



**C.I.R.E.D.**  
CENTRE  
INTERNATIONAL  
DE RECHERCHE  
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

# **Decarbonation of electricity systems: When all new production will stand outside the market**

**Dominique FINON**  
Directeur de recherche CNRS

**Presentation 3rd annual meeting LCS Rnet  
Paris, October 13-14, 2011**

**C.I.R.E.D.** UNITÉ MIXTE DE RECHERCHE  
EHESST ET CNRS - UMR 8568  
JARDIN TROPICAL  
45 BIS AVENUE DE LA BELLE GABRIELLE  
94736 NOGENT-SUR-MARNE CEDEX - FRANCE

## Issue of market pull deployment of low carbon technologies LCT

- Long and complex innovation chain for CCS, new nuclear, large scale renewables;
  - They should cross the « death valley »;
    - learning-by-doing should be expected from initial deployment of LCT after demo stage
    - learning spill-over justify a policy intervention to trigger LCT deployment.
- to be economically ready in case carbon price high

## Uncertainty:

Numerous uncertainties surrounding the future competitiveness of LCT:

- on the cost and learning rate of LCT;
- on the costs of alternative technologies:
  - Uncertainty on climate policy and the price of carbon in the second period
  - Uncertainty on the price of fuel

# Introduction

- Power sector key to 'decarbonise' the economy
  - CCS , Nuclear and large sized renewables would displace coal-fired generation and follow demand growth countries
- Low carbon technologies in power generation :
  - capital intensive (large sized as well as low sized )
- Major low carbon technologies are still in the innovation process:
  - the problem of crossing the death valley
  - Old new technology need re-learning and radical safety improvement
- No adequation of present market regime of electricity system with characters of low carbon technologies
  - Need of subsidization to production or
  - Need of new sharing risk
  - Need of government monitoring of transition

# Content

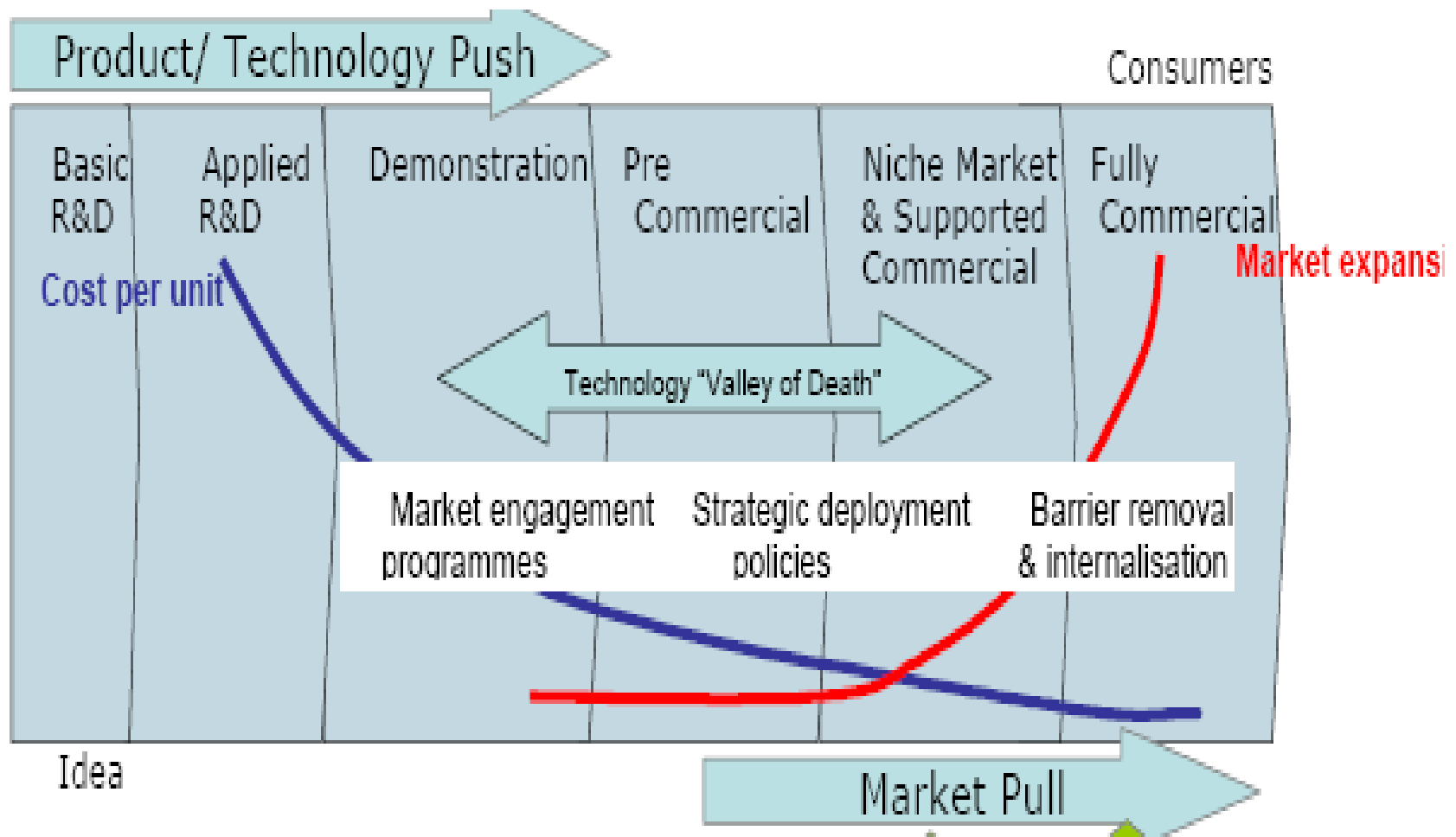
- 1. Market failures
  - constraints on learning on low carbon technologies
  - investment distortion in mix
- 2. Answers
  - Arrangements for subsidization
  - Towards radical adaptation to market regime

# **1. Rationale to support low carbon electricity technology deployment**

# 1. 1. Market failure in matter of deployment of LCT

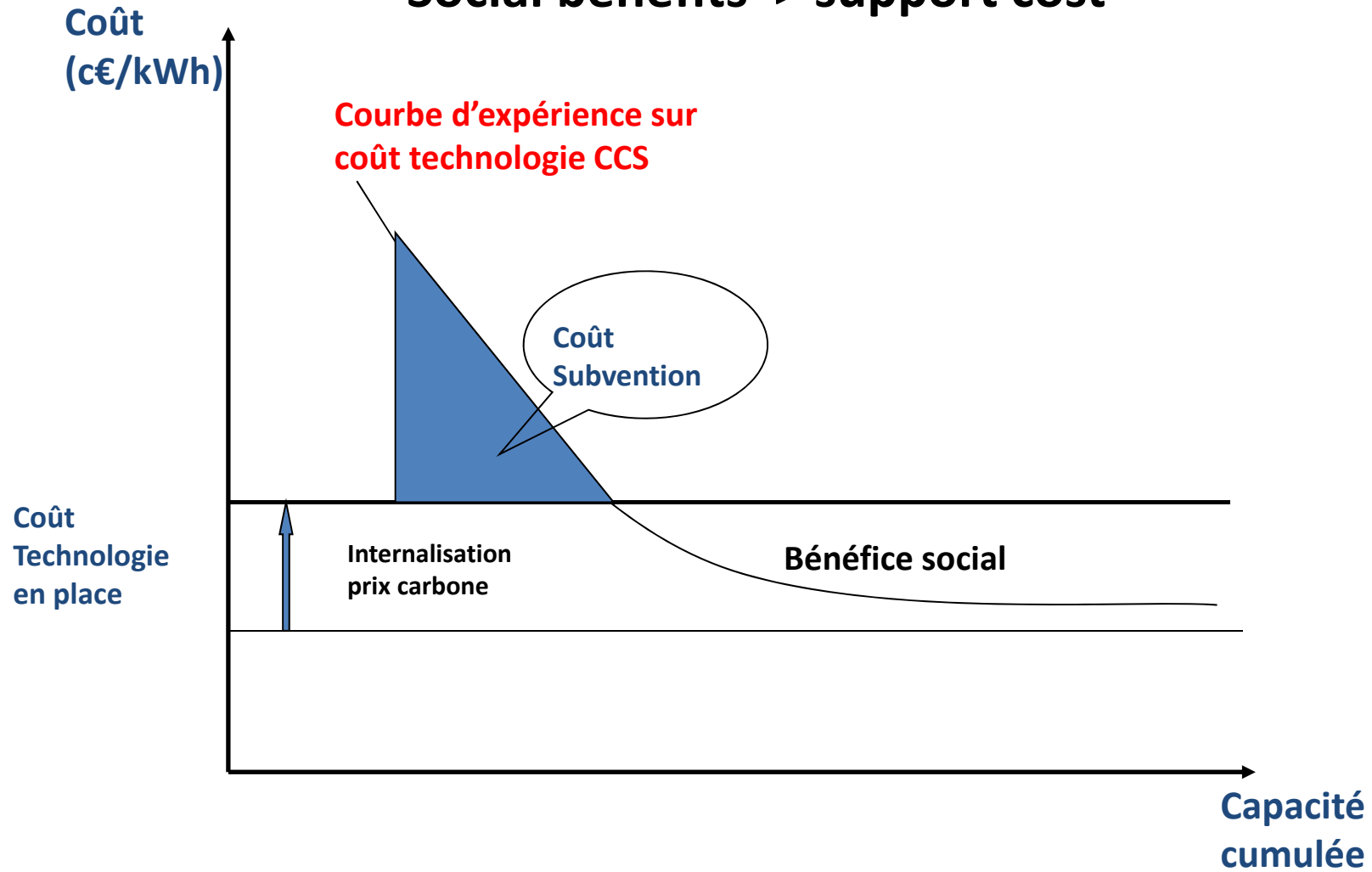
## The market orthodoxy

- Market failure on knowledge:
  - Only financing RD&D
  - Technology push
- Market pull
  - The role of carbon price to make LCT competitive with incumbent carbon technology
  - Technology neutral orthodoxy
- BUT Death valley
  - long leadtime, capital intensiveness
  - Learning : too slow cost decrease



# Rationale of public support after the RD&D stage

## Social benefits > support cost

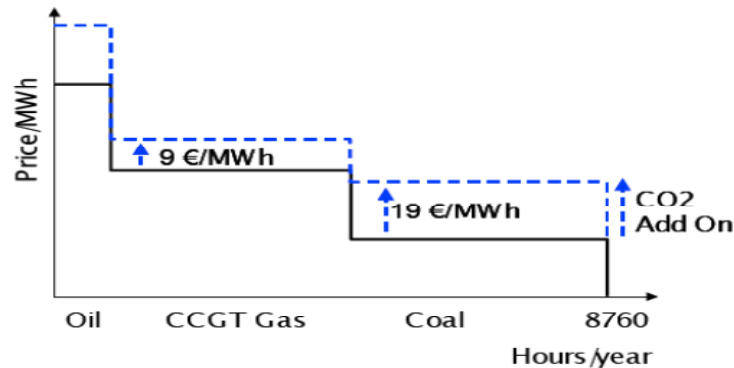




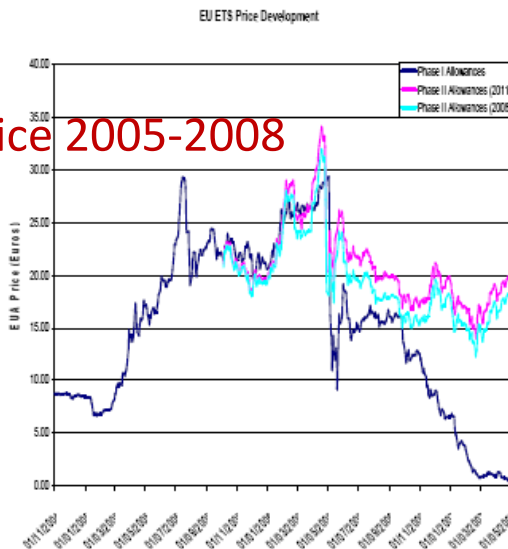
## 1.2. Supplementary risks in electricity market regime

- All the risks: technology risk, regulatory risk, price risk, volume risk, are borne by the investors, or consumers
- Financial community preferred project finance to corporate finance:
  - because specific risk on elecmarket high risk premium
- Risks and price-making on electricity markets
  - Hourly price aligned on marginal projects
  - **Sum of hourly Infra marginal rent is supposed to cover huge fixed costs of low carbon** (LCT down in the merit order)
  - Carbon price add to uncertainty
- **The result : a strong bias in favor of low capital intensive CCGT which self hedges**

# The inefficiency of carbon price signal in electricity market regime

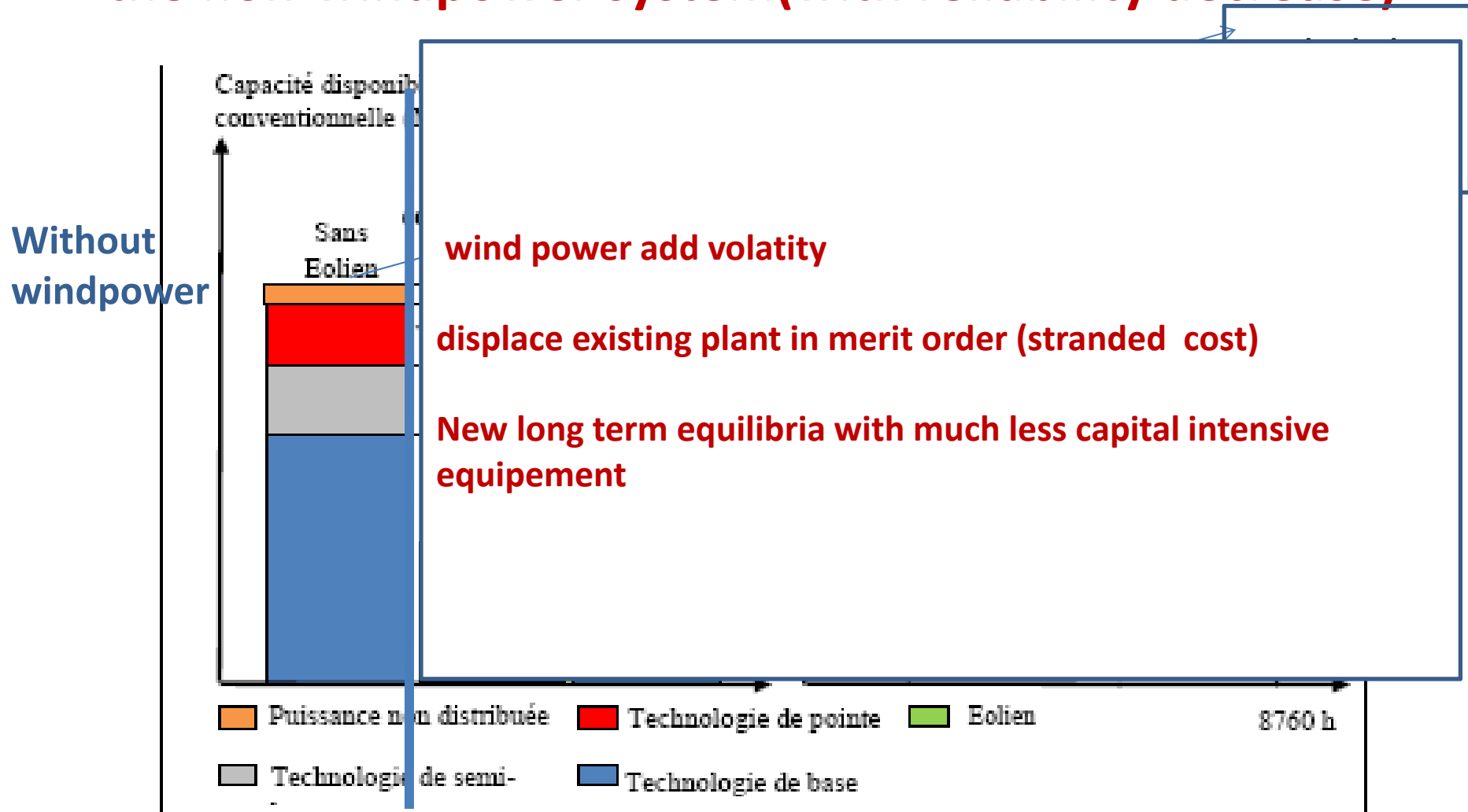


EU ETS price 2005-2008

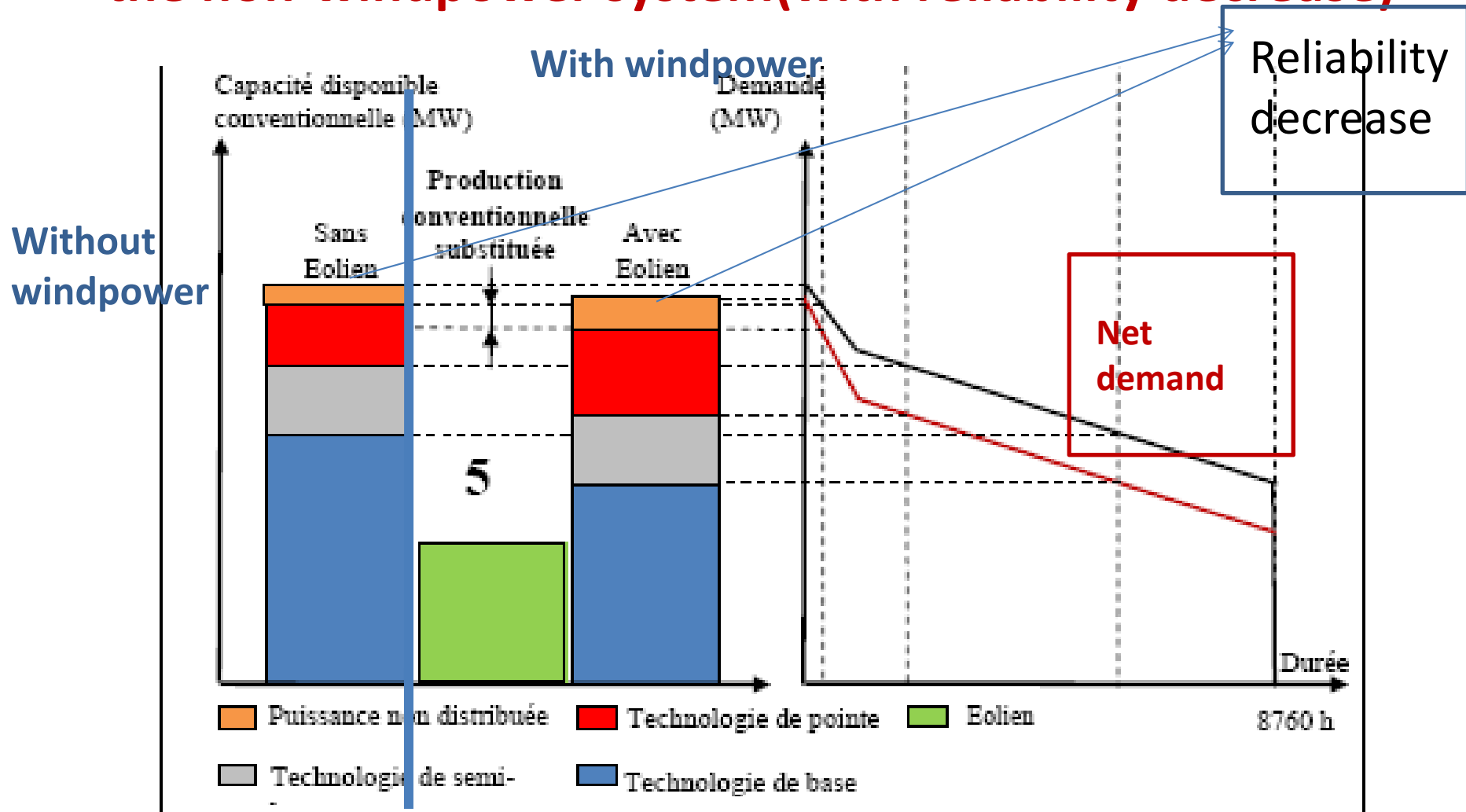


- CO2 permit Price volatility
- Uncertainty on climate policy and the price of carbon in the Post Kyoto
- No way to anticipate obsolescence of existing carbon equipment
- Uncertain competitiveness of low carbon option (CCS, nuclear, wind offshore)

# Effect of subsidized development of windpower on the non-windpower system (with reliability decrease)



# Effect of subsidized development of windpower on the non-windpower system (with reliability decrease)



## The Risks specific to new **nuclear** are magnified in market regime

- **Usual risks of electricity generation investment**

- **Construction risks**

- **Operating risks**

- **Market risks in liberalised electricity markets**

- Price risks
- Volume risks

### **Specific risks of nuclear investment**

**Difficulty of siting and planning**

**Regulatory and political risks during construction**

**Risk of re-learning process**

**Risk of scarcity of manufacturing and E&C**

**Amplification of construction risks and operating risks**

(size, lead time, capital indivisibility)

**Amplification of market risks:**

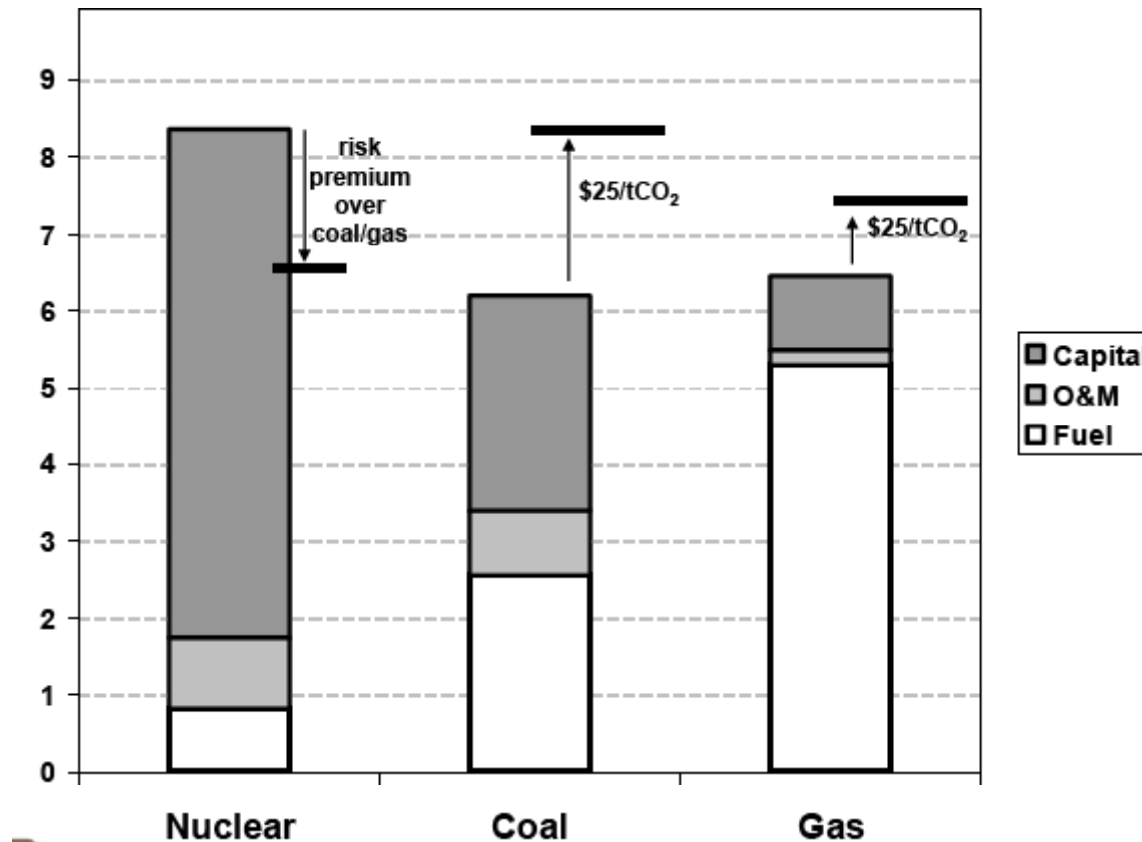
- **No correlation between market prices and costs**
- **CO2 risk**

## 2. New arrangements

- Only « deep pockets » could deliver in thos  
contexte of risks

## 2.1. Support could be done by a new risk sharing

Nuclear could be competitive if risk premium of 3% in loan could be suppressed,  
(Source : 2009 MIT report update . Reference to 3500-3800 \$/kW)



NB: Risk premium eliminated : nuclear cost decreases from 8.4 to 6.6 ¢/kWh and becomes competitive with coal and gas at \$7/mmBtu), even in the absence of carbon charge.

## **Diverse policies of market engagement and deployment strategy**

- Investment support:
  - Direct subsidy/tax credit
  - Subsidy by a dedicated trust fund (for instance for CCS)
- Mandate
  - obligation on carbon plant to be equipped by CCS from 201X or 202X (emissions standard on coal)
  - Low carbon portfolio obligation
- Subsidy to production: **COST and RISK on State/consumers**
  - Guarantee CO<sub>2</sub> price for CCS (option contract with government)
  - **Feed in subsidies (with obligation to purchase)**



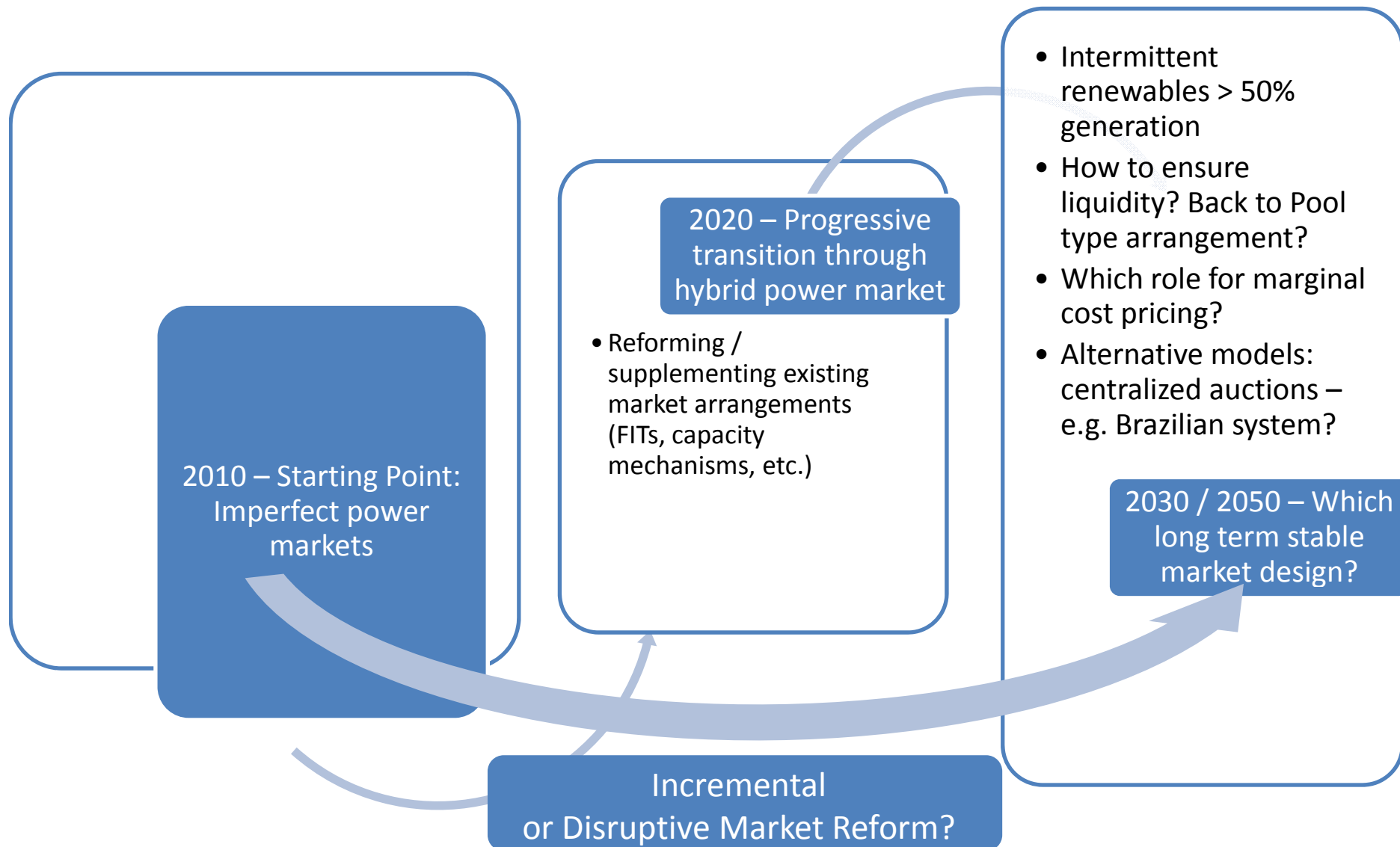
## 2.2. Dramatic adaptations of market regime

- **From FIT or tender for renewable capacity**
  - Supplement to market price**to Tender for all capacity**
  - Type (and perhaps location) specified
  - Capacity continues to compete day-to-day
- **Working assumption that investment can be “de-risked” through greater public sector intervention**
  - Risks are shifted to the state but finally paid by consumers...
  - Which risks are best allocated to state / investor / operator
- **Technology neutral orthodoxy is de facto broke down**
- **Less and less market share for non supported electricity: an implicit paradigm shift**

## **UK: Pioneering in market reform, pioneering in contre- reformation (White Paper July2011)**

- Low-carbon Generation Support: Fixed tariff by contract for differences (CFD): for large sized technologies
  - Generators receive wholesale price plus variable premium
  - Auctioning by technologies(Nuclear, CCS, windpower, bioelectricity)
  - Public agency for contracting
  - Cost shared between all consumers
- Carbon Floor Price via a tax:
  - Sets the generators tax as the difference between the EUA price & the target price.
- Others
  - Feed in tariffs from small sized
  - Emissions Performance Standard (EPS) on new coal plants
  - Etc.

# The Transition Toward a Decarbonized Power System: Incremental Transformation or Disruptive Process? Source Fabien Roques, 2011



## To conclude

### How to leave blind ideology of market fanaticism ?

- Stan Laurel: Shakespeare.  
Ollie Hardy: Longfellow.  
Ollie Hardy: What goes up the chimney?  
Stan Laurel: Santa Claus.

## Problem in the EU:

- “We” have not yet finished the job of market integration  
Blindness about tension between objectives the so-called market competitiveness
- British are “honest” and pragmatic
- German do not mind at all about the electricity market directives:  
all their electricity will rapidly become out of the market (thanks to nuclear phase out )  
Everybody is supposed to admire the virtuous Germany: and to make like she:  
beautiful exemplarity :  
bad news for respect of CO2 objective
- French do not mind too much:
  - we have deep pocket verticalized companiesBut -problem of mimetism of public opinion with neighbour:  
presidential elections to next electoral cycles could be won with the help of existing 57 nuclear reactors  
if we vote for social democrat like me, happy to see that

# Annex

# An example To invest in market regimes

## Risks specific to CCS projects in the early roll-out

- **Usual risks of electricity generation investment**

- **Construction risks**

- **Operating risks**

- **Market risks in liberalised electricity markets**

- Price risks
- Volume risks

### **Specific risks of CCS investment**

**Difficulty of siting and planning**  
**Regulatory and political risks during construction**

**Risk of learning process**

**Amplification of construction risks and operating risks**  
(size, lead time, capital indivisibility)

**Enormous complementary of investments in infrastructure**

The cost and risk of uncoordinate access to transportation and storage  
Acceptability of storage

**Amplification of market risks:**

- **No correlation between market prices and costs**
- **CO2 risk**

## Offshore windpower projects risks

### A. New learning : Offshore conditions are very different from onshore

- **Turbine**

Stronger winds  $\geq 10$  m/s

Large array turbulence intensity

- **Support Structure : technology of oil off-shore**

Deep water, increasing strengths requirements

Impact of waves and soil condition

- **The future : floatable structures (not yet technically mature)**

### B. Grid connection

- Longer distance to connection point

- Higher electrical losses

- Unilateral installation ( without supergrid)

### C. Installation

- Reduced weather window between shore-location

- Expensive equipment for building the pole