

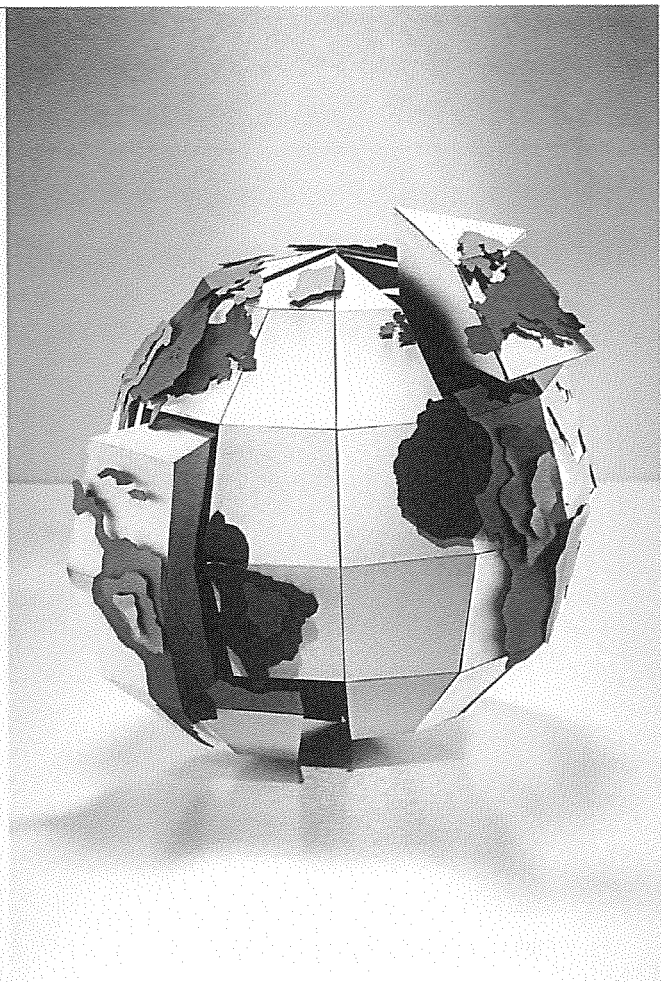
What role do lawyers play in the sovereign debt and financial crisis?

World City Bar Leaders
Conference, Frankfurt

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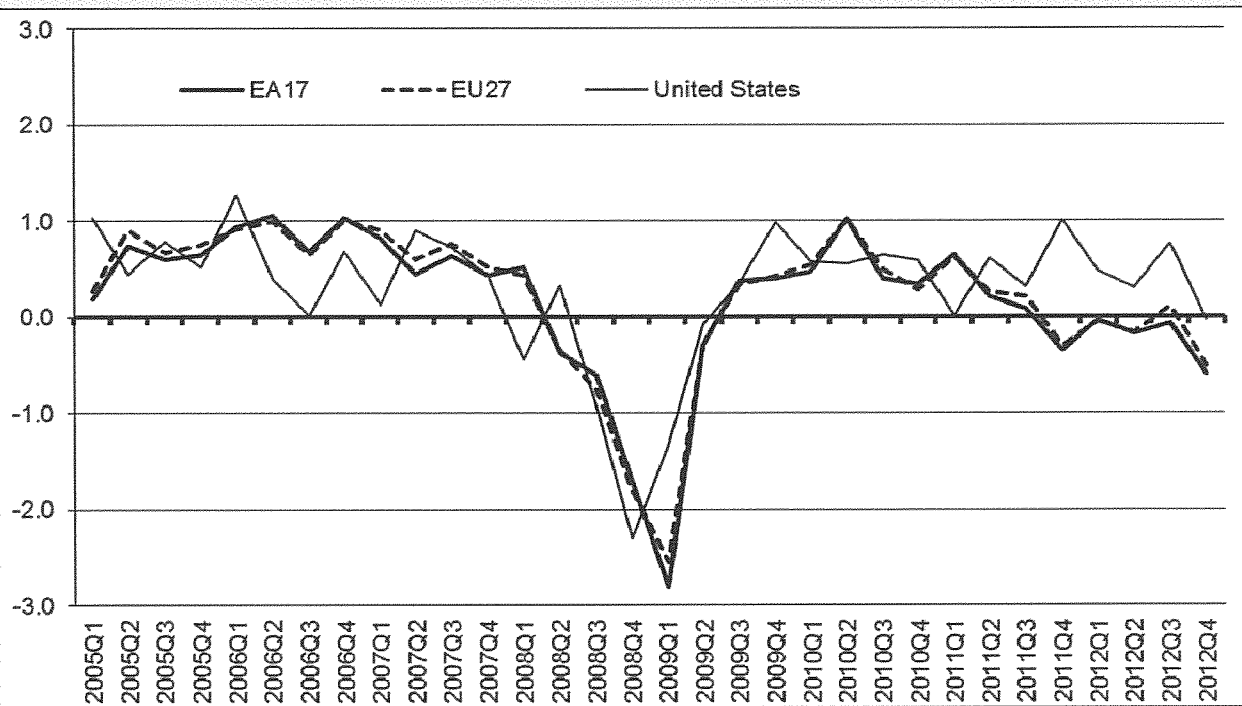
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Overview

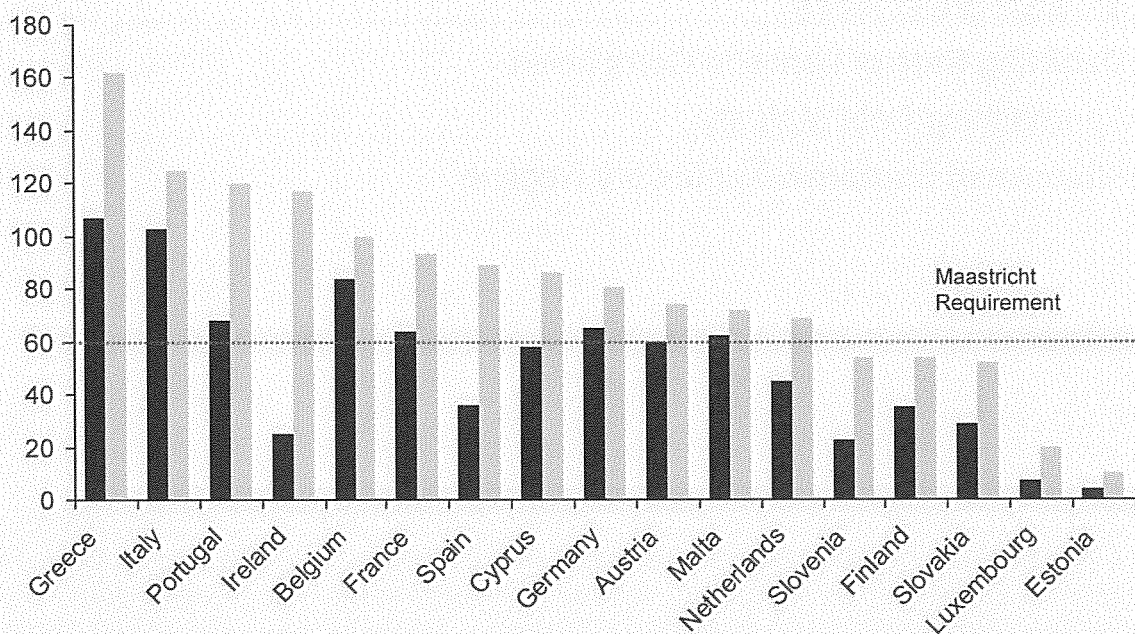
- I. What are Europe's economic and financial challenges?
- II. What is the legal framework of the European Union?
- III. What role do lawyers play in Europe's efforts to overcome its challenges?
- IV. What do lawyers do to protect their clients?
- V. What is the mission of the Bar in the sovereign debt and financial crisis?
- VI. Conclusion

a) Declining GDP

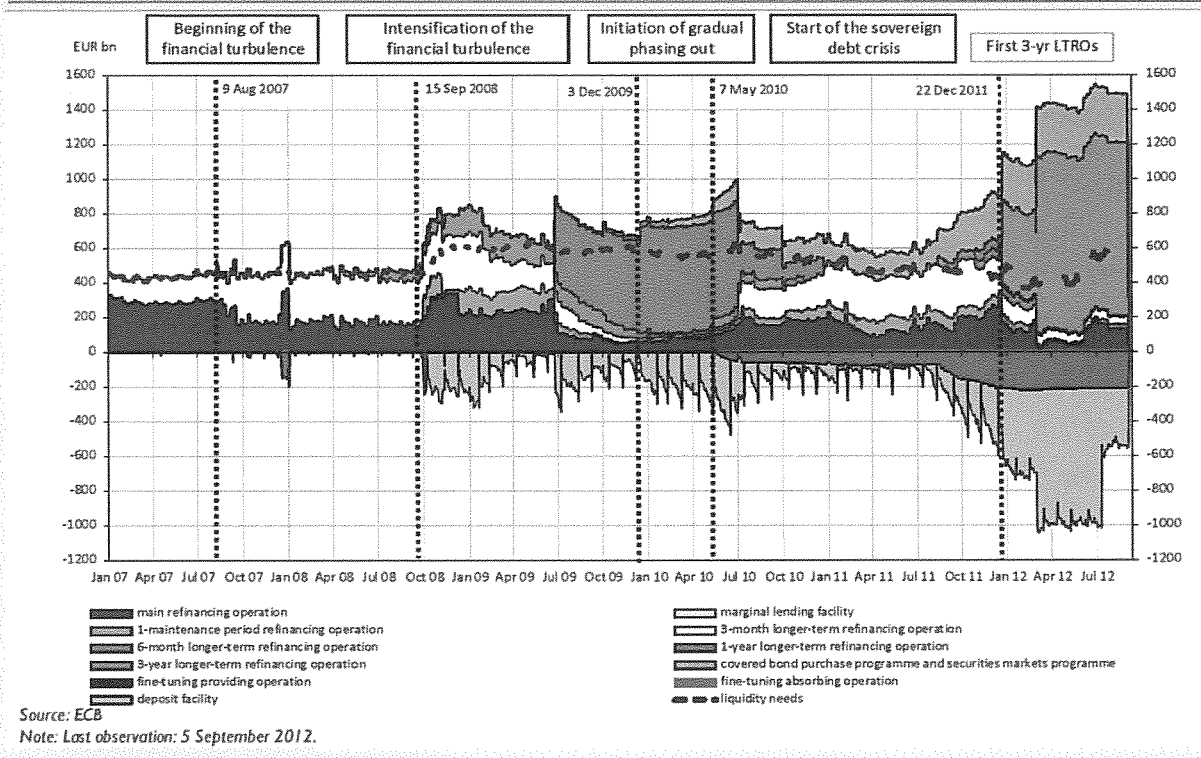


b) Rising Debt to GDP Ratios

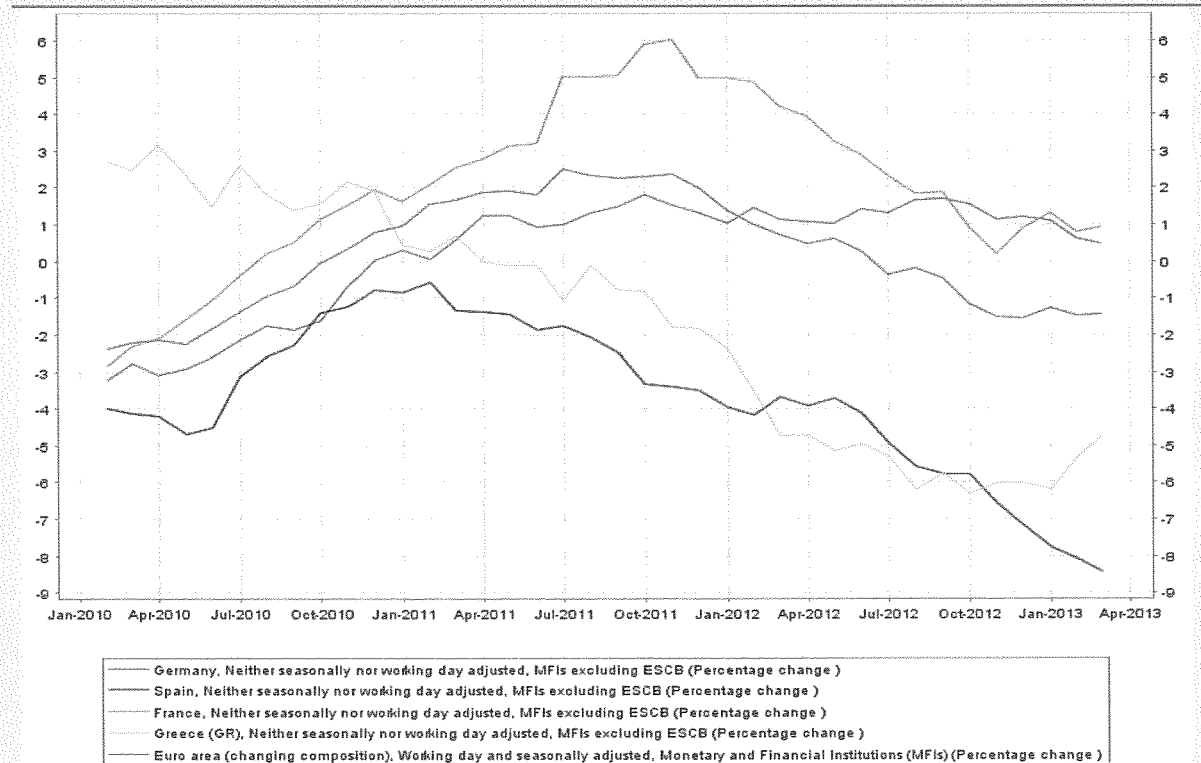
in % of GDP between 2007 (dark) and 2013 (bright) across Europe



a) Balance Sheet Risks



b) Declining Rate of Loans to Companies (annual growth rate)



II. What is the legal framework of the European Union?

Distinction between
European Union (EU)
and
Economic and Monetary Union
(EMU) - The Eurozone



III. What role do lawyers play in Europe's efforts to address its challenges?

1. Lawyers prepare, accompany and test structural reforms
2. Lawyers assist clients in dealing with the consequences of debt restructuring
3. Lawyers participate in creating the foundations for growth
4. Lawyers prepare, defend and challenge the efforts of governments and institutions

VI. Conclusions

1. Eurozone countries struggle with increasing unemployment, debt, undercapitalized banks, risky assets and a credit crunch.
2. The Eurozone countries have set up their own legal regime by building a fire wall and requiring fiscal discipline. They have made progress regarding the reduction of annual deficits, account balances and insitutional reforms.
3. Lawyers help governments and institutions in rescue and reform efforts. They assist affected clients in dealing with these measures.
4. Lawyers protect clients against risks of scenarios which may unfold.
5. The Bar's mission in the sovereign debt and financial crisis is to protect the rule of law.

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