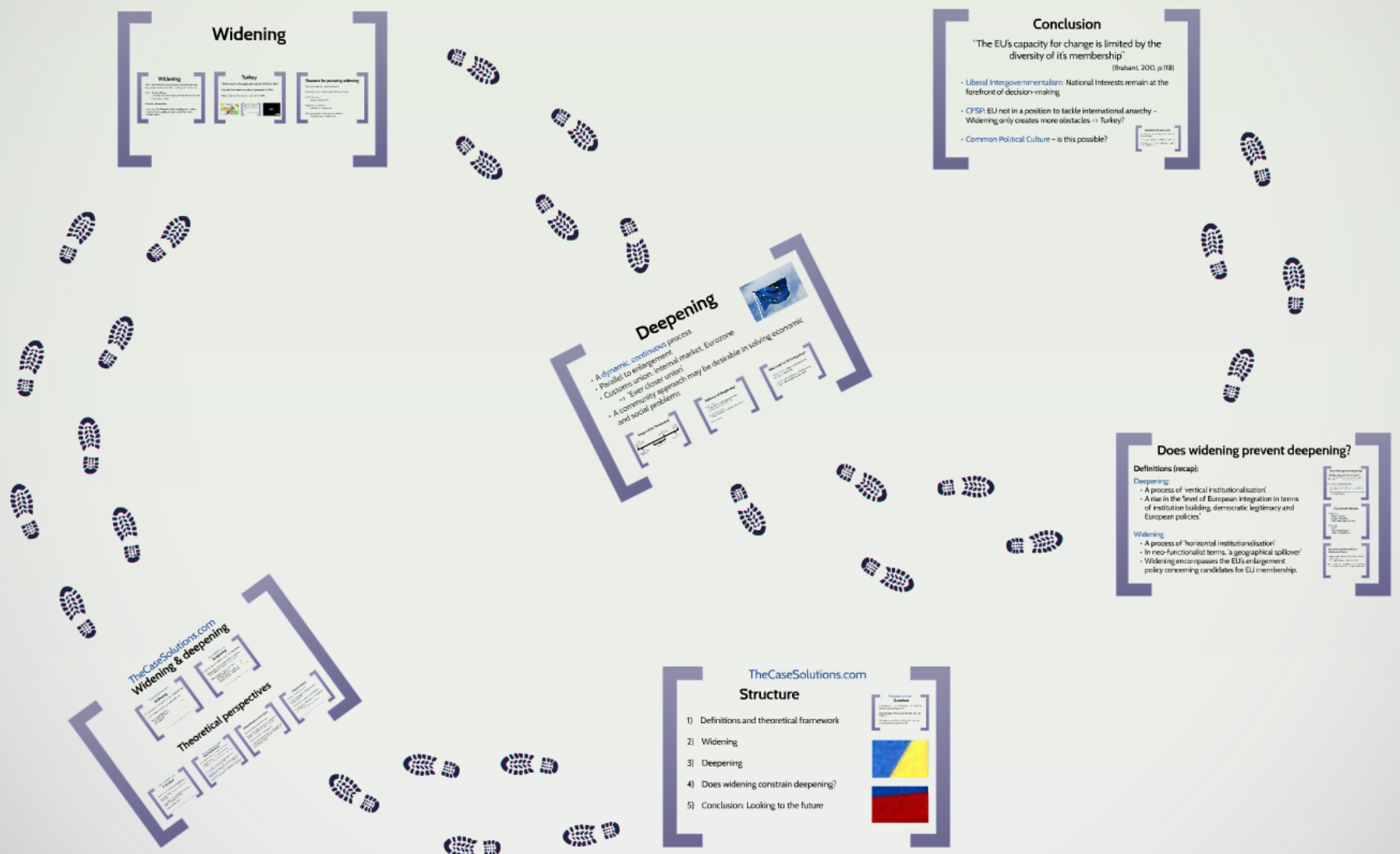
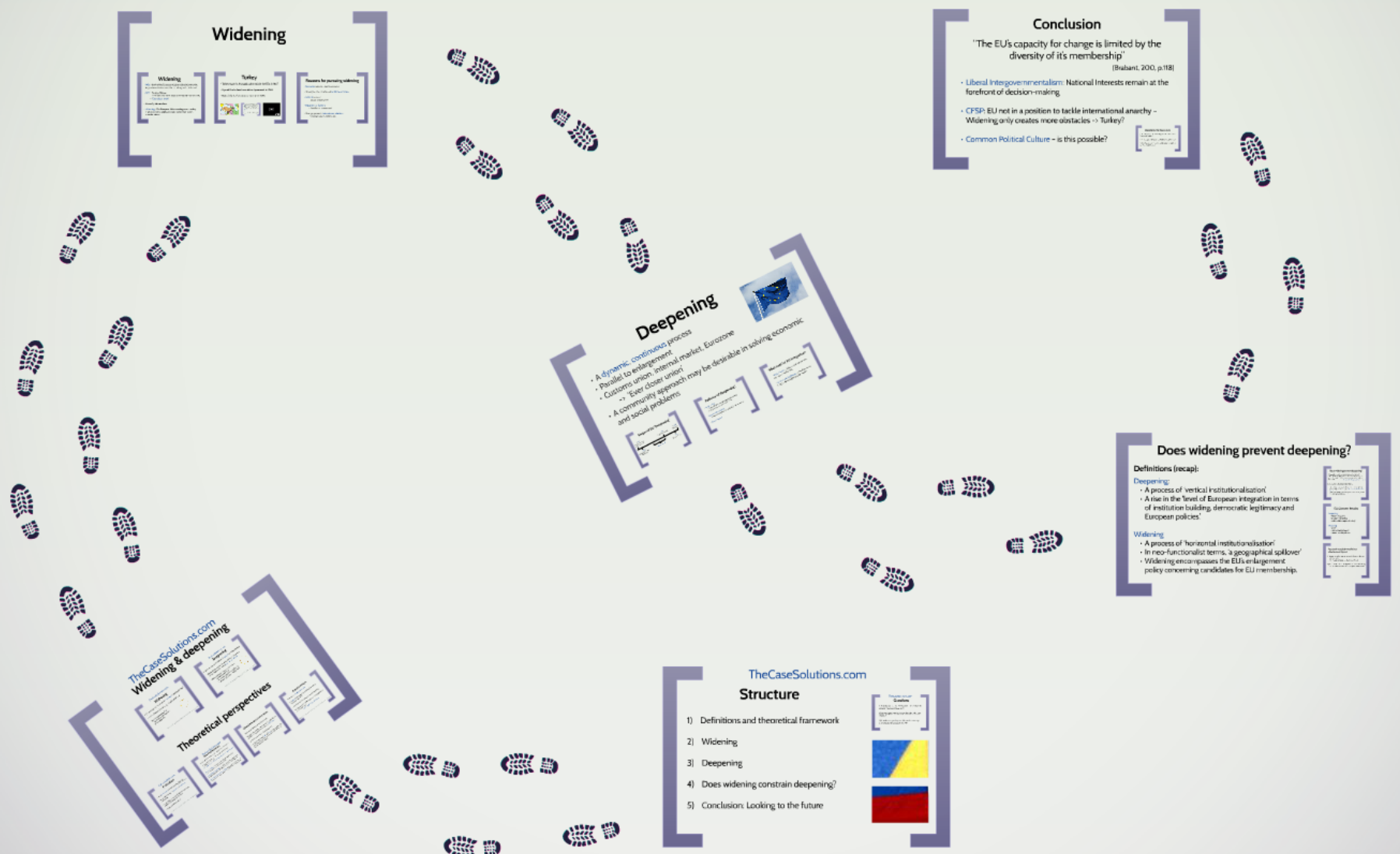


# Liberté, Egalité, Sororité: How Should France Achieve Boardroom Parité?



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## Structure

- 1) Definitions and theoretical framework
- 2) Widening
- 3) Deepening
- 4) Does widening constrain deepening?
- 5) Conclusion: Looking to the future

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### Questions

- 1) How do you see the EU moving forward from its current 'crossroads' position?
- 2) Do you agree with Sarkozy? Should Turkey join the EU?
- 3) Is further deepening possible whilst so many countries continue to join the EU?



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## Widening & deepening

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### Widening

A "process of gradual and formal **horizontal** institutionalisation"

- In neo-functionalist terms: 'geographical spillover'
- EU's enlargement policy  
- concerns applications for EU membership



Barton, H. n.d., Deepening and Widening of the EU [accessed 9/3/2014]

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### Deepening

A "process of gradual and formal **vertical** institutionalization"

- Striving to strengthen the links which bind member states together; increasing **interconnectedness**
- Pursuing 'deepening' may encompass:
  - institution building
  - increased democratic legitimacy
  - extending EU competency areas



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## Theoretical perspectives

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### Federalism

- 'Ever closer union among the peoples of Europe'  
(Wolfer et al. 2004, p 25)
- It is possible to balance **self-rule** and **shared rule** successfully
- It is possible to integrate differing member states without assimilating their identities
- Suggests CFSP is possible?

Wolfer, A. and Dies, T. (2004) European Integration Theory. Oxford: University Press Oxford

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### Neo-functionalism

- Increasingly, states are no longer the only important political actors
- Supranational institutions facilitate a bargaining process that upgrades common interests  
(Contrast: lowest-common-denominator-bargaining under liberal intergovernmentalism)
- **Spillover hypothesis:** Integration in one sector will inevitably create pressure for further integration in related sectors
- **Elite socialization hypothesis:** Increasingly, elites working at the European level will begin to prioritise European interests over national interests
- **International Interest Group hypothesis:** Increasingly, interest groups will recognise allies in other member states... - pan-European interest groups

### Liberal Intergovernmentalism

- States remain the key actors within Europe
- States are able to withhold information from the EU if it suits their national interests - acting as 'gatekeepers'
- Lowest common denominator bargaining
- Distinction between 'high' and 'low' politics - states may allow further integration in some areas but will always remain resistant in others

### Constructivism

- Interests are **socially constructed**
- Is it **ideas** or materialistic reasons that fuel further integration decisions?
- Reconstruction of identity - European citizenship
- The European Union illustrates an ongoing process of social construction  
**norms, institutions, structures...**

Wheeler, T. (2006) Constructivist Approaches to European Integration [Accessed 11/5/2014]

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