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# **Climate change: The scientific-based argument**

**Hans Martens  
Chief Executive  
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## Who should you believe?

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We are dealing with many risks in our everyday lives

There is no objective truth – only subjective truths

Science can give us a solid background for taking decisions on risks, but need to do so within a given framework

Different stakeholders have different perceptions of risks

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## Who should you believe?

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How to balance free trade versus regulation based on public health, consumer protection, etc?

The balance of the EU Internal Market: Who is right?

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## A free and undistorted internal market

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*In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens*

What should we be protected against?

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## **Role of think tanks**

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Provide risk analysis

Disseminate scientific data and knowledge

Promote debates between stakeholders

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## Better regulation

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It is essential to engage scientists and stakeholders in the process

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## Science and climate change

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Science has spoken: Climate change is a reality and it is caused by human activities

Most politicians agree now, and they are spinning the issue, not the arguments

It is not much doubt about the diagnosis, but rather on the cure

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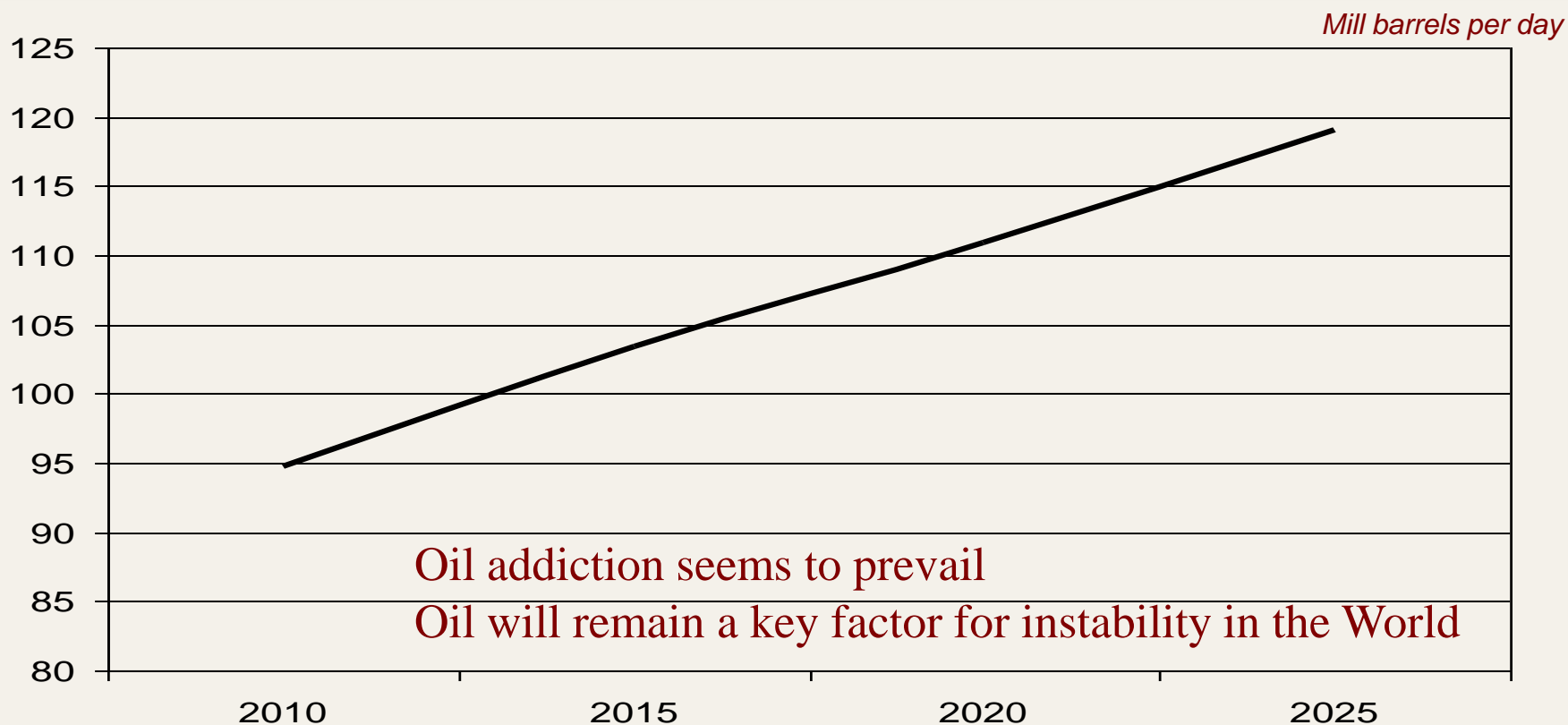
## **What should be done?**

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Any work on reducing emissions should be supported because it (probably) helps on climate change, but it also helps on energy security of supply – and it makes economic sense for the individual and for society

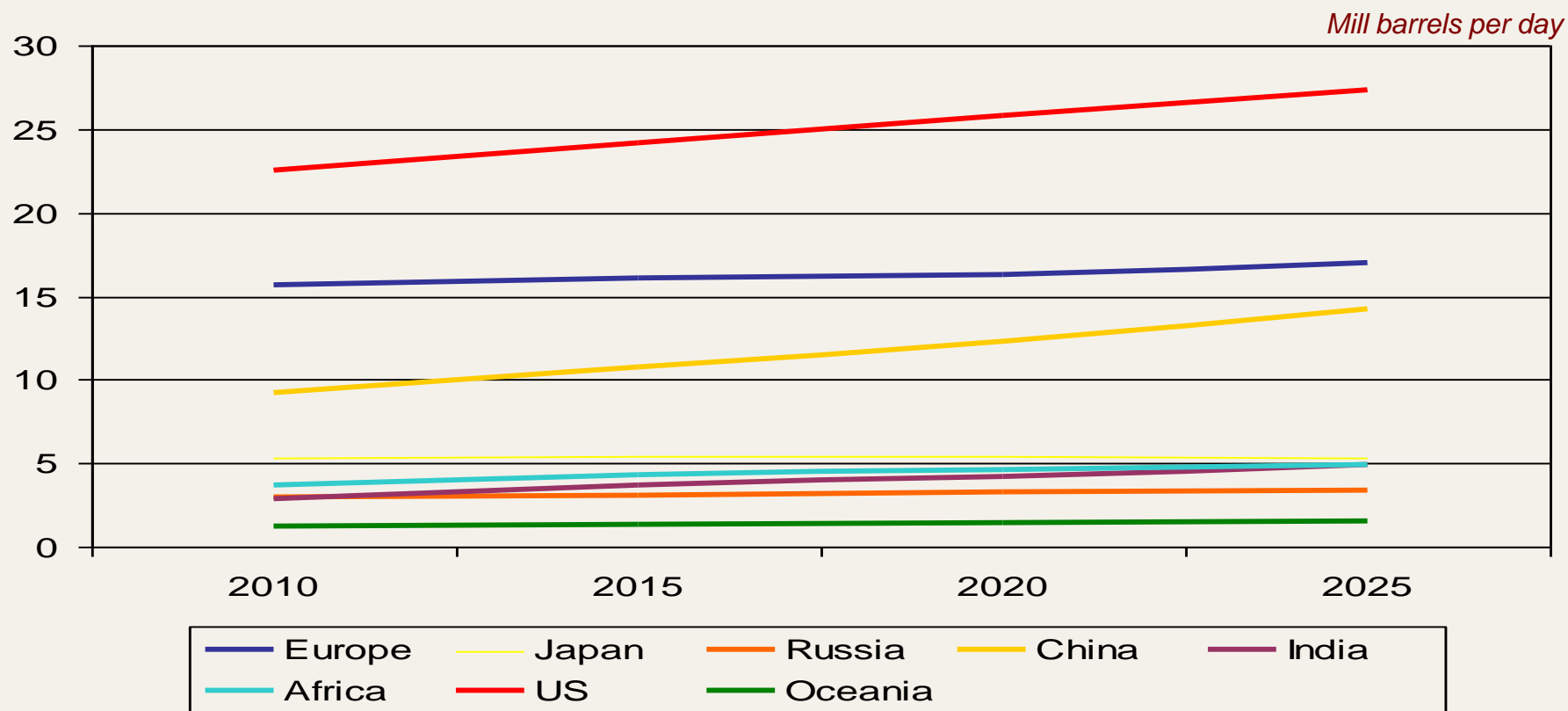
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# Oil: Estimates of consumption total world



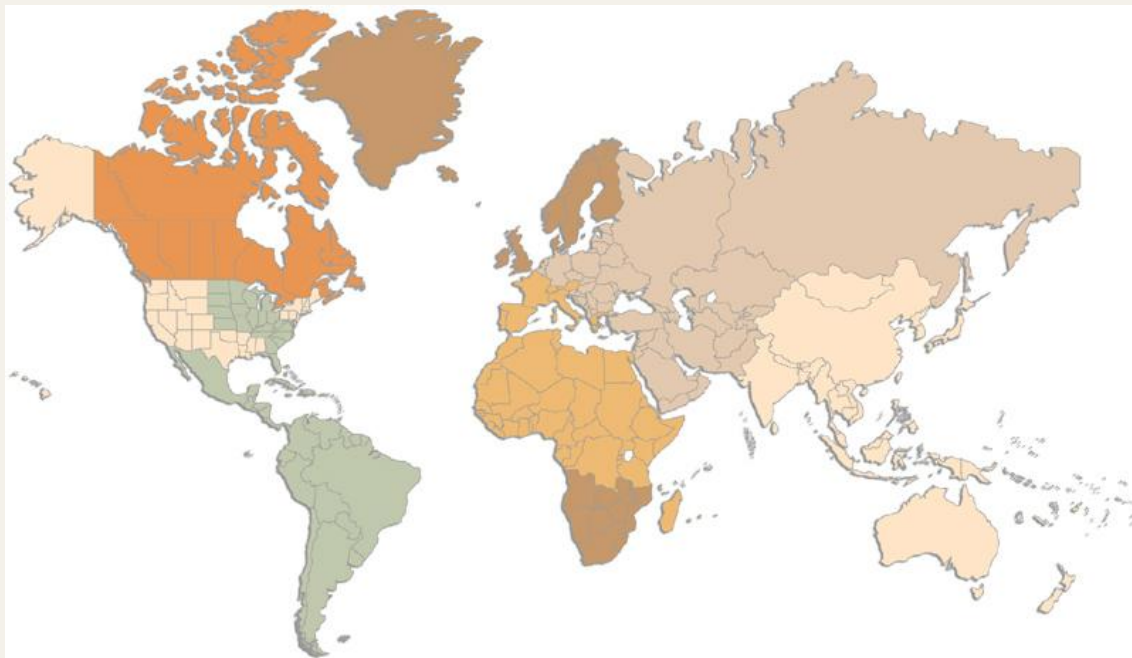
US Energy Information Administration: International Energy Outlook 2005

# Oil: Estimates of consumption per region





## Nice and solid suppliers?



**Lot's of risks:**  
 Simultaneous crises in Iran,  
 Iraq and Saudi Arabia

Embargos and sanctions

Ethnic strives over oil  
 ownership

Terrorism

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## International agreements

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Don't think that even the best organised climate summit can seriously reduce emissions in time

We in the developed world can deal with effects of climate change

Real problems are in the developing world – flooding, hunger, movement of people, wars

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## International agreements

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Summits should deal with the global consequences, but they are toughest in the third world, and requires solid international institutions to work

Solutions require global solidarity

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