

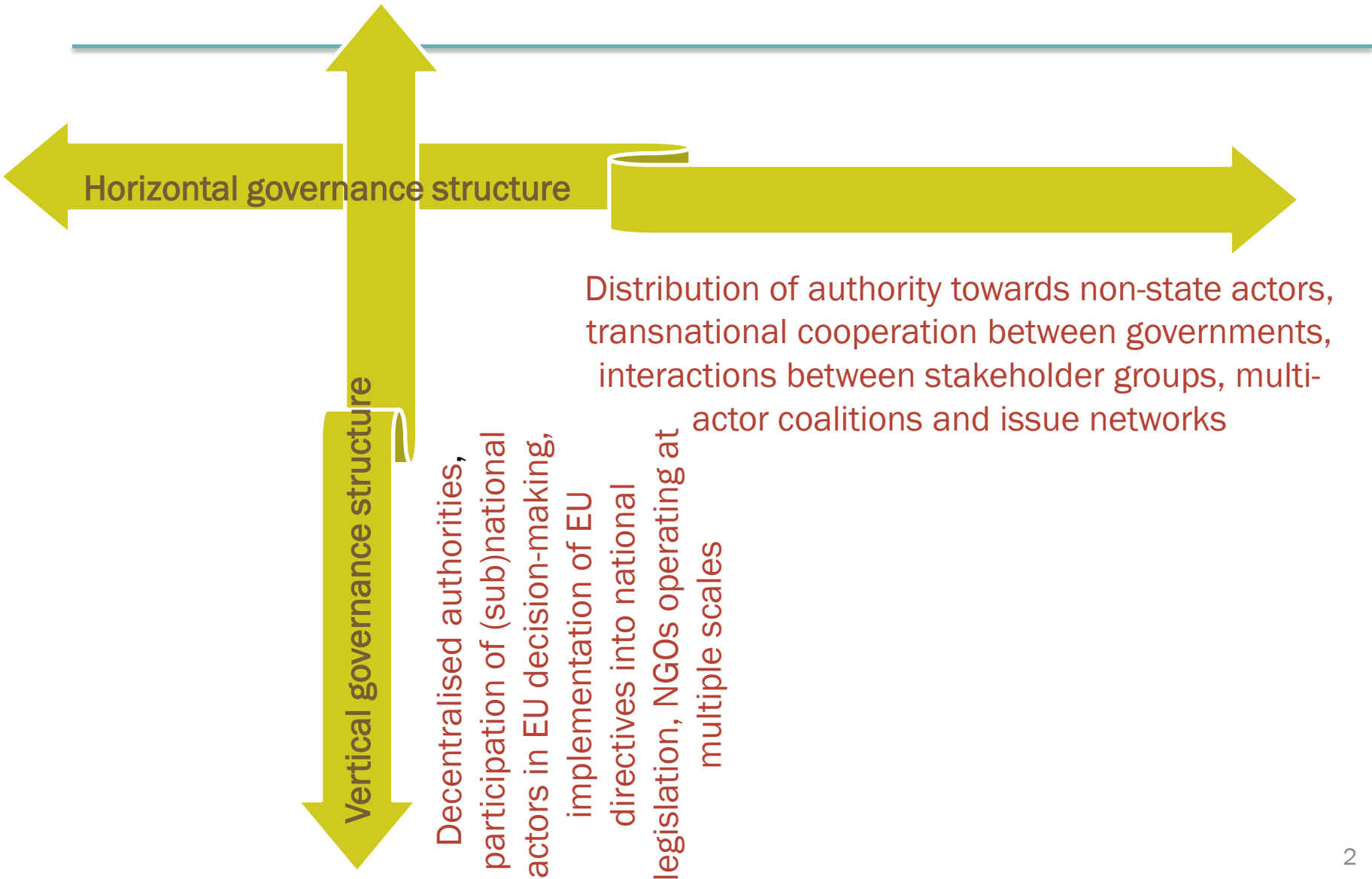
# How do arguments differ at different levels of governance?



 Instituut voor  
Natuur- en Bosonderzoek

Stakeholder Workshop – Brussels 23-24 May 2013

# Multilevel governance



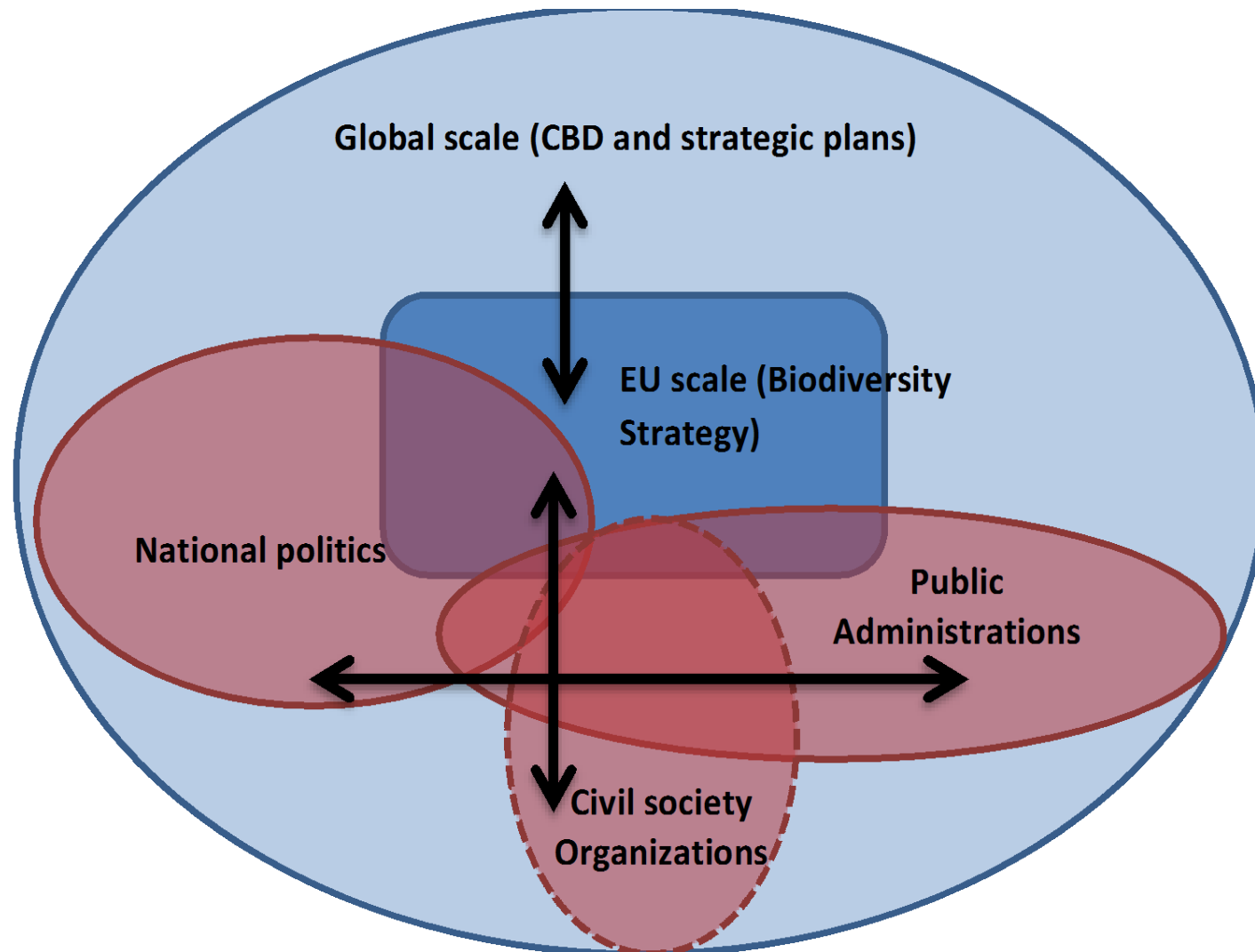
Vertical governance structure

Decentralised authorities,  
participation of (sub)national  
actors in EU decision-making,  
implementation of EU  
directives into national  
legislation, NGOs operating at  
multiple scales

Horizontal governance structure

Distribution of authority towards non-state actors,  
transnational cooperation between governments,  
interactions between stakeholder groups, multi-  
actor coalitions and issue networks

# Comparative study



# Global/EU levels

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## Global level policies:

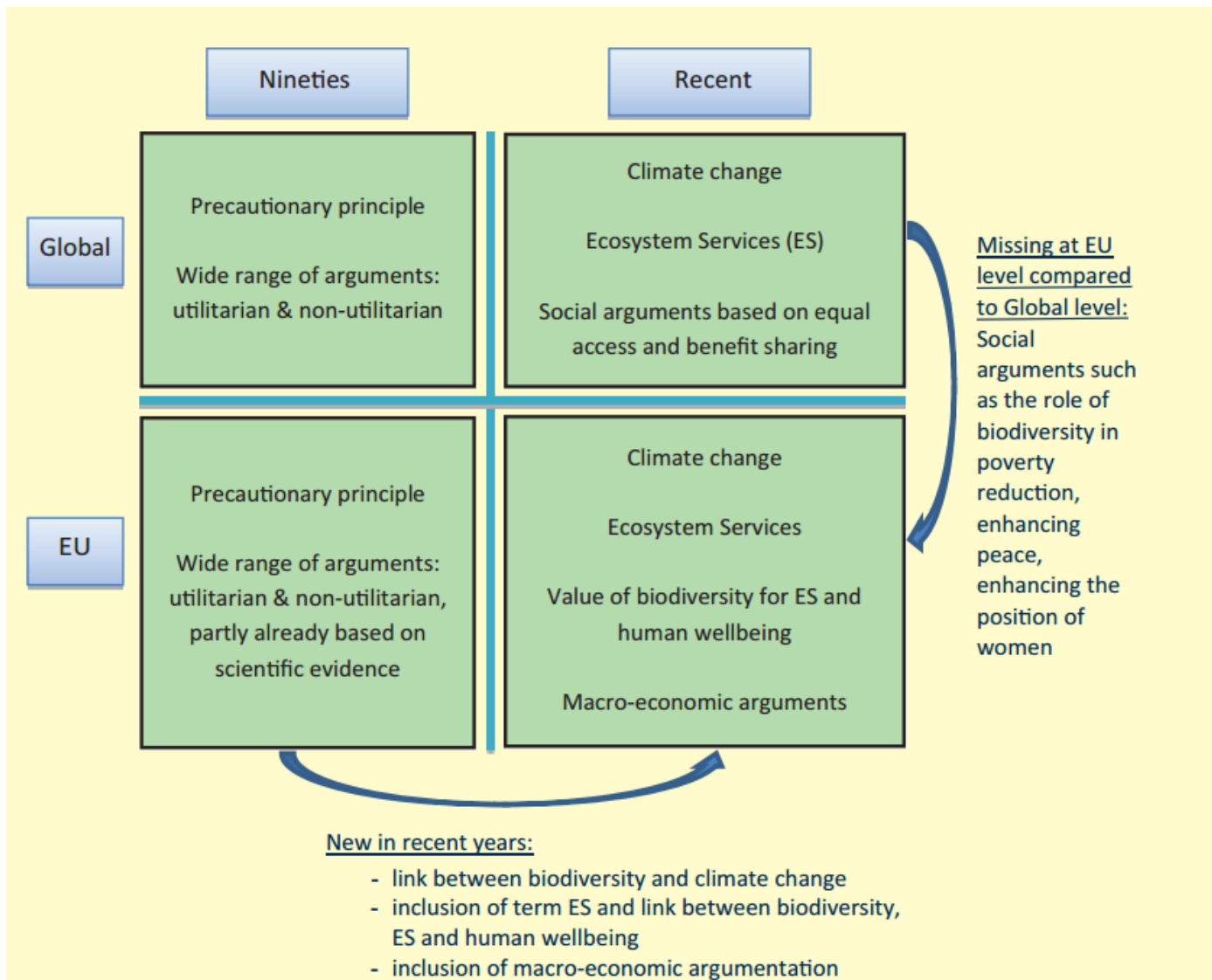
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
- The New Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the CBD (2010)

## EU level policies:

- The EU Biodiversity Strategy (1998)
- The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2011)

➔ Which types of arguments are used? (governance levels)

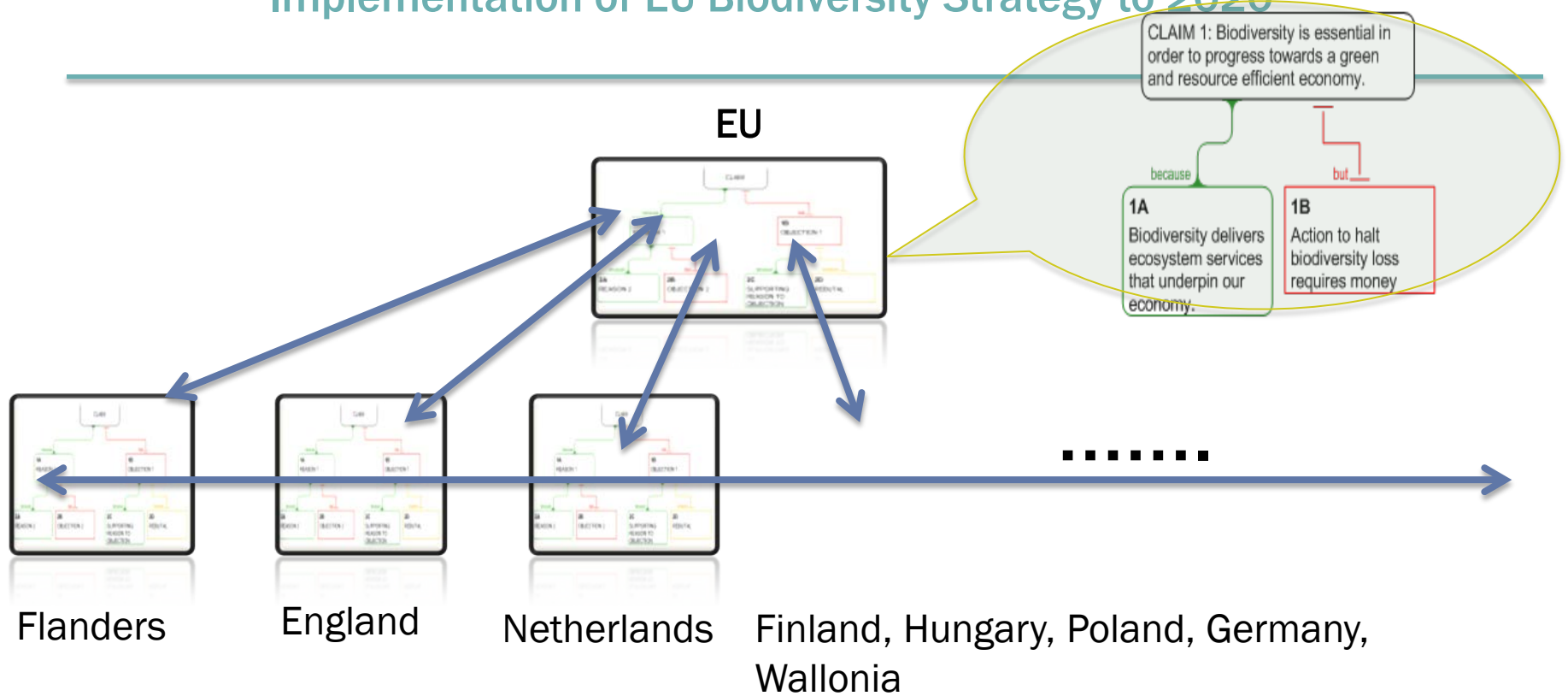
➔ What are the changes of arguments over time? (time scales)



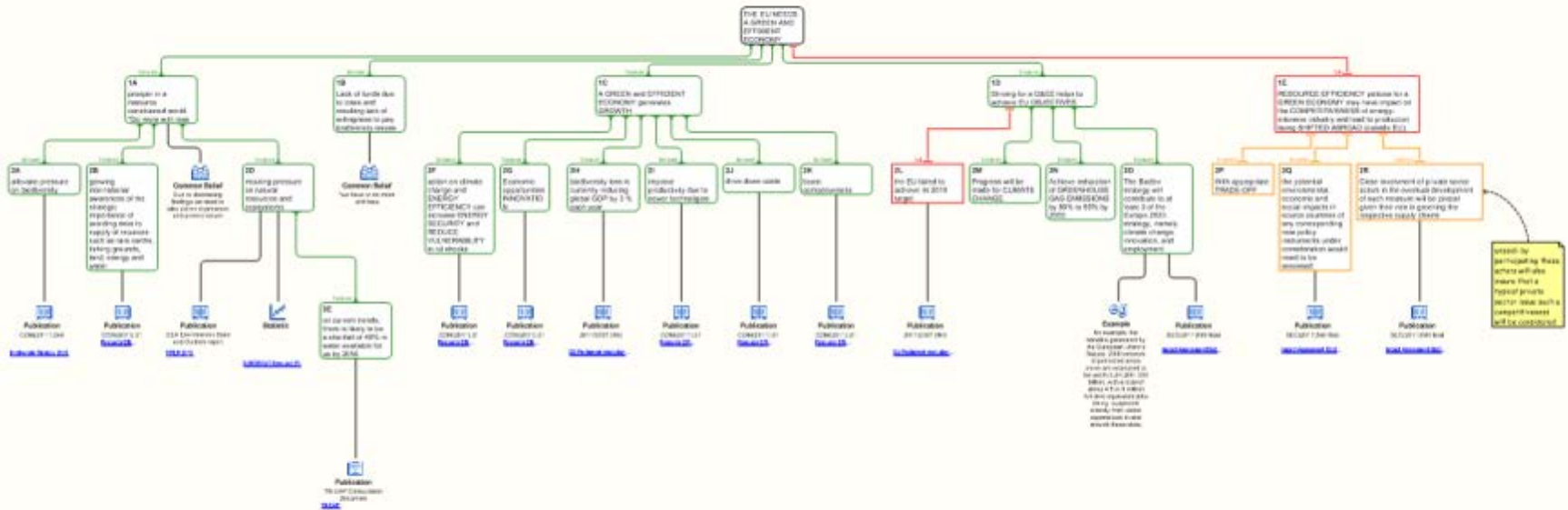
**Figure 1: Comparison of arguments at different governance levels and timescales**

# EU – national/regional levels

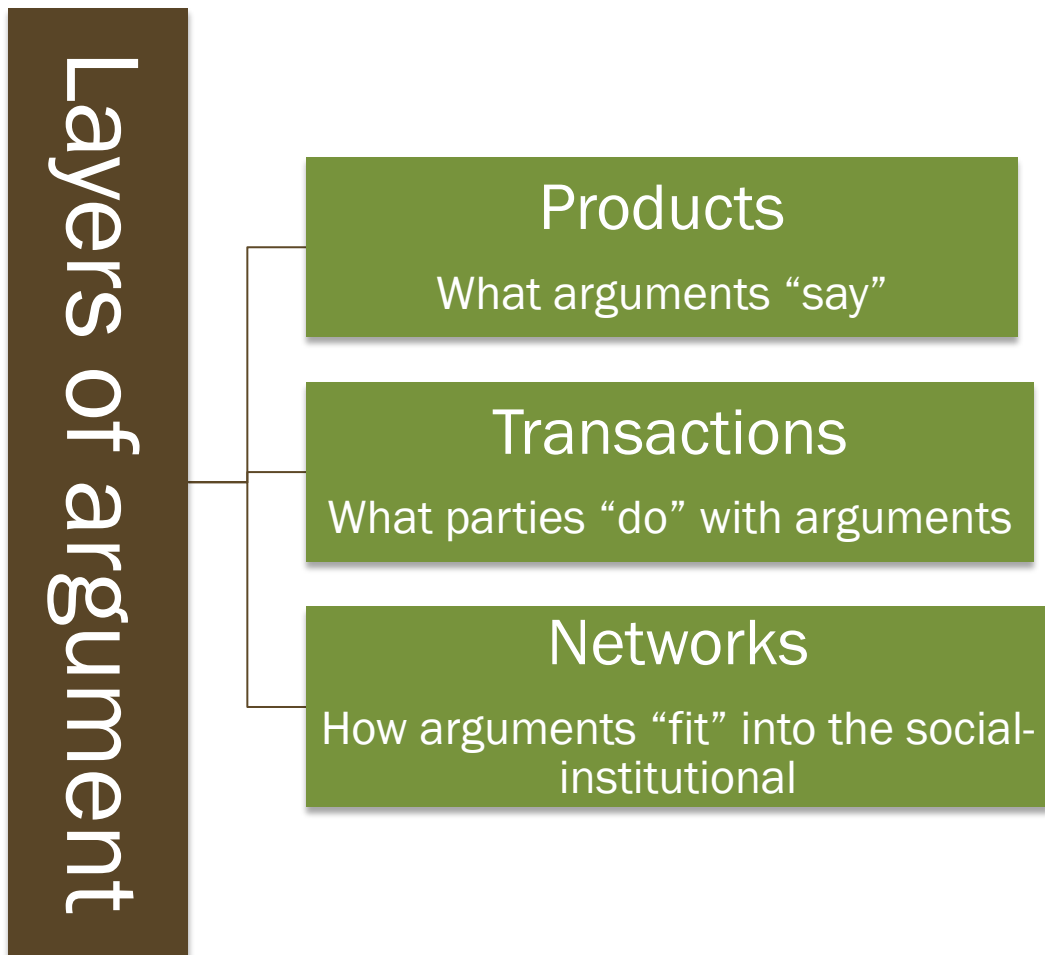
## Implementation of EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020



# Pilot: Flanders



# “Deep cases” of conflict and dispute





# Public controversies surrounding the return of red fox and wild boar to Flanders

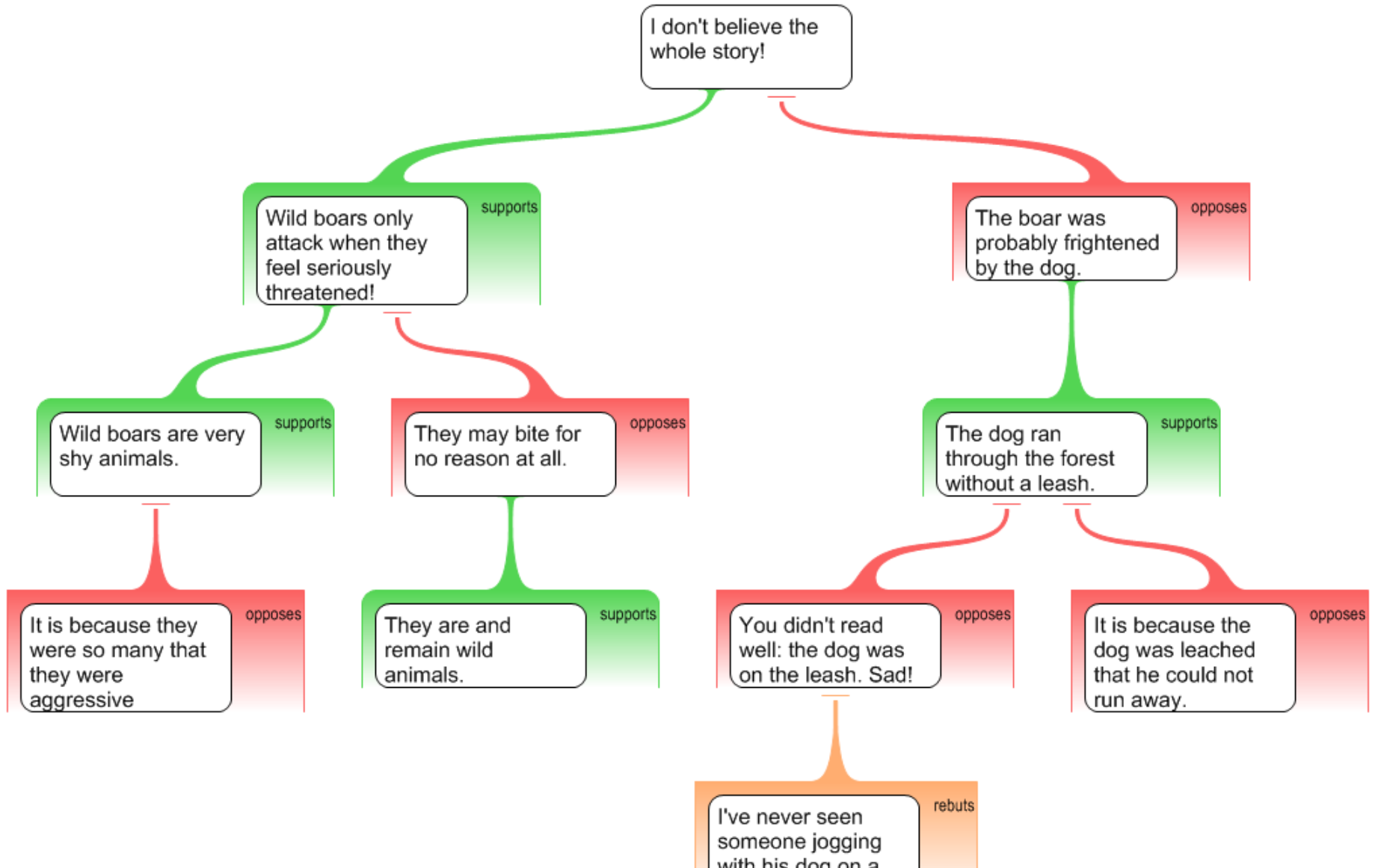


# “Wild boars attack jogger with dog”

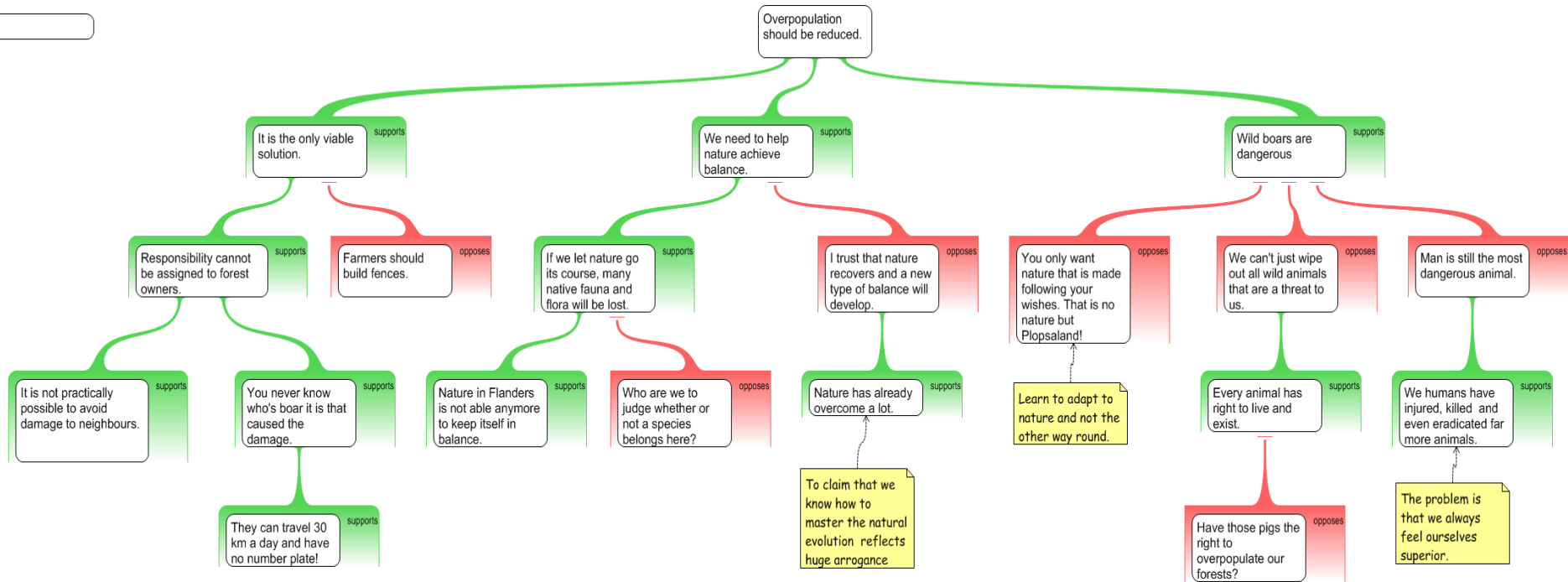
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# Discussing the “facts” of the situation



# Scaling up and bringing in the “principles”



# Blaming governance

There is no longer nature conservation but nature fascism.

Decision-making powers over natural areas are totalitarian and thus undemocratic. supports

Those nature boys want the whole natural heritage given back to nature, without taking account of people recreating outdoors. supports

Nature areas have been made inaccessible (fences, gates), hikers and fishermen are regularly confronted with warnings. supports

Nature associations artificially counteract the tendency of species to find their own habitat. supports

They are the absolute ruler of vast natural areas, where they don't (or hardly) allow non-members. supports

Nature is systematically destroyed for the profit of so-called nature conservationists. supports

Why shouldn't the animals deserve some quiet places within our nature? opposes

I've never had any problems with this. opposes

Wrong! They ensure that animals can be the absolute ruler. opposes

They cross through the woods with expensive 4x4, equipped with nature design clothing, hung with expensive binoculars, and chase away the real nature lover, who is not coming to steal wood like they do.

As long as man is not seen as part of nature such conflicts will remain.

Changes in nature should be embraced, not suppressed.

# Typical argumentation in controversy

