

**«Transition to Low Carbon Societies in Europe –
Limits and opportunities of energy scenarios»**

*«Piloting the transition - On the importance of
unlocking from current technological and
consumption pathways»*

Brussels, April 29th, 2010

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Centre
d'**E**tudes
Economiques
et
Sociales
de l'**E**nvironnement

ULB

General perspective

The economics of climate change and the change of climate in economics

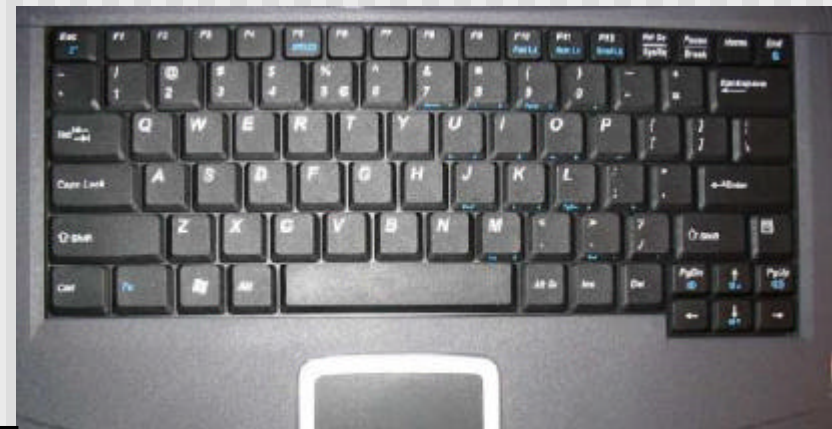


Central notion : the process of 'lock-in'

Increasing returns to adoption

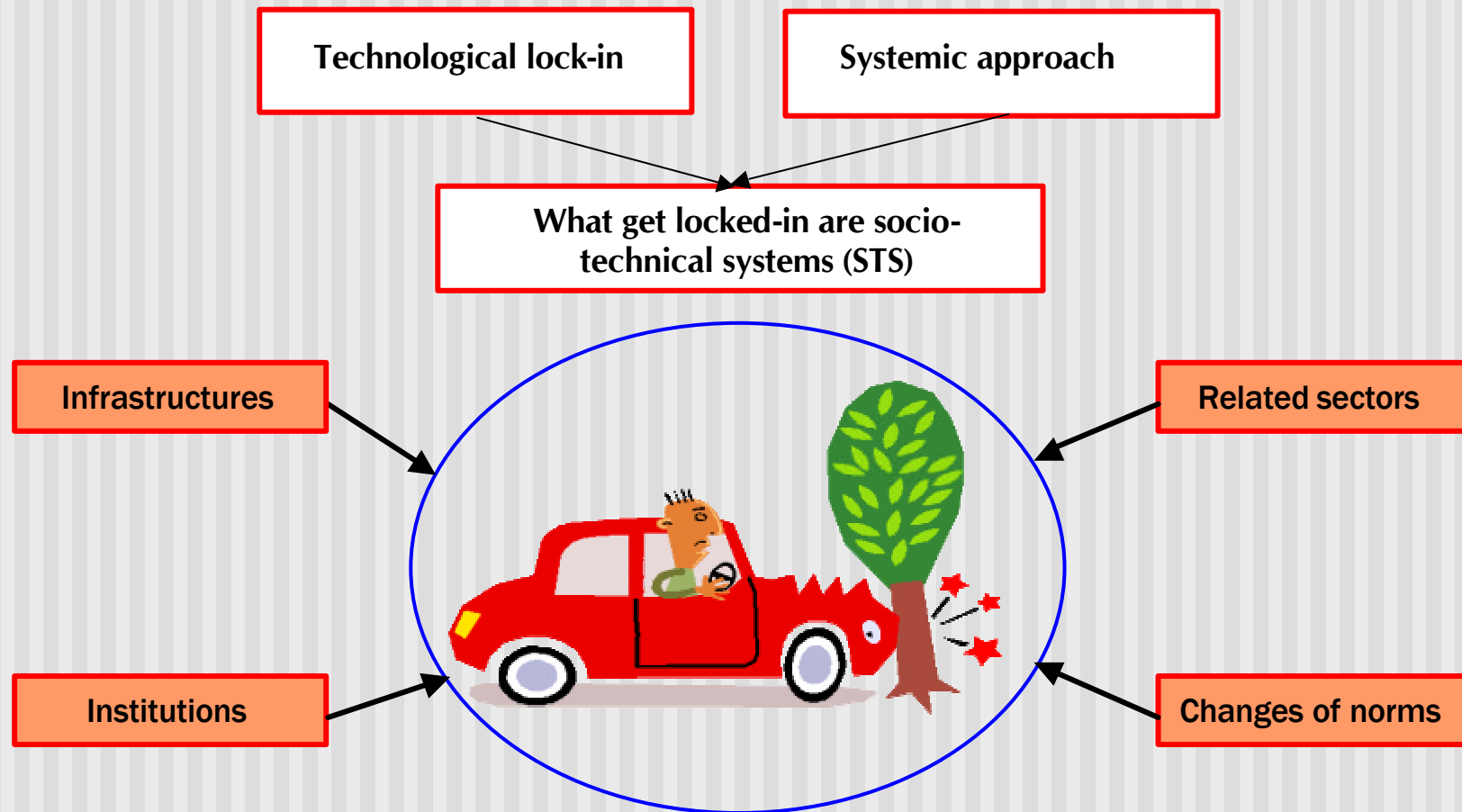
Initial lead

Technological lock-in to the detriment of alternatives



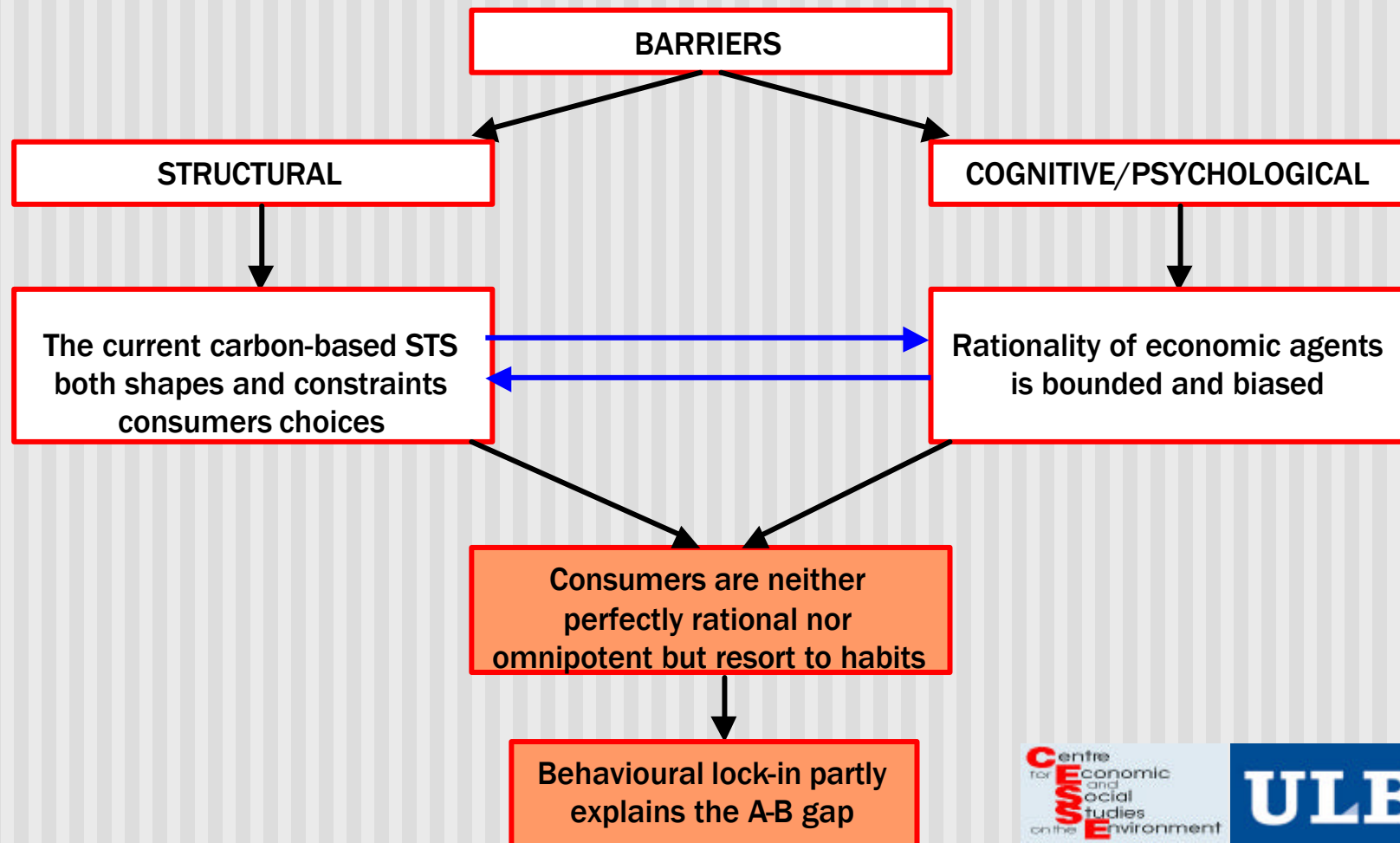
Persistence of obsolete elements (designs, features, technologies)

The importance of the systemic perspective



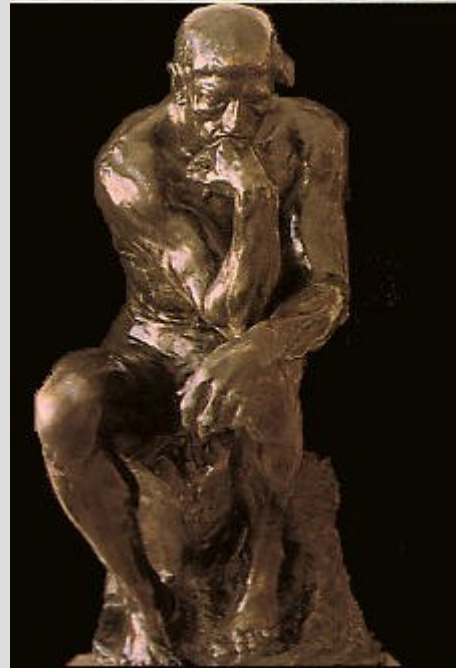
The crucial role of habits

presence of non-economics barriers neglected in analyses

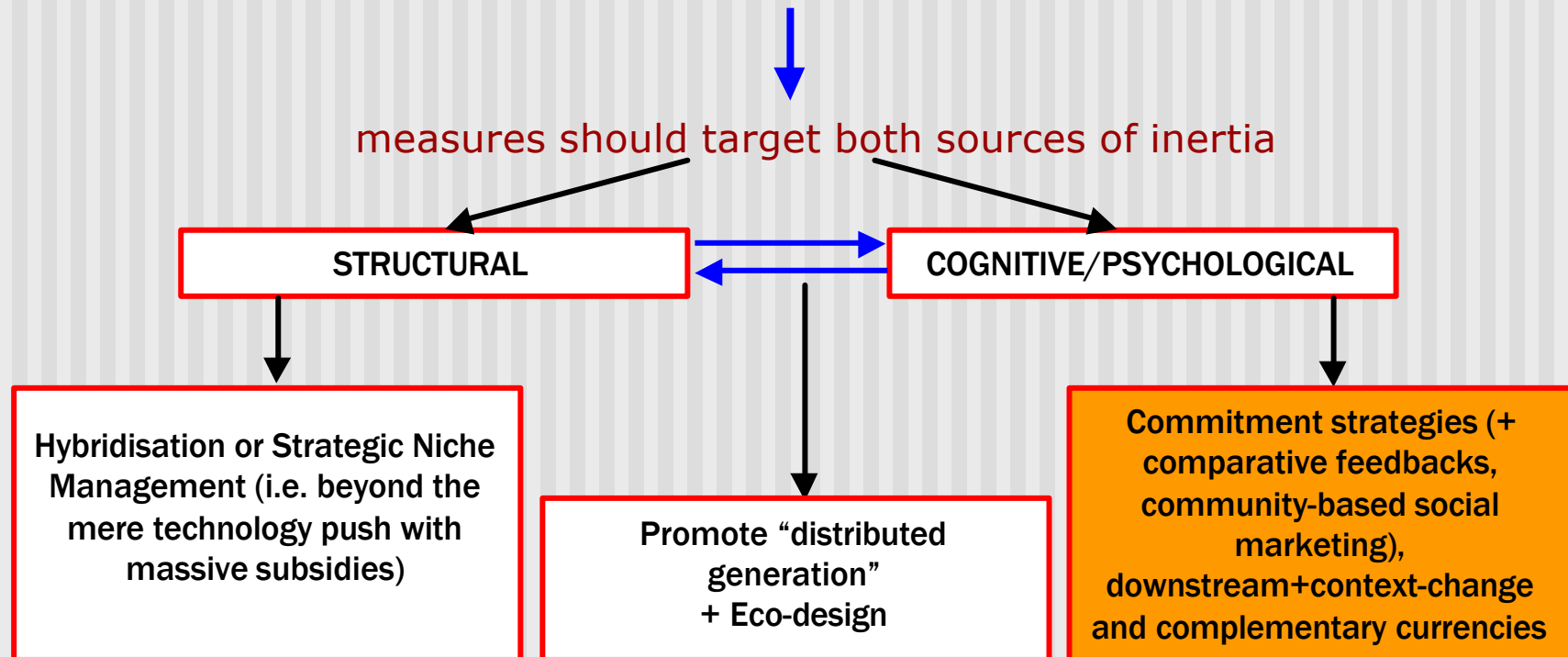


ENDENWAT ?

?



Other diagnosis → other potential remedies



Conclusions

To deal with the issue of global warming in a fair, effective and appropriate way, there must be

a change of climate in Economics



Economists should break their habit of not taking habits into account

« You cannot solve a problem using the same thought process that created it »

Albert Einstein

« The truth lies, not with the new ideas, but in escaping the old ones »

John M. Keynes

Further reading

- Maréchal, K., 2007. *The Economics of climate change and the change of climate in Economics*. Energy Policy 35/10, 5181-5194
- Maréchal, K., 2009. *An evolutionary perspective on the economics of energy consumption: the crucial role of habits*. Journal of Economic Issues 43/1, 69-88
- Maréchal, K., 2010. *Not irrational but habitual: the importance of "behavioural lock-in" in energy consumption*. Ecological Economics 69/5, 1104-1114
- Maréchal, K., Lazaric N., 2010. *Overcoming inertia: insights from evolutionary economics into improved energy and climate policies*, Climate Policy 10/1: 103-119.

All publications are available upon request to author (kevin.marechal@ulb.ac.be)

See also the website for the project: "Habitudes et mobilité : étude de deux mesures innovantes pour faire évoluer les comportements de déplacements" on www.ulb.ac.be/ceese