP is set at 100
- ❑ The Greek recovery of year 10, 2017, is a forecast
- ❑ After 10 years, the **US was at 95** in 1939 but **Greece (at best) at 76** in 2017
- ❑ **Fall 2014: Greece was forecasted to be above 82**
- ❑ **At minimum, Phase II costs annually 6.1 ppts or €14bn**



# Crisis Phase II shows up clearly in Economic Sentiment

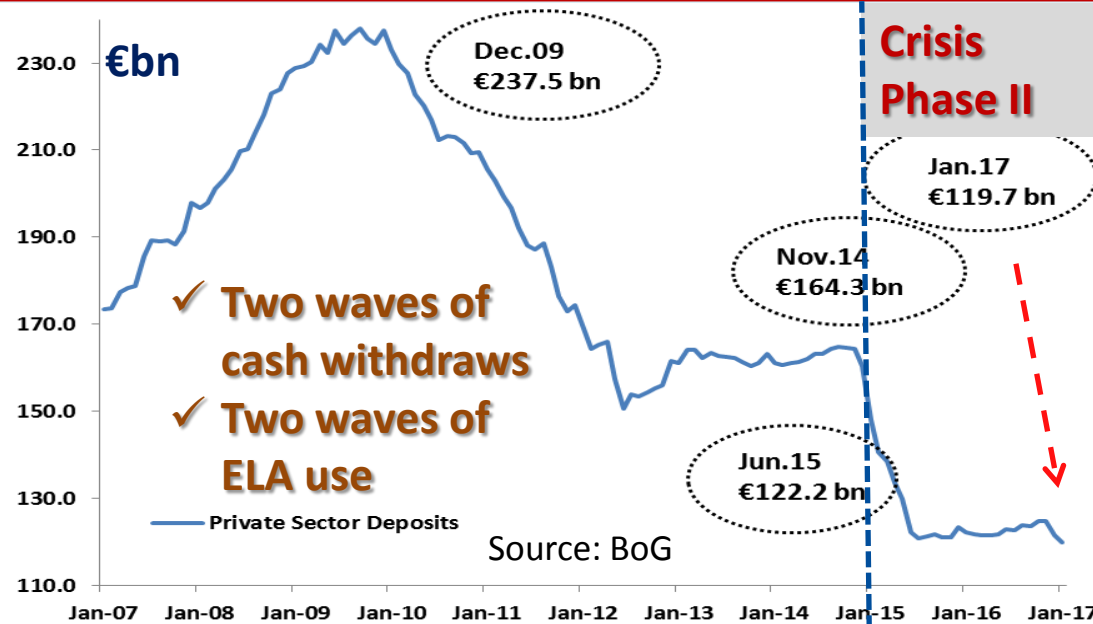
- ❑ The sentiment index in Greece was moving together with sentiment in EA until late 2009, both declining
- ❑ Decoupling during the Greek crisis until November 2012
- ❑ From late 2012 until late 2014, re-coupling: Greek sentiment moved upward and in line with EA sentiment



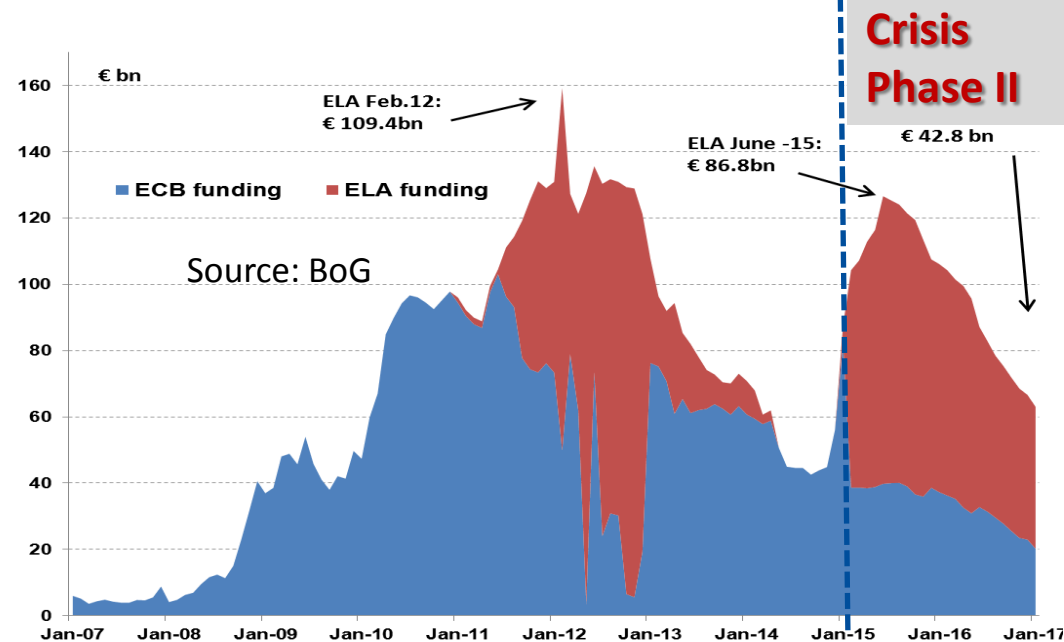
- ❑ Greek sentiment peaked in the period June 2014 - November 2014, but subsequently began a fast downward slide as the political landscape deteriorated and generated new uncertainty, thus decoupling a second time from the rest of EA. Phase II of the crisis was creating anxiety in sentiment.

# Crisis-Phase II shows up in the Financial sector

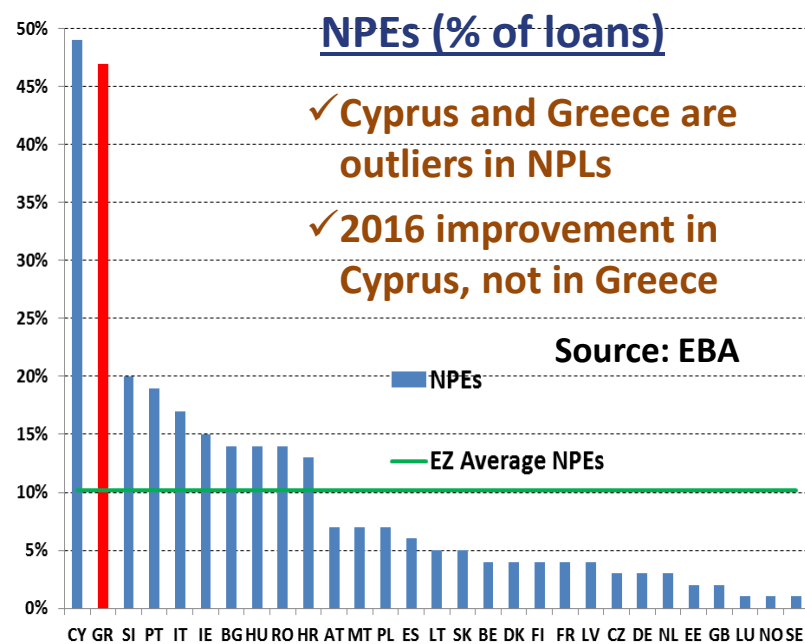
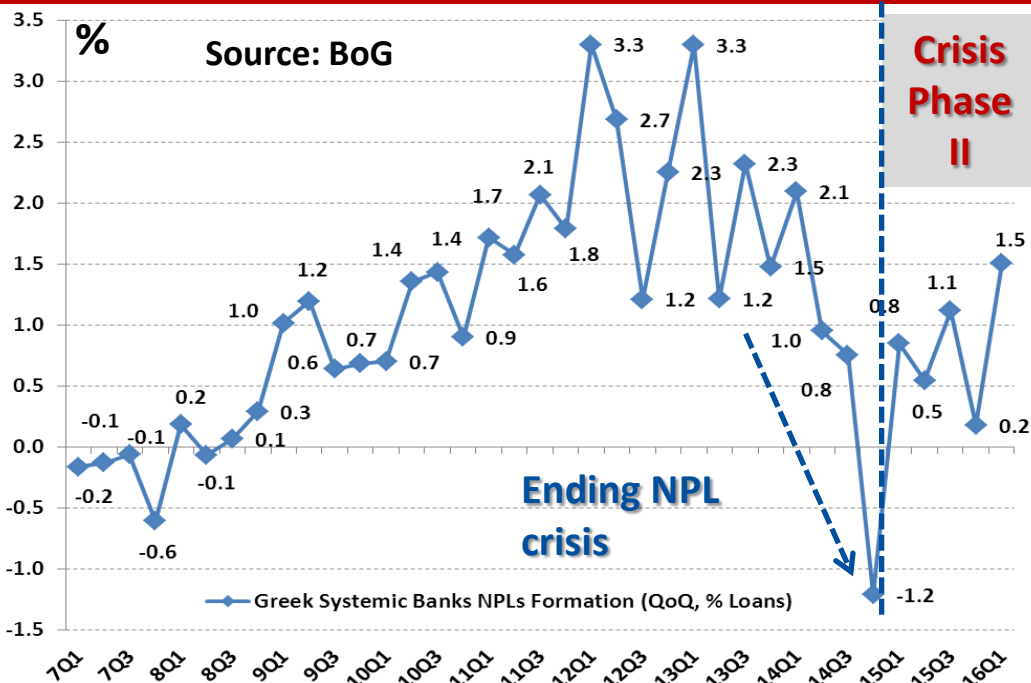
- ❑ A second wave of cash withdrawals in 2015 plus a disappearing inter-bank market leads banks to ELA:
  - ELA was zero at the end of 2014, yet it peaked again in 2015
  - It remains at €43bn today
  - Capital controls still imposed
  - Unless credibility returns, cash will stay outside the banks
  - After re-introduction of ECB waiver in July 2016, gradual improvement in ELA dependence



- ❑ Bank stock prices collapsed in 2015H1, State lost over €25bn in value, and a necessary 3<sup>rd</sup> recapitalization in Nov 2015
- ❑ State owner-ship of systemic banks shrank: NBG (40.4%), Piraeus (26.4%), Alpha (11.0%), Eurobank (2.4%)
- ❑ Capital (excl. CoCos & Prefs) strong, yet depends on DTA, 49% of €8.92bn in Alpha, 64% of €7.89bn in Piraeus 66% of €7.74bn in NBG, 78% of €6.25bn in Eurobank



# Banks remain vulnerable on the Asset side of their balance sheet as well



- ❑ A second major problem is NPLs, which keep rising. Target reduction of 40% until 2019
- ❑ The NPL improvement of late 2014 was reversed due to Phase-II of the crisis
- ❑ Unless economy picks up and NPL problem is gradually resolved, banks
  - Would stay zombies, unable to provide new credit to healthy companies
  - May need additional capital infusion, with no foreigners willing to come in this time
- ❑ Since Jan 2016, bearish world market has taken a toll on Greek bank stocks, which are down 42% on average, relative to the recent recapitalization of November 2015.

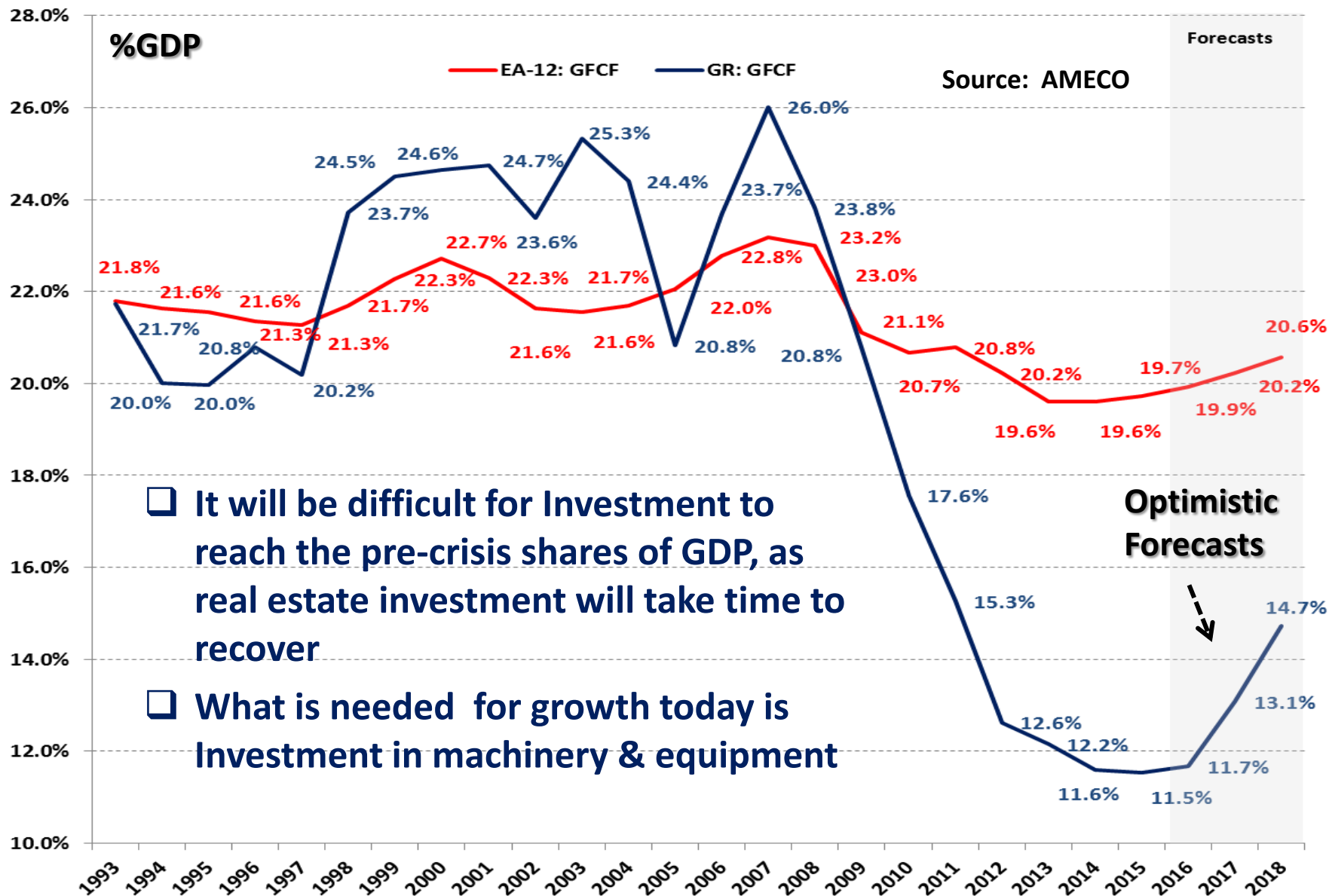
# Major challenges today

**During the Greek-crisis Phase-I years of 2010-2013, Greece brought its fiscal and current account deficits back in balance plus improved its cost competitiveness**

**Yet major challenges remain:**

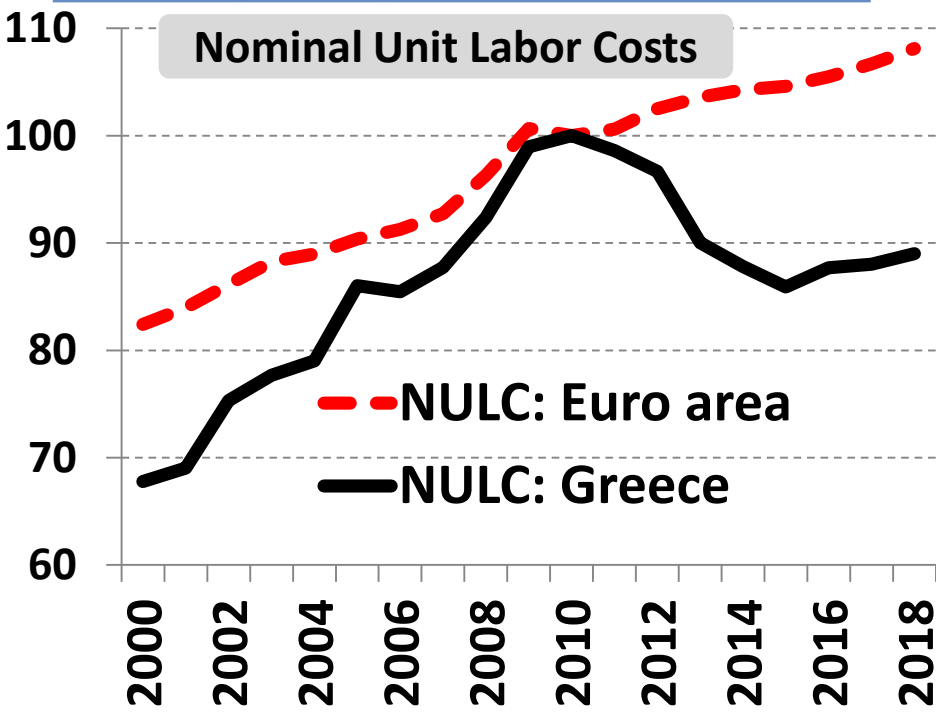
- Reversing the decline in investment and raising exports**
  - **Improving credibility**
  - **Providing incentives for work and doing business, e.g. reversing the over-taxation policy, minimizing obstacles to investment, improving the efficiency of the State sector, etc.**
- Repairing the financial sector**
- Balancing the pension system for sustainable long-run fiscal policy**

# Investment: A binding constraint on growth



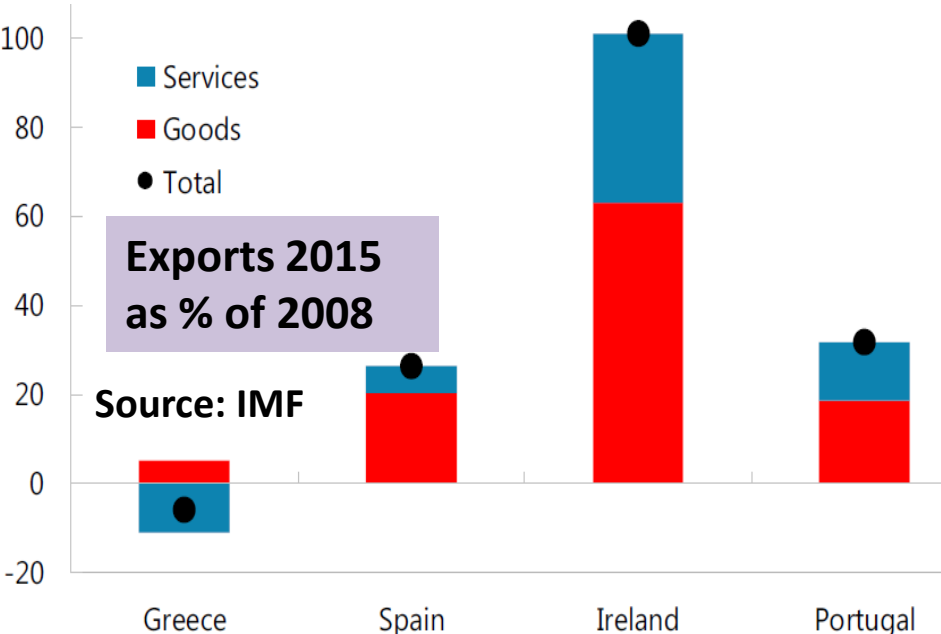
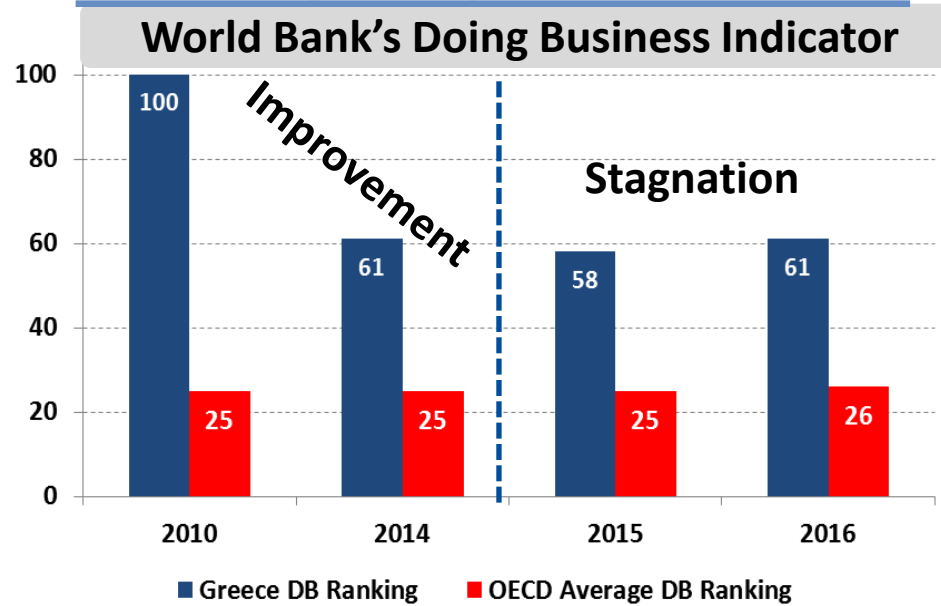
# Cost competitiveness improvement, yet exports stagnate

## Near-Elimination of Post Euro-entry Wage Competitiveness Losses



- Earlier improvement in competitiveness stopped in 2015
- Greece is the only Program country showing lower value of exports in 2015 relative to 2008 (see EC "The Puzzle of Missing Greek Exports" )

## Regulatory Environment





# Long list of reforms remaining

- Continuation of liberalization of product markets - implementation of OECD toolkits aiming to increase competition in internal markets (opening-up of remaining closed professions, removal of barriers to competition & investment, shift of focus from the non-tradables to the tradables sector)
- Completion of remaining banking sector / NPLs reforms
- Liberalization of the energy market
- Implementation of reforms to address red tape on businesses licensing / operation (improve Doing Business rankings)
- Legislation on the use of land / forests etc., progress on the creation of the Cadastre
- Reform of the justice system
- Effective independence of the Public Revenue Authority
- Fiscal Structural reforms aiming to fight tax evasion and broaden the tax base
- Improvement of the effectiveness of the public sector
- Implementation of reforms on the education sector
- Formation of framework for a new extrovert growth model of the country (choice of promising sectors, focus on further reforms on these sectors, etc)
- Pension reform in order to improve fiscal sustainability in the medium and long run
- Vigilance on preventing the back tracking of reforms, e.g. labor, which essentially requires ownership of the reform agenda by the population

**Trapped in  
Greek Crisis Phase II ?**

**HOPEFULLY NOT**

**Thank you for your attention!**

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