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EU-US agricultural trade: facts, features and their implications

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EU-US agricultural trade aspects

■ *The (often forgotten) big picture*

- ◆ Trade is a two-way street...
- ◆ ...with many lanes in each direction...
- ◆ ...and different speeds in each lane

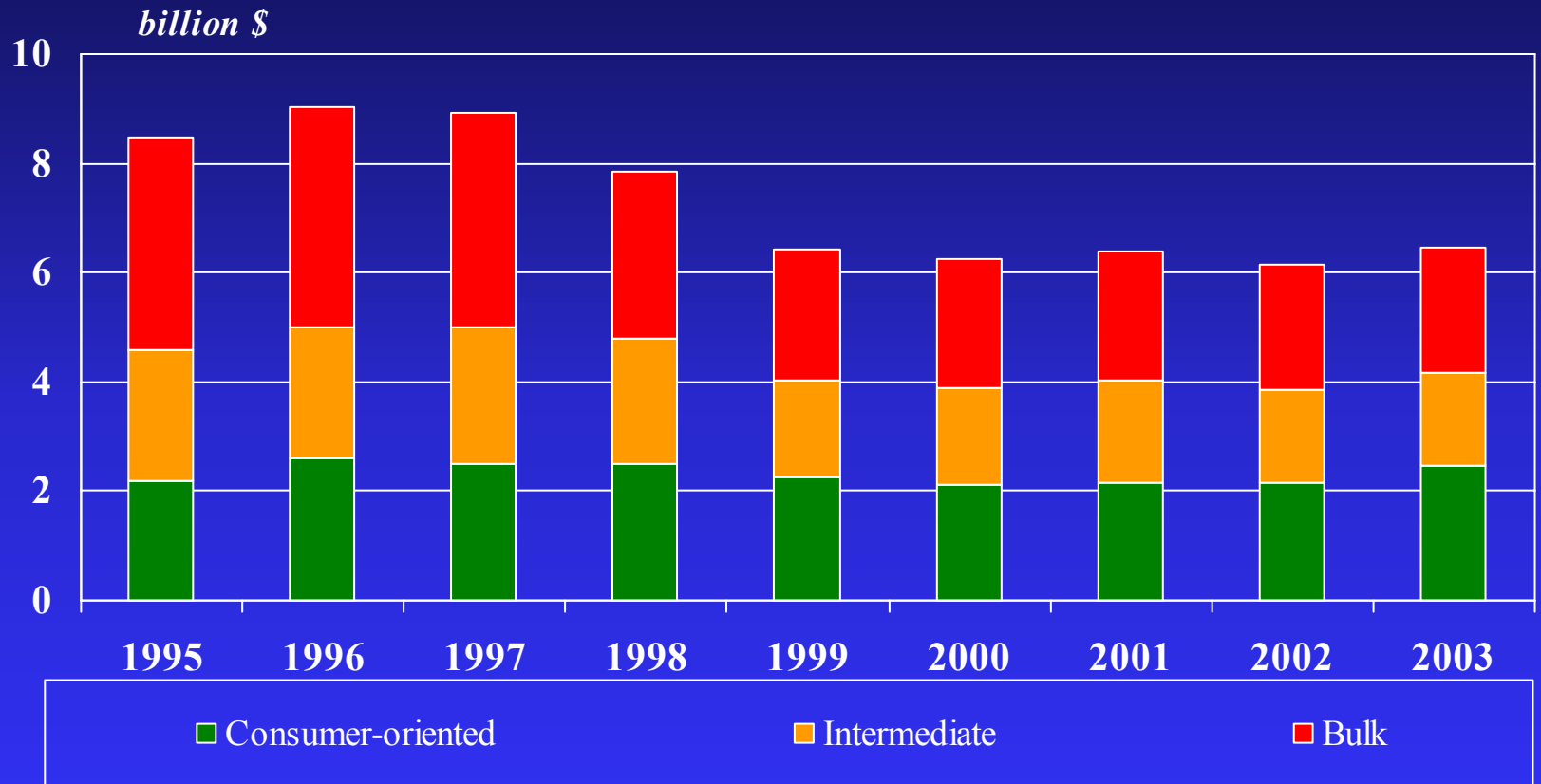
■ *The (generally prevailing) small picture*

- ◆ Trade is about conflicts and competition...
- ◆ ...while the partnership component takes second stage

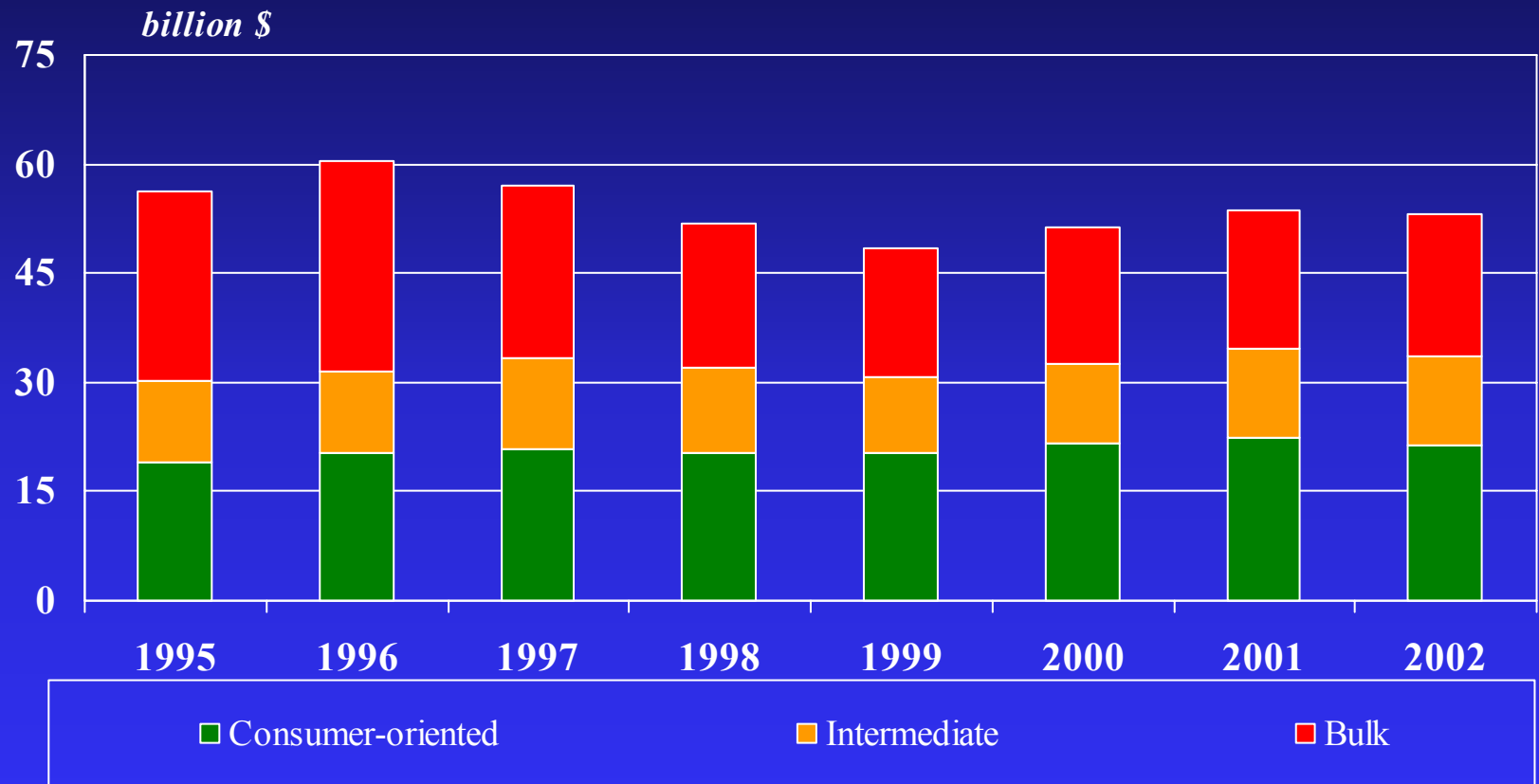
■ *The challenge*

- ◆ Keep things into perspective

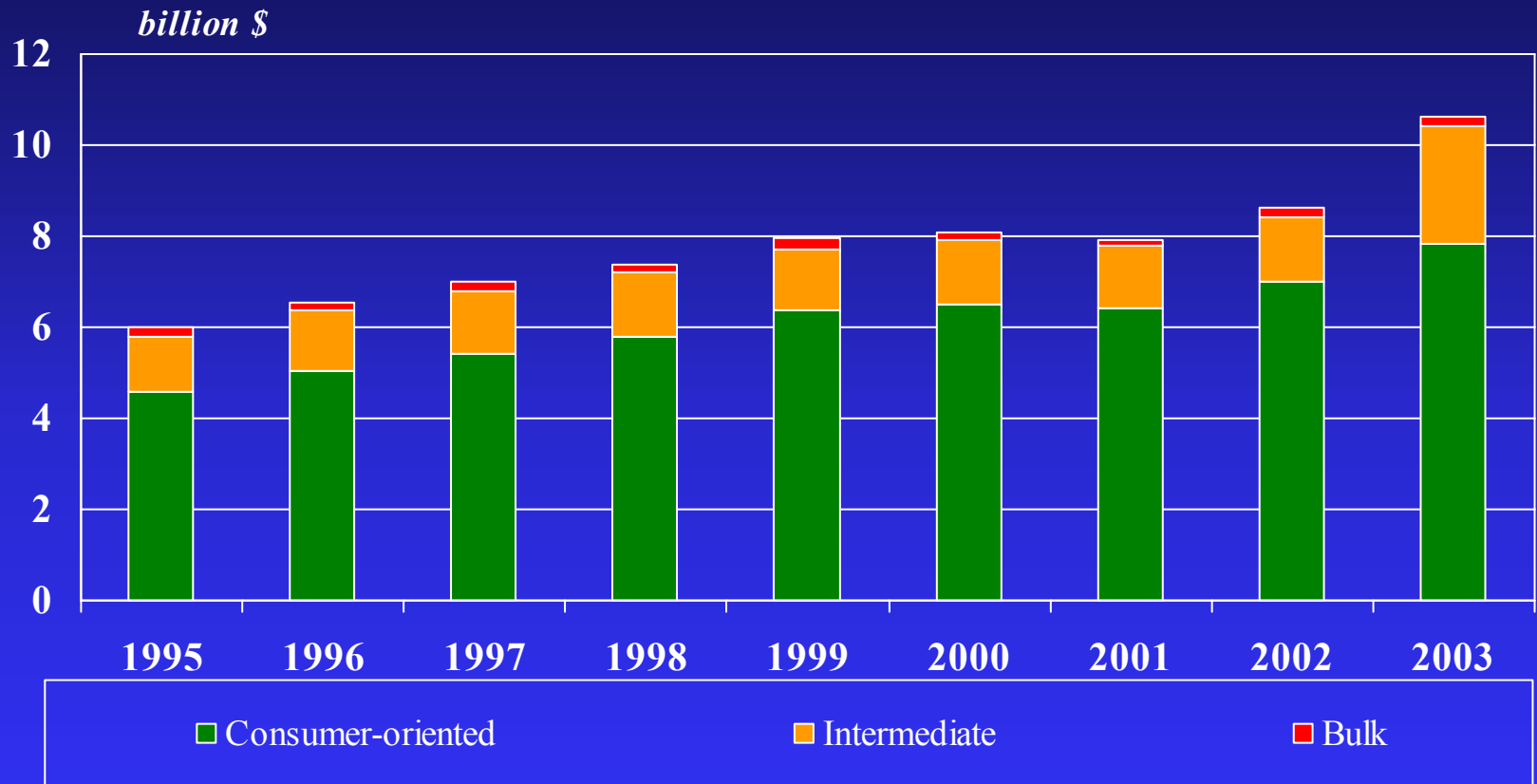
US agricultural exports to the EU



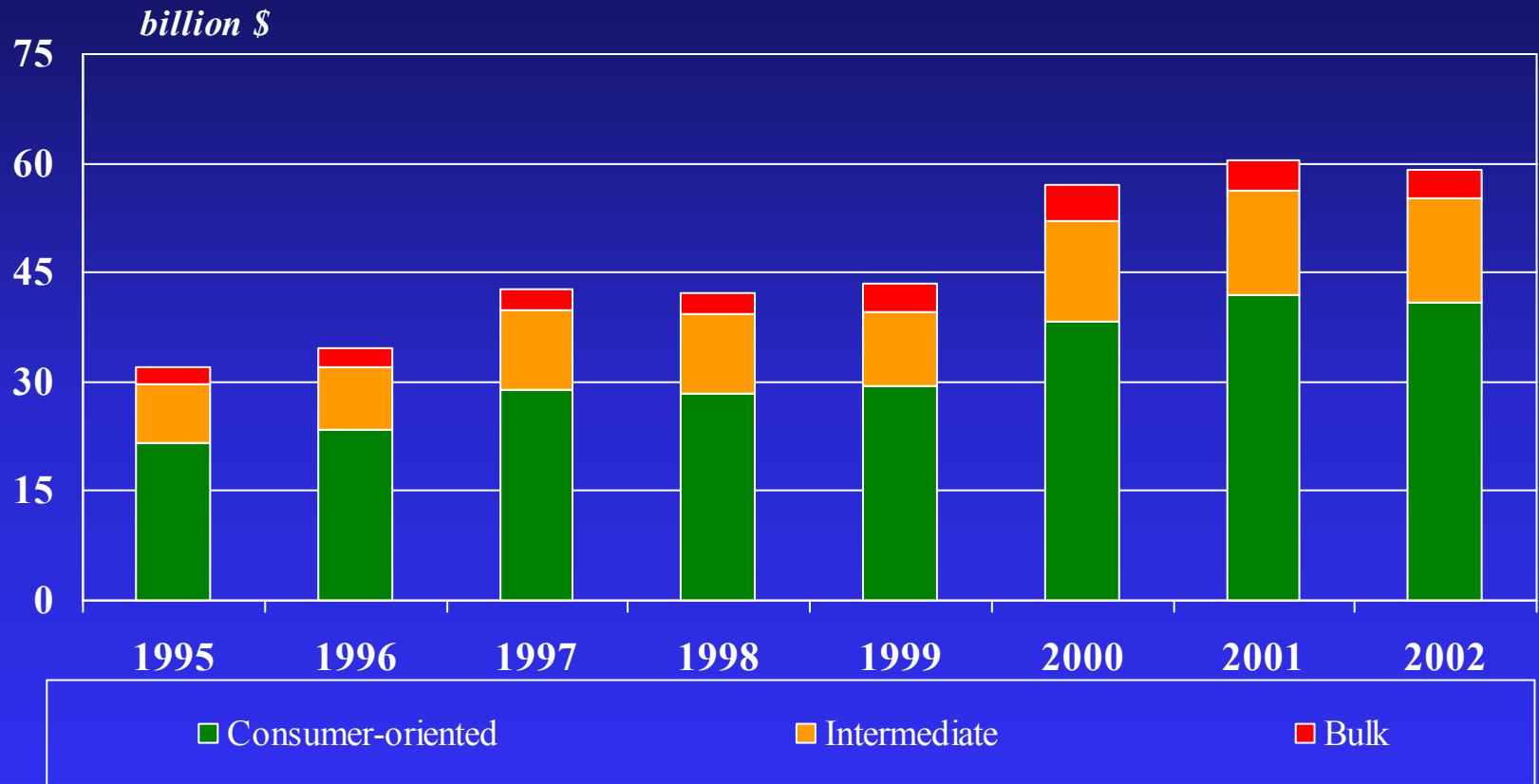
US agricultural exports to the world



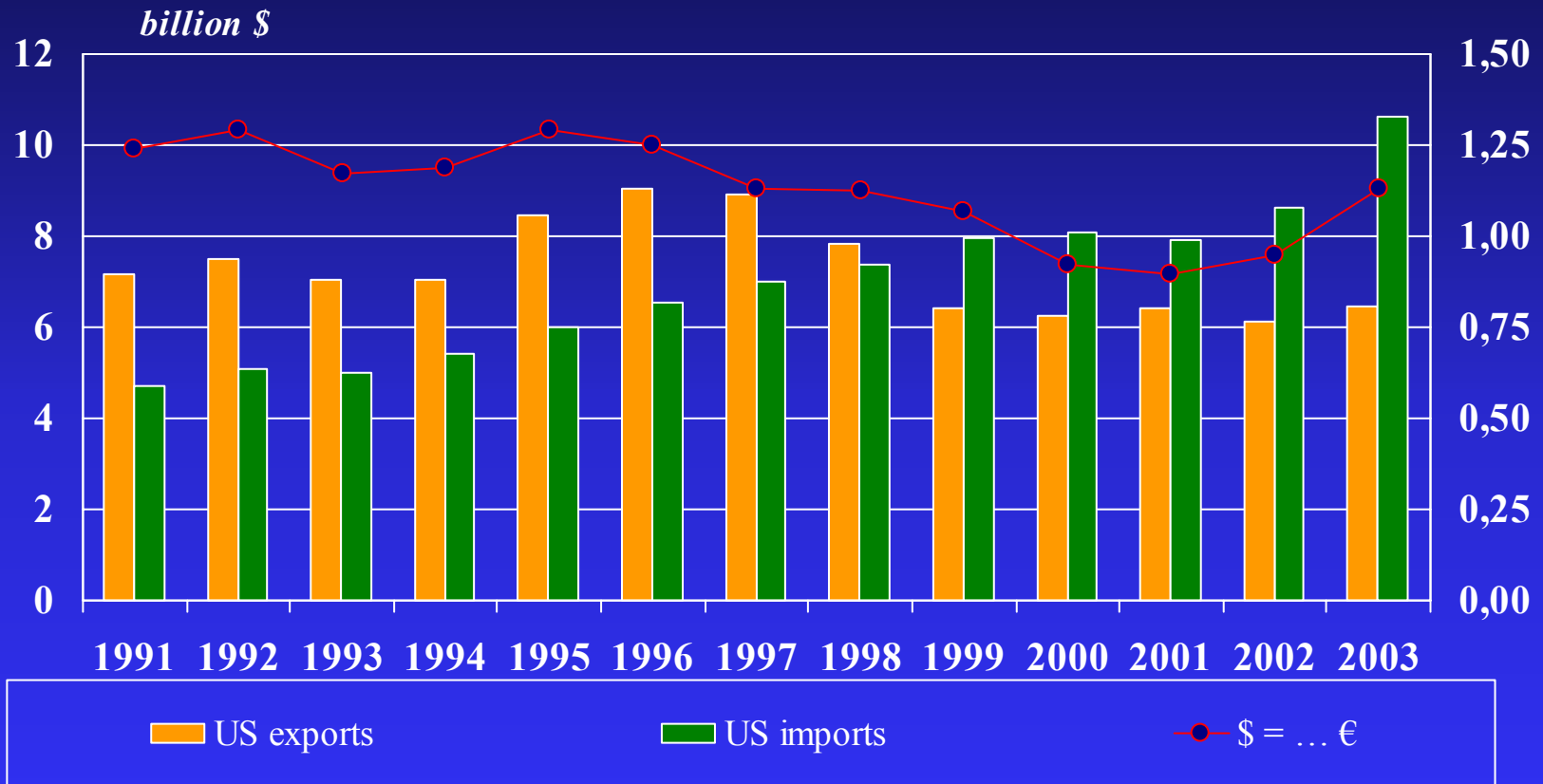
EU agricultural exports to the US



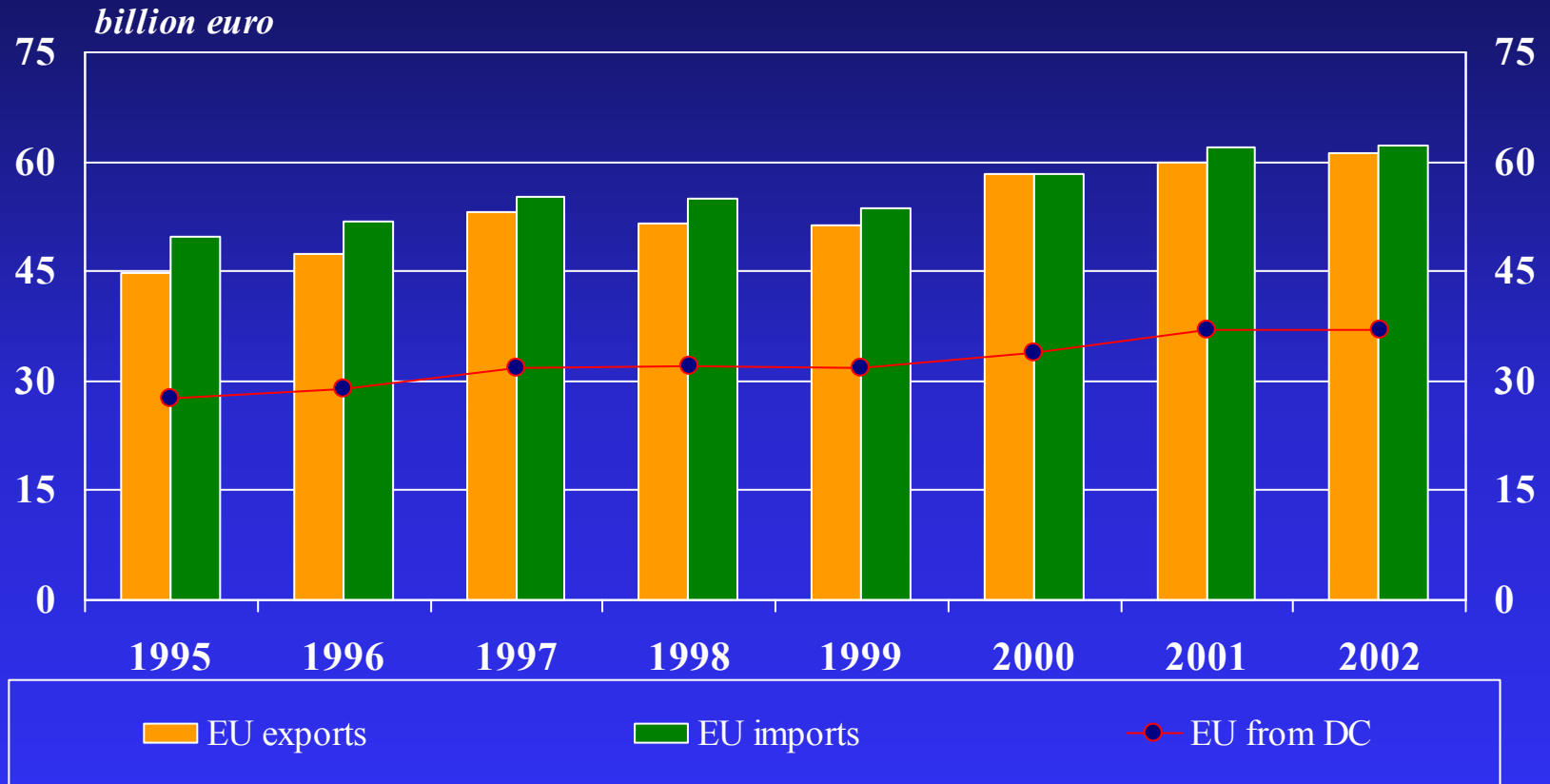
EU agricultural exports to the world



US-EU bilateral agricultural trade



EU global agricultural trade





EU and US agricultural trade aspects

■ *The export side*

- ◆ EU mainly exporter of value-added products
- ◆ US exports more balanced, still significant exporter of bulk commodities

■ *The import side*

- ◆ EU largest import market of developing world
- ◆ US import origin picture more diversified
- ◆ Average tariffs relatively low (not only in the US, look at EU preferences)
- ◆ Some sectors with high protection on both sides



EU and US agricultural trade policies

- ***The export side: different tools of export support***
 - ◆ EU export subsidies declining as a result of domestic reform
 - ◆ US export support measures shifted to more targeted tools
 - ◆ WTO disciplines only for EU measures

- ***The import side: market access and the DDA***
 - ◆ Role of least developed DCs crucial for EU
 - ◆ EBA initiative, preference erosion and SDT
 - ◆ EU move on “blended formula” and tariff escalation
 - ◆ Market access in third markets central for US
 - ◆ Bulk commodity dependence intensifies competition



EU-US agricultural trade frictions

■ *Problems on US side*

- ◆ Mostly outside agricultural sector
- ◆ Mainly of traditional trade nature

■ *Problems on EU side*

- ◆ Several within agricultural sector
- ◆ Mainly non-traditional trade issues

■ *The overriding factor*

- ◆ US policies still supply-driven
- ◆ EU policies increasingly demand-driven