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PART 2/4

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Part II: Policy areas

Accompanying the document

Report from the Commission

Monitoring the application of European Union law

2019 Annual Report

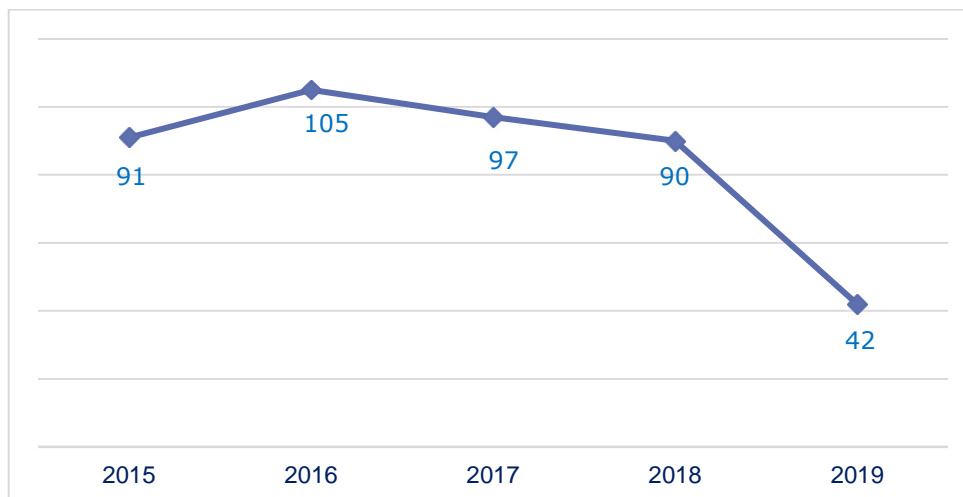
{COM(2020) 350 final}

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This document provides an overview of the policy areas in which the most significant developments related to infringements of EU law took place in 2019.

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

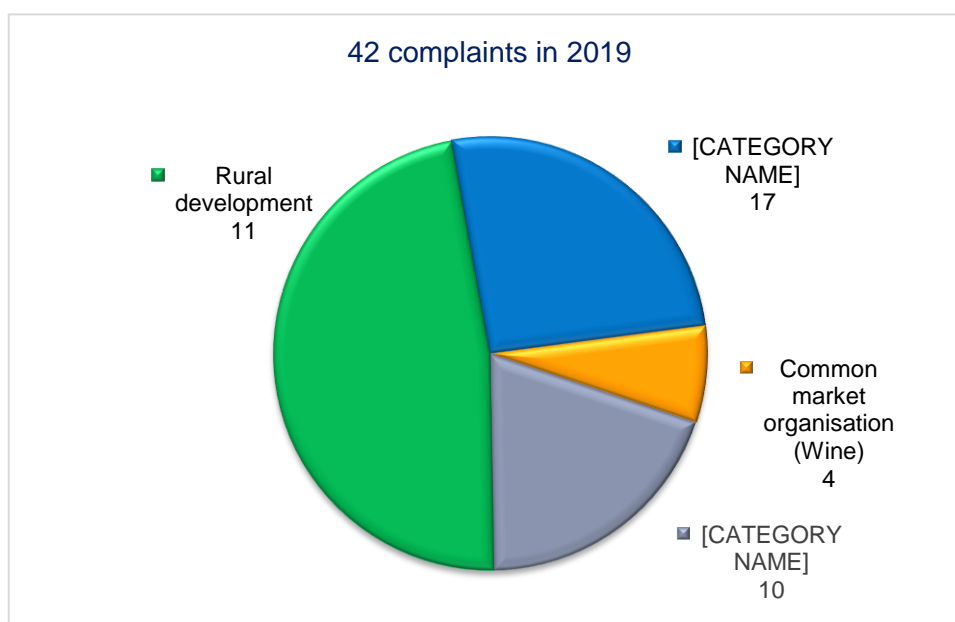
38 ► Complaints open at end-2018

42 ► New complaints registered in 2019

67 ► Complaints handled in 2019

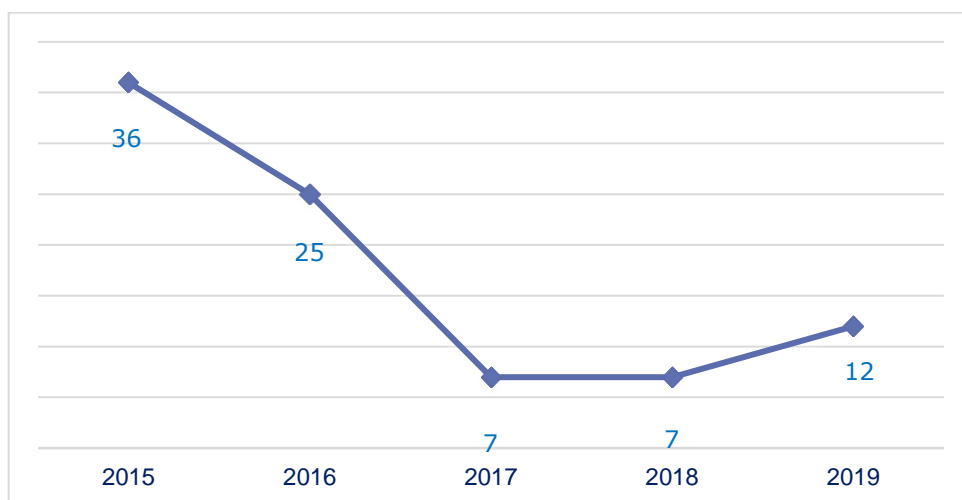
= 13 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



II. EU PILOT

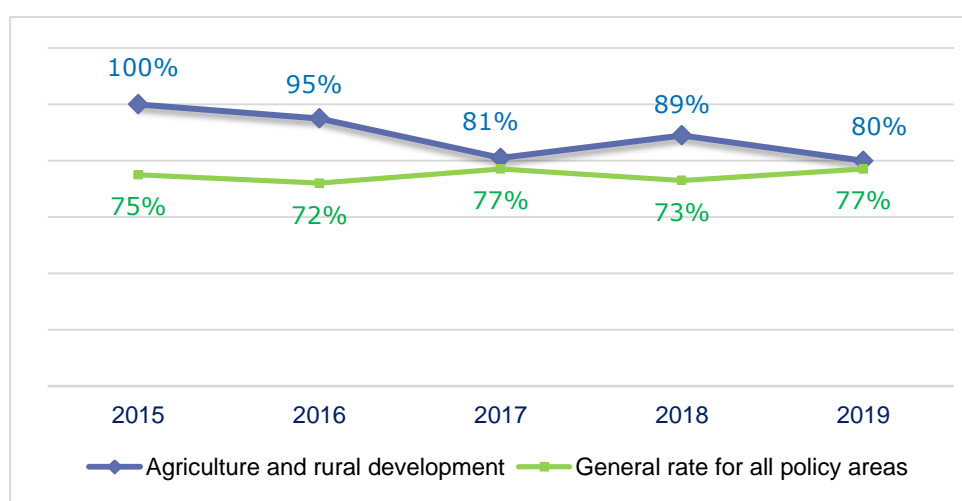
1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 15 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission did not open own-initiative infringement cases in this area.

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

Agriculture and rural development

a) The Commission did not open new infringement cases in 2019 in this area.

Major ongoing infringement cases include the following:

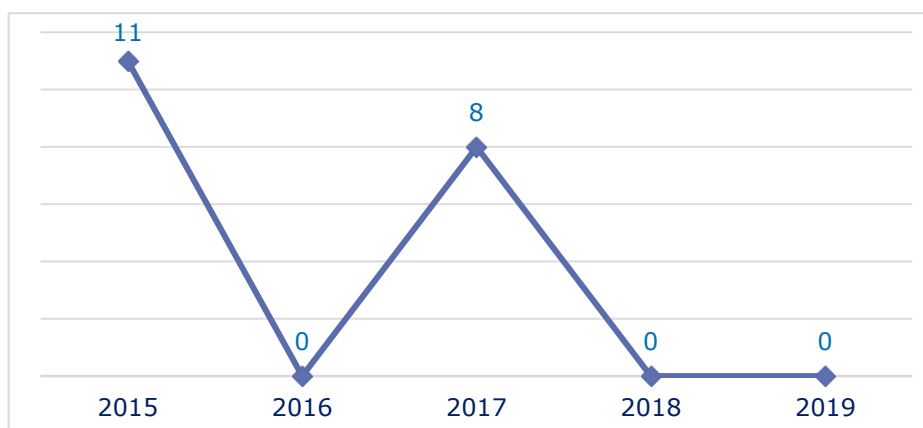
- *Bulgaria*: maintaining a national framework on geographical indications, which is not compatible with the EU rules on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs¹;
- *Denmark*: unlawful use of the protected designation of origin 'Feta', in violation of the EU rules on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs².

b) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU.

c) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU. |

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors

The Commission did not open any new late transposition infringement cases. |

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

| There were no major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019 in this area. |

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

There were no major Court rulings in 2019 in this area.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Germany*: Where EU customs regulations require providing a specific indication of the country of origin for a product (in the present case, cultivated mushrooms that had been relocated during the growing process), the country of origin is that where the product was harvested and that indication as such cannot be regarded as misleading consumers. In such circumstances, no obligations may be imposed on the food business operators to provide information additional to

¹ Regulation (EU) No [1151/2012](#), [MEMO/19/462](#)

² Regulation (EU) No [1151/2012](#), [IP-19-6312](#)

Agriculture and rural development

the indication of the country of origin in order to prevent any alleged risk of misleading consumers³.

- *Germany*: The protection of the name 'Aceto Balsamico di Modena (PGI)', entered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications, does not extend to the use of the individual non-geographical terms of that name, namely 'aceto' and 'balsamico'⁴.
- *Lithuania*: A national legislation aiming to combat unfair commercial practices may prohibit buyers of raw milk to pay a different purchase price to producers who, on the basis of the daily quantity of raw milk sold that is of identical composition and quality and delivered via the same method, must be regarded as belonging to the same group, in so far as those rules are appropriate to attain the objective pursued and do not go beyond what is necessary to achieve that objective⁵.
- *Spain*: Figurative signs may trigger directly in the consumer's mind the image of products whose designation of origin is protected, on account of their 'conceptual proximity' to such a designation. Consequently, a protected designation of origin, such as 'queso manchego', may be evoked through the use of figurative signs, including where such figurative signs are used by a producer established in the geographical area associated with the designation of origin, but whose products, similar or comparable to those protected by the designation of origin, are not covered by it⁶.

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- focusing on infringements that challenge the application of important mechanisms of the common market organisation⁷ or affect the correct application of the direct payments regime⁸ or the implementation of the Organic and Quality Regulations⁹;
- monitoring compliance with recent rulings of the Court of Justice;
- continuing to use the clearance of accounts procedure in the agricultural sector to convince Member States to adapt their management and control systems if an infringement is detected through conformity audit mechanisms.
- preparing the transposition of the Unfair Trading Practices Directive¹⁰.

³ Zentrale zur Bekämpfung unlauteren Wettbewerbs Frankfurt am Main, [C-686/17](#).

⁴ Consorzio Tutela Aceto Balsamico di Modena, [C-432/18](#) and Court press release 150/19.

⁵ Lietuvos Respublikos Seimo narių grupė, [C-2/18](#).

⁶ Fundación Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Protegida Queso Manchego, [C-614/17](#) and Court press release No 55/19.

⁷ Regulation (EU) No [1308/2013](#).

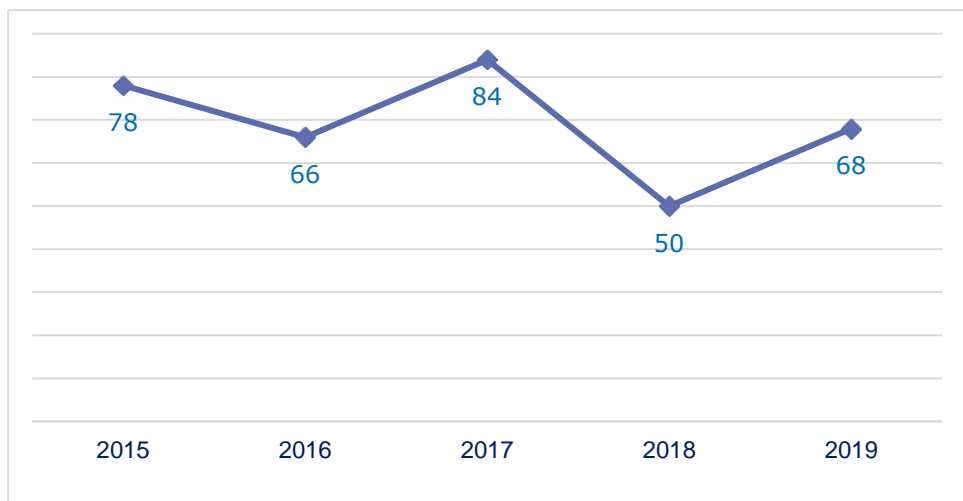
⁸ Regulation (EU) No [1307/2013](#).

⁹ Regulation (EU) No [834/2007](#) and Regulations (EU) No [1151/2012](#), (EC) No [110/2008](#) and (EU) No [251/2014](#) and Regulation (EU) [2019/34](#).

¹⁰ Directive (EU) [2019/633](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

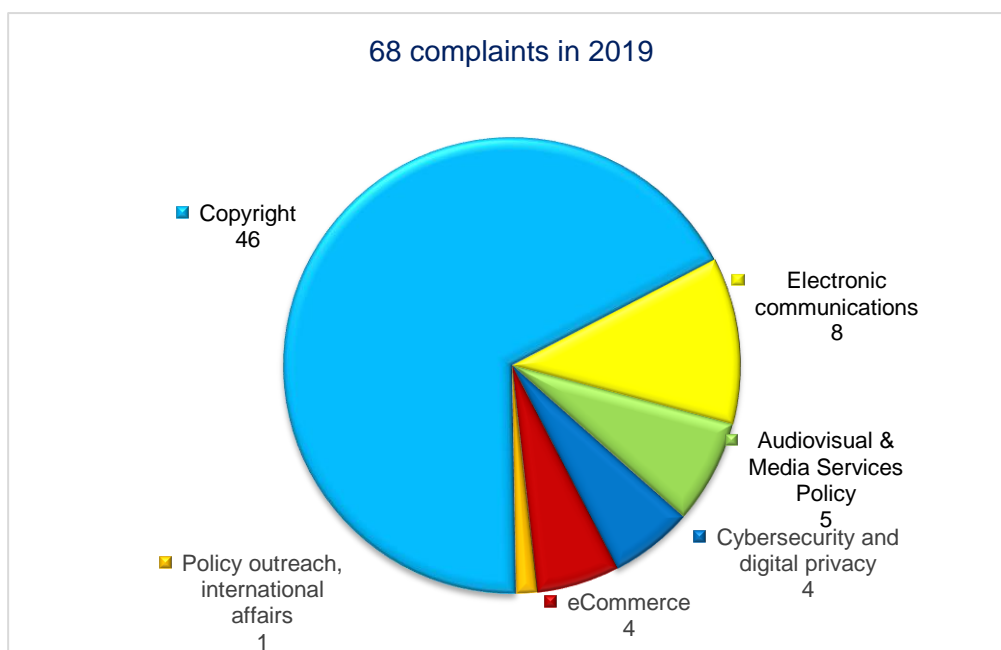
127 ► Complaints open at end-2018

68 ► New complaints registered in 2019

94 ► Complaints handled in 2019

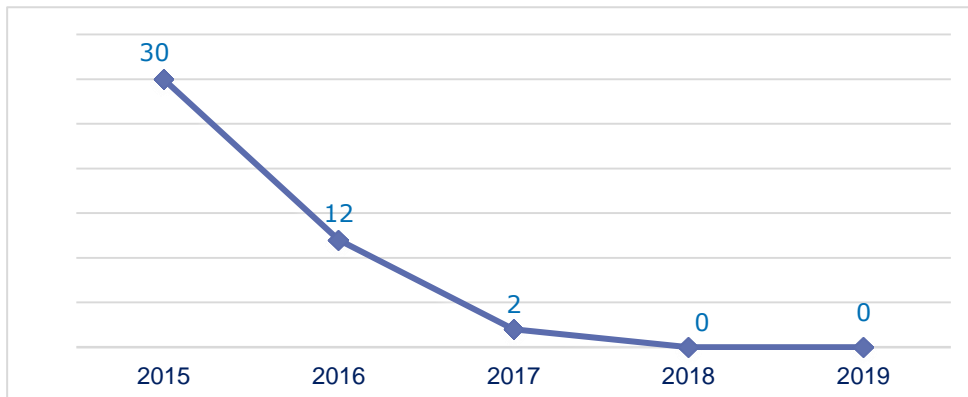
= 101 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



II. EU PILOT

1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



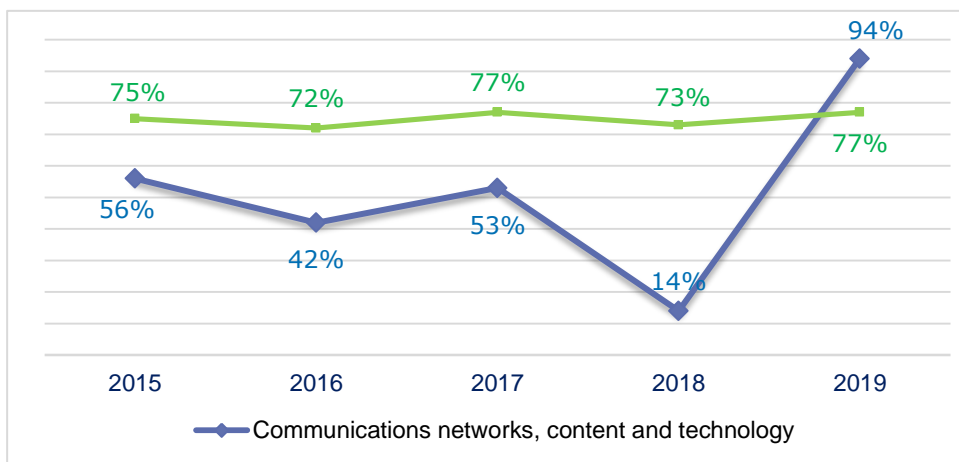
2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 7 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors

The Commission did not open new files in this area in 2019.

4. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over:

- lack of compliance with the rules governing the European emergency number '112'¹¹;
- the Geo-blocking Regulation¹², ^
- failure to submit information about operators of essential services identified under the EU law on the security of network and information systems¹³

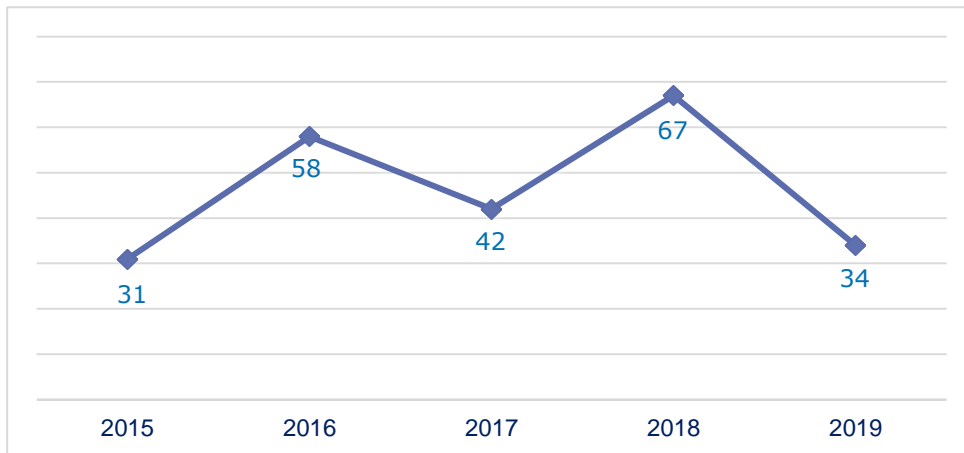
¹¹ Directive (EU) [2002/22](#).

¹² Regulation (EU) [2018/302](#).

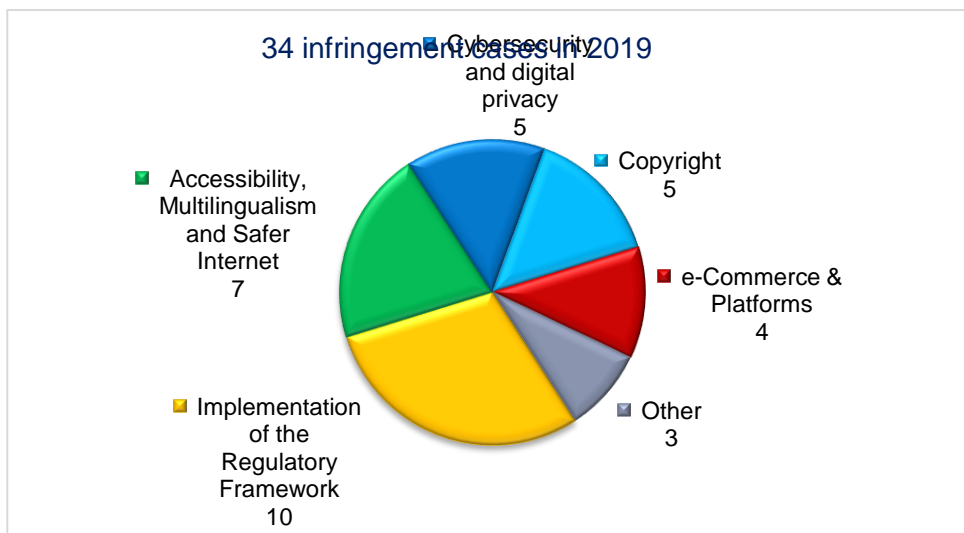
¹³ Directive (EU) [2016/1148](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

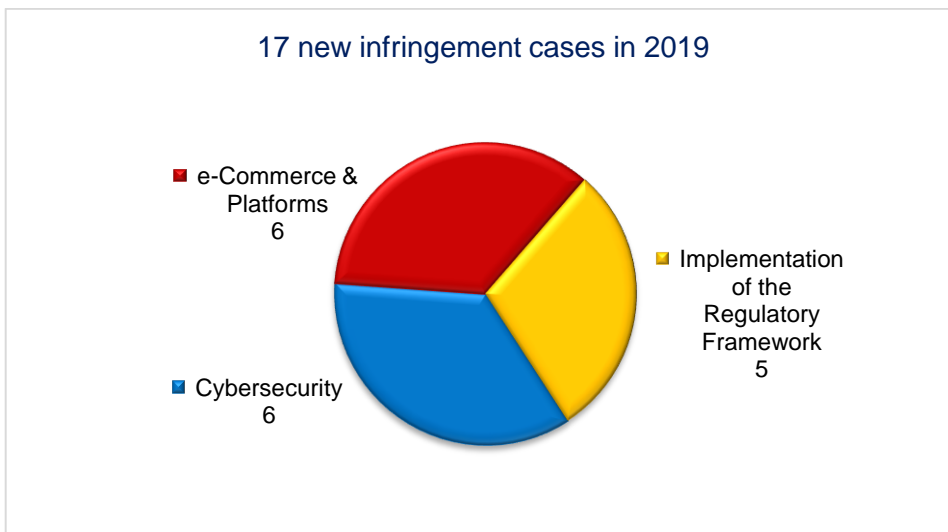
1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)



2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



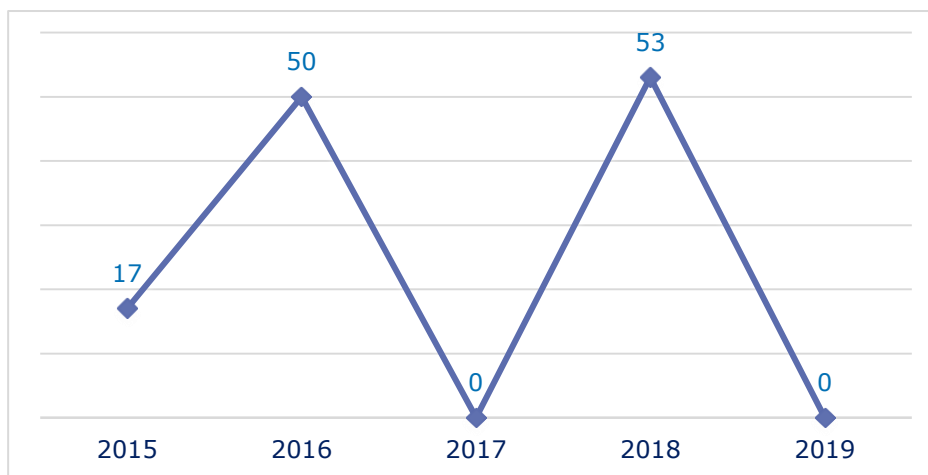
Communications networks, content and technology

4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

- a) [The Commission opened 17 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:
- *Czechia, Germany, Greece, Spain and Croatia* for failure to effectively implement the rules on the 112 emergency number, in particular by not ensuring equivalent access for disabled users¹⁴.
 - *France, Spain, Cyprus, Poland, Romania and Slovakia* for delays in the implementation of the Geo-blocking Regulation, by failing to provide for measures and mechanisms for consumer protection¹⁵.
 - *Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Austria, Romania and Slovenia*: failure to submit information about operators of essential services identified under the EU law on the security of network and information systems¹⁶.
- b) The Commission referred one case to the Court under Article 258 TFEU. This concerns:
- *Portugal*: failure to align its system of financing universal services to the Universal Service Directive¹⁷.
- c) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU.]

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors

[The Commission did not open any new late transposition infringement cases.]

3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

[The Commission did not open any cases for late transposition in 2019 in this area.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3).]

¹⁴ Directive (EU) [2002/22](#); [INF/19/4251](#).

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) [2018/302](#) ; [INF/19/4251](#).

¹⁶ Directive (EU) [2016/1148](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹⁷ Case *Commission v Portugal*, [C-49/19](#).

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

[There were no major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019.]

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following ruling:

- Belgium did not fulfil its obligations under EU law by notifying to the Commission only partial transposition measures for the Directive on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks¹⁸ with respect to the region of Bruxelles-Capitale. The Court applied for the first time the sanction mechanism of Article 260(3) TFEU. This Treaty provision allows the Commission to request the Court to impose financial penalties if Member States fail to fulfil their obligation to notify measures transposing a directive adopted under a legislative procedure. In addition to clarifying that the sanction scheme of Article 260(3) TFEU may also be applied to cases of partial failure to adopt and communicate transposition measures, the Court held that, when notifying national transposition measures to the Commission, Member States must provide sufficiently clear and precise information and state, for each provision of the directive, the national provision(s) ensuring its transposition¹⁹.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Belgium*: SkypeOut service should be considered an electronic communications service. As a result, SkypeOut is subject to telecoms legislation, in particular to the general authorisation regime. Services offered via software, such as SkypeOut, which allow calling numbers in a national numbering plan, constitute electronic communication services²⁰.
- *Germany*: freedom of information and freedom of the press cannot justify a derogation from the author's exclusive rights of reproduction and of communication to the public going beyond the exceptions or limitations provided for in EU law²¹.
- *Germany*: a phonogram producer can prevent the use of a sound sample of his or her phonogram in another phonogram. However, such a sample can be used, if it is included in the phonogram in a modified form unrecognisable to the ear²².
- *Germany*: The Gmail service should not be considered as consisting wholly or mainly in the 'conveyance of signals'. As a result, Gmail is not an electronic communications service, and is therefore not subject to the general authorisation regime under the current EU telecoms legislation²³.
- *France*: Airbnb provides an information society service separate from accommodation services to which it relates. Such a service does not aim only at providing immediate accommodation services, but rather it consists essentially of providing a tool for presenting and finding accommodation for rent, thereby facilitating the conclusion of future rental agreements. Therefore, that type of service is not merely ancillary to an overall accommodation service. Second, an intermediation service, such as the one provided by Airbnb Ireland, is in no way indispensable to the provision of accommodation services, since the guests and hosts have a number of other channels in that respect, some of which are long-standing. Finally, there is no

¹⁸ Directive [2014/61/EU](#).

¹⁹ Commission v Belgium, [C-2017/543](#), [C-2017/543](#).

²⁰ Skype Communication, case [C-142/18](#).

²¹ Funke Medien NRW, case [C-469/17](#).

²² Pelham and others, case [C-476/17](#).

²³ Google, case [C-193/18](#).

Communications networks, content and technology

indication that Airbnb sets or caps the amount of the rents charged by the hosts using that platform²⁴.

- *Lithuania*: A Member State may, on grounds of public policy, such as in the specific circumstances combating the incitement to hatred of the Baltic States based on nationality, impose a requirement to temporarily distribute or retransmit a television channel from another Member State only in pay-to-view packages²⁵.
- *Lithuania*: Telecommunications companies are required to transmit location information for free to the 112 emergency call authorities, even if the call is received from a mobile phone which is not equipped with a SIM card. When determining accuracy and reliability criteria, Member States need to ensure that the location information is useful for emergency services to intervene²⁶.
- *The Netherlands*: The sale of second-hand e-books through a website constitutes a communication to the public that is subject to authorisation by the author²⁷.
- *Portugal*: Member States cannot add additional requirements (such as a specific, aesthetically significant visual effect) for granting copyright protection to designs, such as the clothing designs of jeans, which already meet the requirements for copyright protection under EU law²⁸.

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes monitoring the complete and correct implementation of:

- the European Electronic Communications Code²⁹;
- the Decision on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union³⁰ and the timely allocation of the spectrum by Member States beforehand, which is a precondition for the roll-out of 5G in the EU;
- the Audio Video Media Services Directive³¹;
- the Platforms-to-business Regulation³².

²⁴ Airbnb Ireland, case [C-390/18](#).

²⁵ Baltic Media Alliance, case [C-622/17](#).

²⁶ AW and Others, case [C-417/18](#).

²⁷ Nederlands Uitgeversverbond and Groep Algemene Uitgevers, case [C-263/18](#).

²⁸ Cofemel, case [C-683/17](#).

²⁹ Directive (EU) [2019/1972](#).

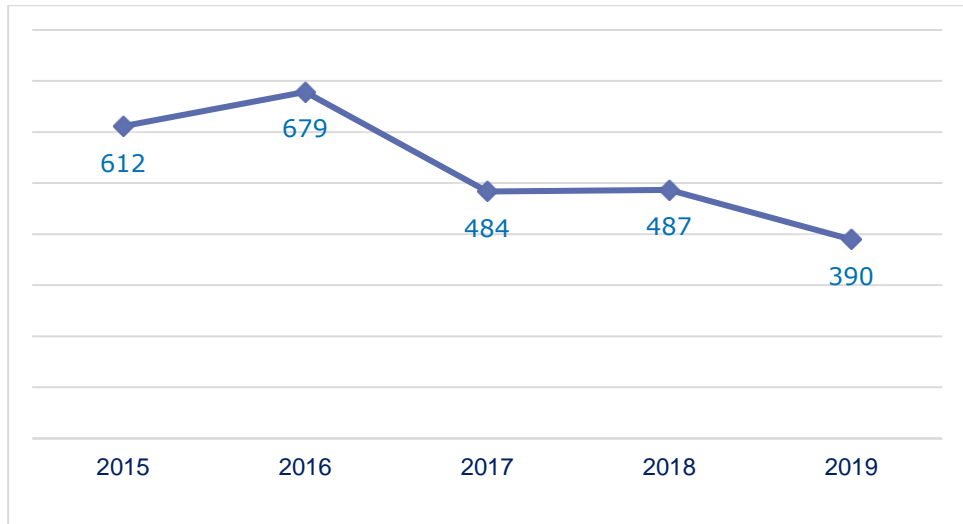
³⁰ Decision (EU) [2017/89](#).

³¹ Directive (EU) [2018/1808](#).

³² Regulation (EU) [2019/1150](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

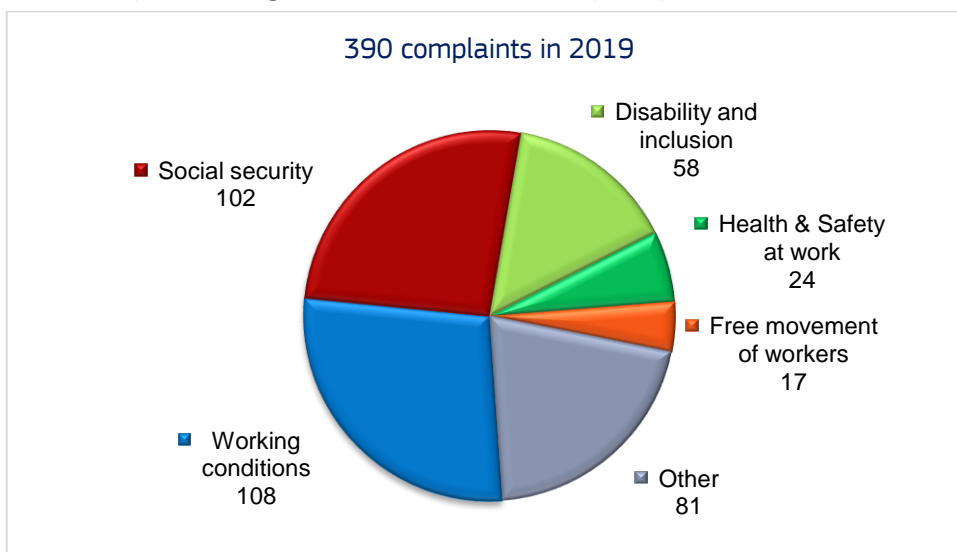
287 ► Complaints open at end-2018

390 ► New complaints registered in 2019

442 ► Complaints handled in 2019

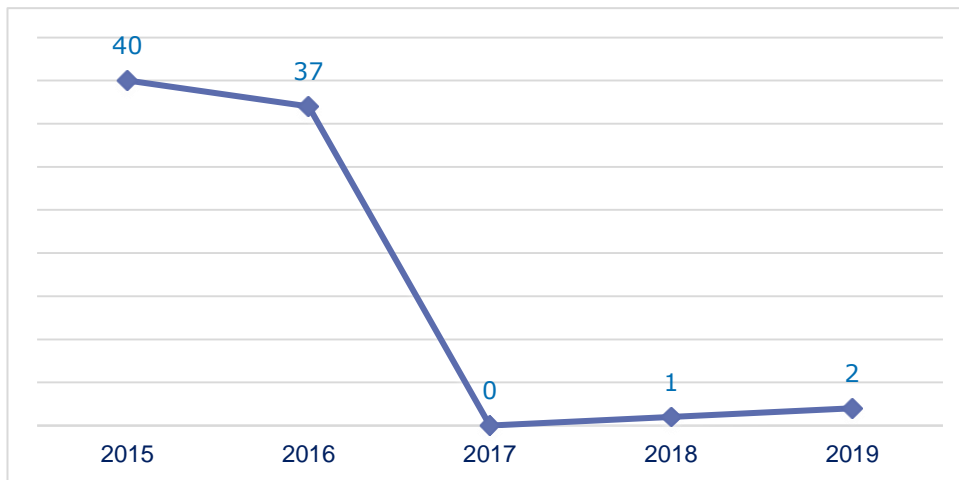
235 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



II. EU PILOT

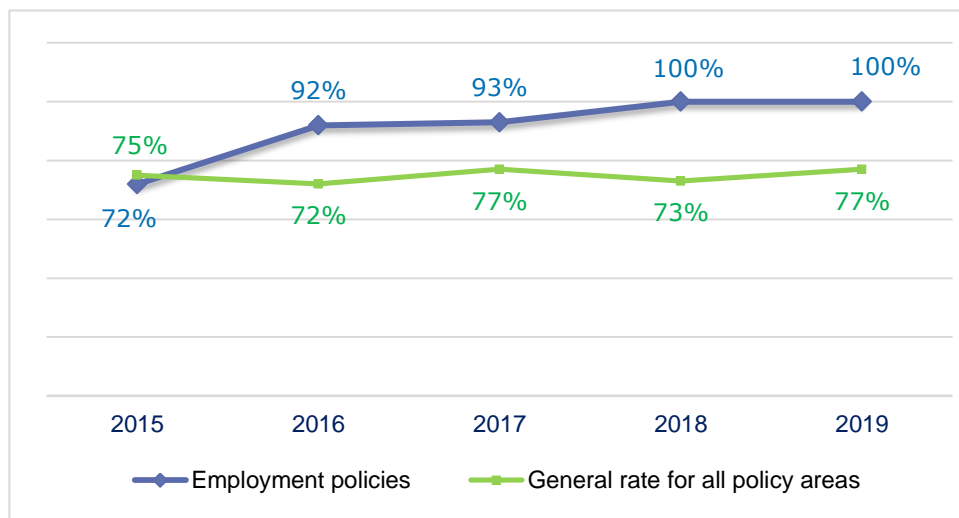
1. New EU Pilot cases (2015-2019)



2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 12 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

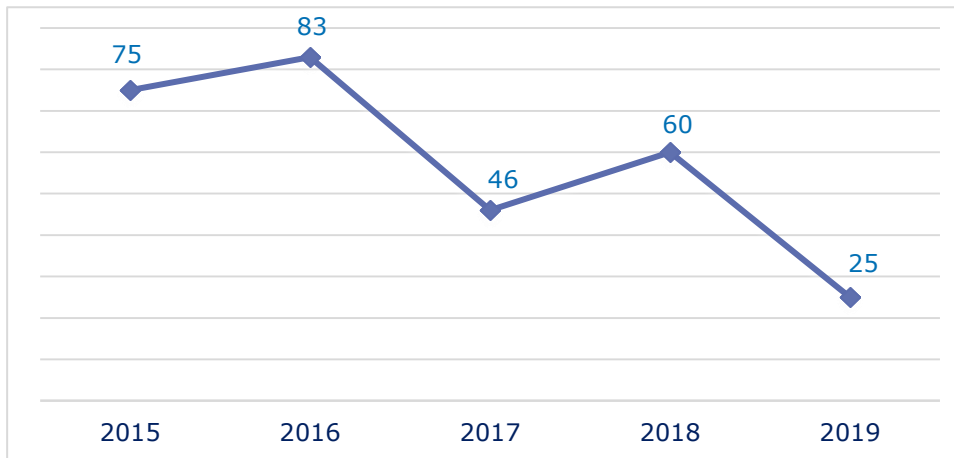
New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened an own-initiative infringement case concerning the indexation of family benefits³³.

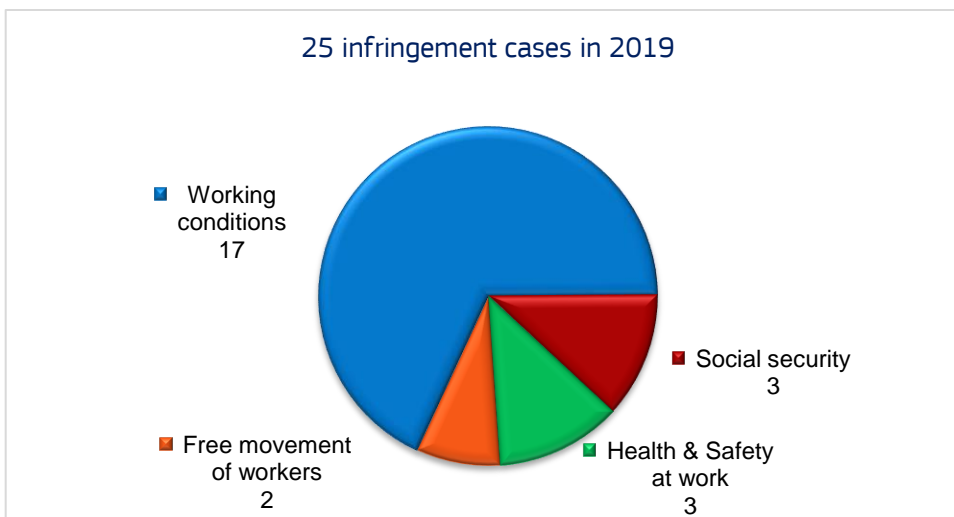
³³ Regulation (EU) [492/2011](#).

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

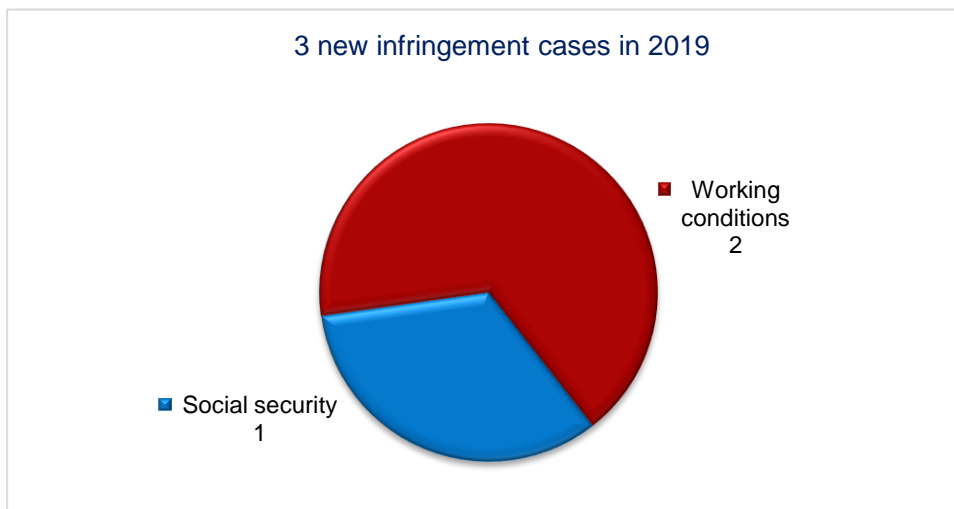
1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)



2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission opened three new infringement cases in 2019.

These concerned the following:

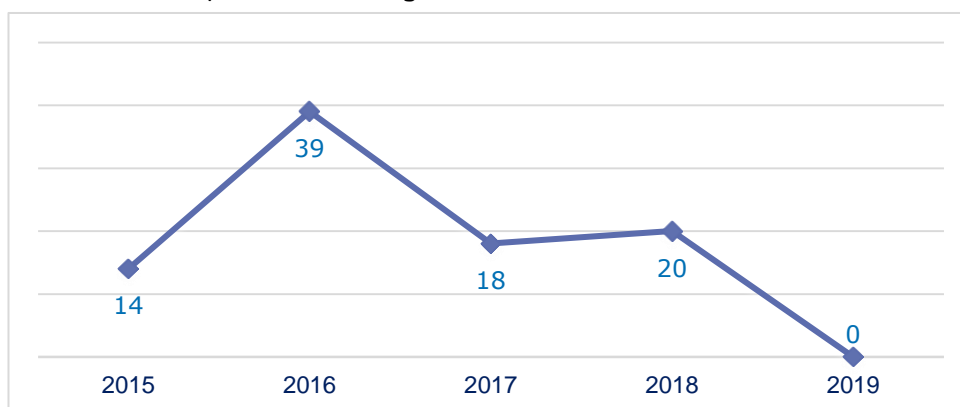
- *Austria*: breach of the rules on the free movement of workers and social security by indexing the amount of eligible family allowances, child tax credit and family tax deduction for children who are not permanently resident in Austria³⁴.
- *Spain*: incompatibility of national rules on paid annual leave with EU labour legislation³⁵.
- *Italy*: insufficient protection of public sector workers against abusive successive fixed-term contracts and discrimination as required under EU rules³⁶.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU.

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors

The Commission did not open any new late transposition infringement cases in 2019.

3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission did not open any cases for late transposition in 2019 in this area.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU.

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

1. Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These concerned:

- *Ireland, France, Cyprus and Romania*: non-communication of measures on minimum requirements for enhancing worker mobility between Member States by improving the acquisition and preservation of supplementary pension rights³⁷.
- *Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania and Finland*: non-communication of measures on working time in inland waterway transport³⁸.

³⁴ Regulation (EC) [883/2004](#), Regulation (EU) [492/2011](#), [IP/19/463](#).

³⁵ Directive [2003/88/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

³⁶ Directive [1999/70/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

³⁷ Directive [2014/50/EU](#).

³⁸ Directive [2014/112/EU](#).

- *Ireland, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania*: non-communication of measures on labour rights for seafarers³⁹.

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

There were no major Court rulings in 2019 in this area.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Italy*: the Court of Justice confirmed that Member States are obliged, under the Fixed-Term Work Directive, to provide effective measures designed to prevent and punish the misuse of successive fixed-term employment contracts.⁴⁰
- *Belgium*: the Court of Justice ruled that the circumstance that the transferee has a choice whether to dismiss employees goes against the objective of the Directive on transfer of undertakings, which provides that dismissals due to the transfer are prohibited⁴¹.
- *Slovenia*: the Court of Justice clarified that a transfer of financial instruments and other client assets between stock exchange intermediaries may constitute a transfer within the meaning of the Directive on transfer of undertakings where there is a transfer of clients⁴².
- *Greece*: the Court of Justice concluded that the Directive on transfer of undertakings may, under certain conditions, apply in a situation where the transferor, the transferee or both envisage not only the pursuit of the activity transferred, but also the future liquidation of the transferee itself⁴³.
- *Germany*: the Court of Justice stated that, in case of insolvency of the employer, a reduction in a former employee's old-age benefits must be regarded as being manifestly disproportionate if that person is living, or would have to live, below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold determined by Eurostat for the Member State concerned⁴⁴.
- *Spain*: the Court of Justice ruled that, on the basis of the Working Time Directive and in the light of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, the Member States must require employers to set up an objective, reliable and accessible system enabling the duration of time worked each day by each worker to be measured⁴⁵.
- *Spain*: calculating the length of service of a part-time worker whose working hours are 'distributed vertically' over the whole year (a vertical cyclical part-time worker) solely on the basis of periods actually worked when it comes to the right to pay rise and promotion, while not doing the same for comparable full-time workers, may be discriminatory and therefore breach the Framework Agreement on Part-Time Work and the Equal Treatment Directive⁴⁶.
- *Austria*: the Court of Justice stated that the limitation on the recognition of previous periods of professionally relevant experience completed in another Member State for determining the entry salary for the migrant worker is possible only if the limitation applies equally to national and migrant workers and the work-related experience from another Member State is not fully comparable with the new employment position⁴⁷.

³⁹ Directive (EU) [2015/1794](#).

⁴⁰ Case [C-494/17](#) *Rossato*.

⁴¹ Case [C-509/17](#) *Plessers*.

⁴² Case [C-194/18](#) *Dodič*.

⁴³ Case [C-664/17](#) *Ellinika Nafpigeia*.

⁴⁴ Case [C-168/18](#) *Pensions-Sicherungs-Verein*.

⁴⁵ Case [C-55/18](#) *CCOO*.

⁴⁶ Joined cases [C-439/18](#) and [C-472/18](#), *OH/ER v AEAT*.

⁴⁷ Case [C-703/17](#) *Krah*.

Employment, social affairs and inclusion

- *Austria*: the fact that part-time workers, who would otherwise have been employed on open-ended contracts, could be employed on fixed-term contracts for longer periods of time than comparable full-time workers, could be contrary to the Framework Agreement on Part-Time Work (principle of non-discrimination). Such a situation may also constitute an indirect discrimination based on sex, to the extent that women are substantially overrepresented in the group of part-time workers on a fixed term contract under the Equal Treatment Directive⁴⁸.
- *The Netherlands*: The Court of Justice concluded that third-country nationals legally staying (but not residing) and working in a Member State are to be issued A1 certificates for their posting in other Member States⁴⁹.
- *The Netherlands*: the Court of Justice clarified in its judgment that a person residing in his/her own Member State, employed in another Member State but working in international waters falls under the applicable legislation of the Member State of residence of that person⁵⁰.
- *Ireland*: The Court of Justice clarified that it is not necessary for a person to pursue an activity as an employed person in a Member State in order to be entitled to family benefits if his or her children are living in another Member State⁵¹. |

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- |In relation to occupational safety and health legislation, monitoring the complete transposition of and performing conformity checks on the Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work⁵² and performing conformity checks on the Directive establishing a fourth list of indicative occupational exposure limit values⁵³.
- Finalising and adopting a report on the application of the Directive on minimum requirements for enhancing worker mobility between Member States by improving the acquisition and preservation of supplementary pension rights⁵⁴.
- Monitoring the timely and complete transposition of the Directive concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services⁵⁵.
- Monitoring the compliance of national legislation and administrative practices concerning the EU free movement of workers.⁵⁶ |

⁴⁸ Case [C-274/18](#), *Schuch-Ghannadan*.

⁴⁹ Case [C-477/17](#) *Balandin*.

⁵⁰ Case [C-631/17](#) *SF v Inspecteur van de Belastingdienst*.

⁵¹ Case [C-322/17](#) *Bogatu*.

⁵² Directive [2017/2398/EU](#).

⁵³ Directive [2017/164/EU](#).

⁵⁴ Directive [2014/50/EU](#).

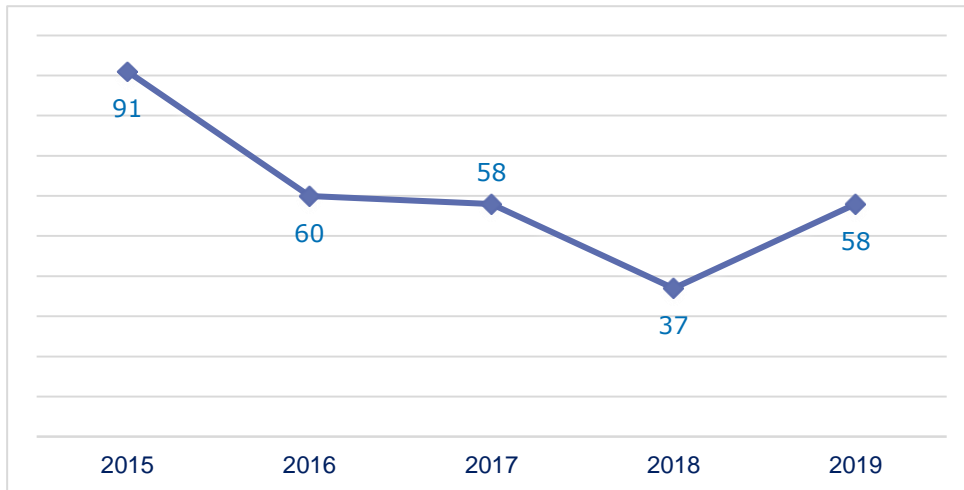
⁵⁵ Directive [2018/957/EU](#).

⁵⁶ Regulation (EU) [492/2011](#).

Energy

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

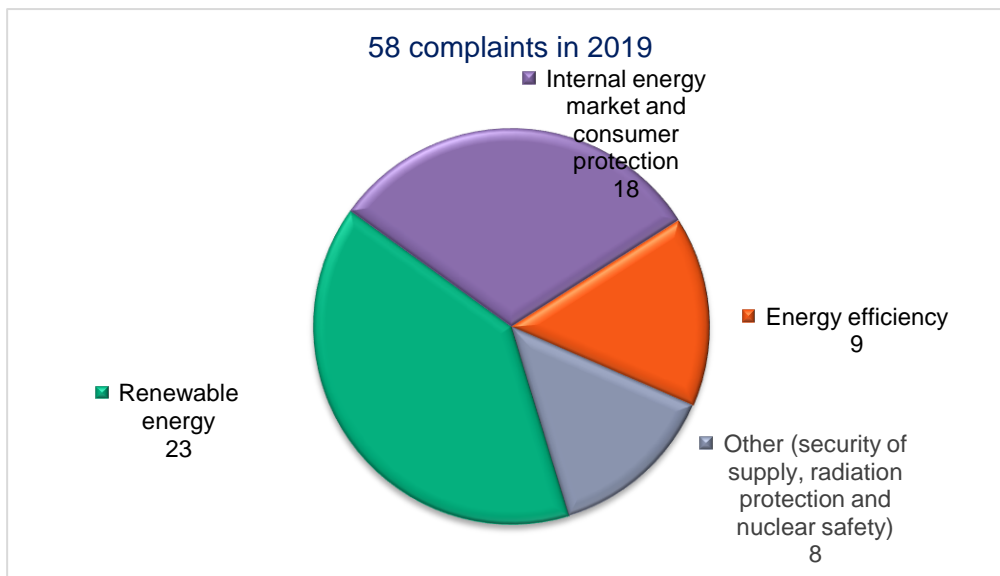
82 ► Complaints open at end-2018

58 ► New complaints registered in 2019

43 ► Complaints handled in 2019

= 97 ► Complaints open at end-2019

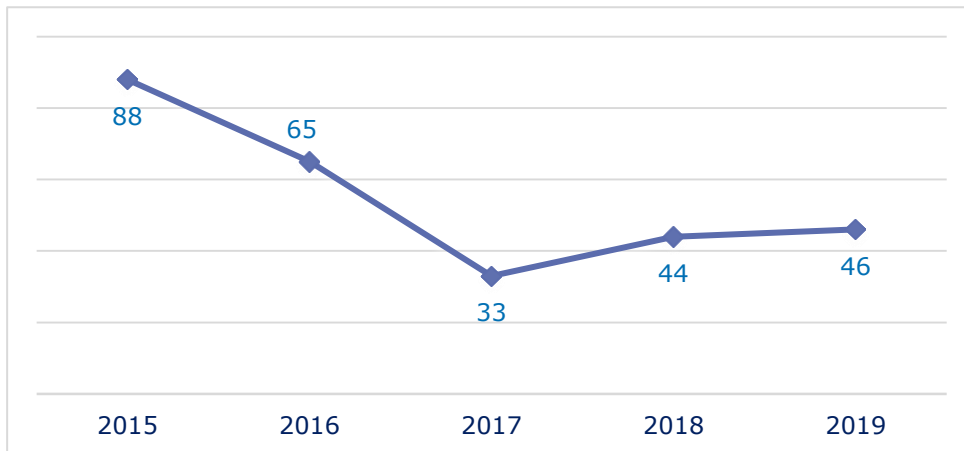
3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



Energy

II. EU PILOT

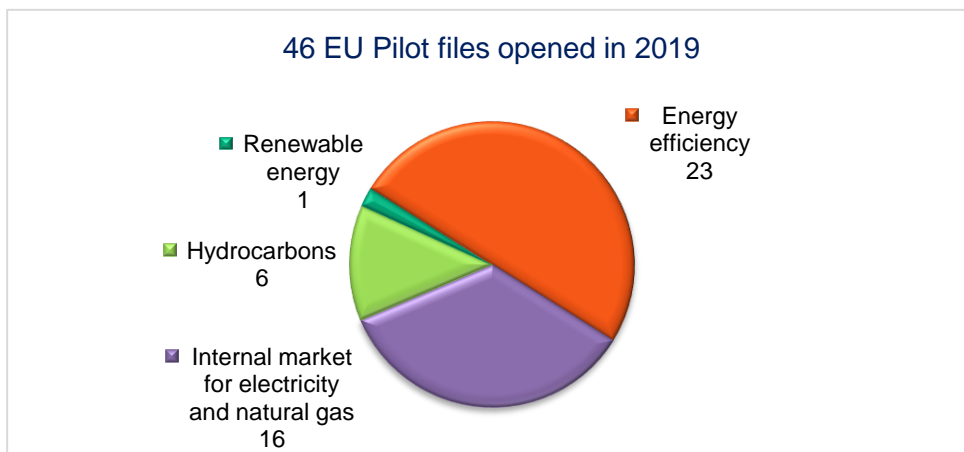
1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



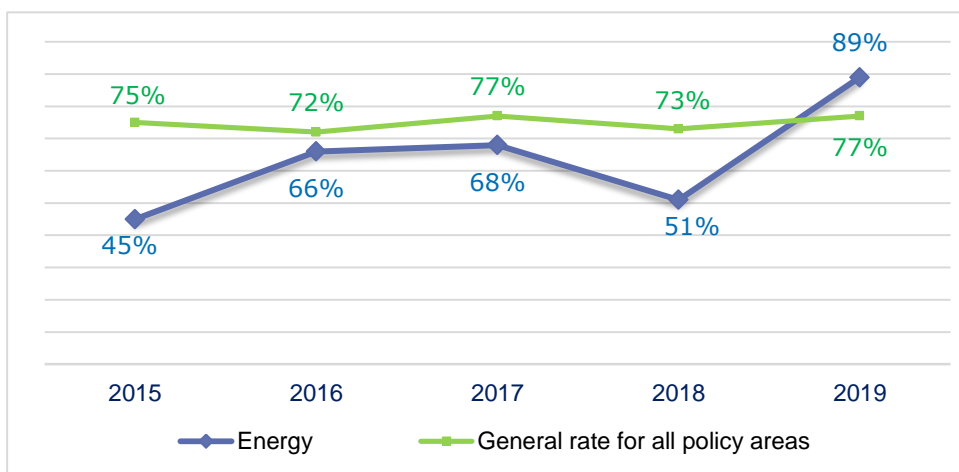
2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 50 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



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III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

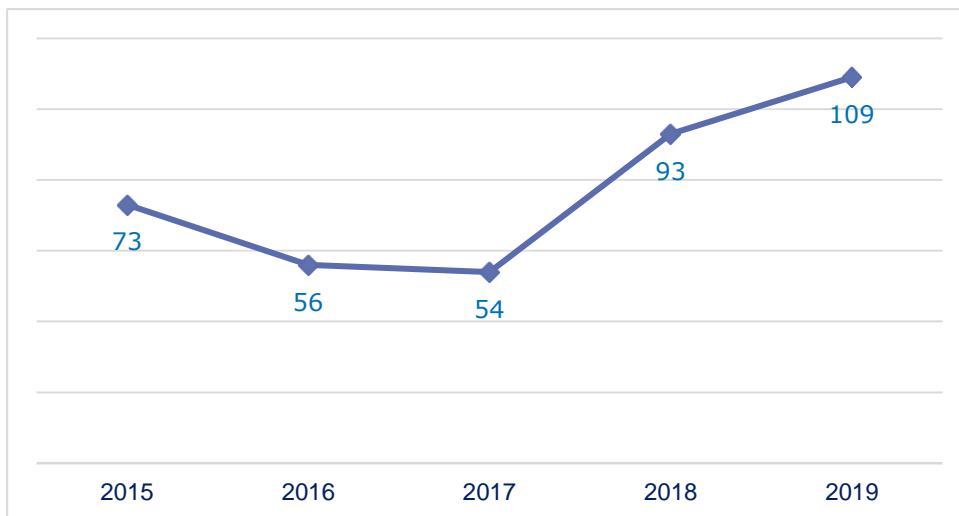
New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over:

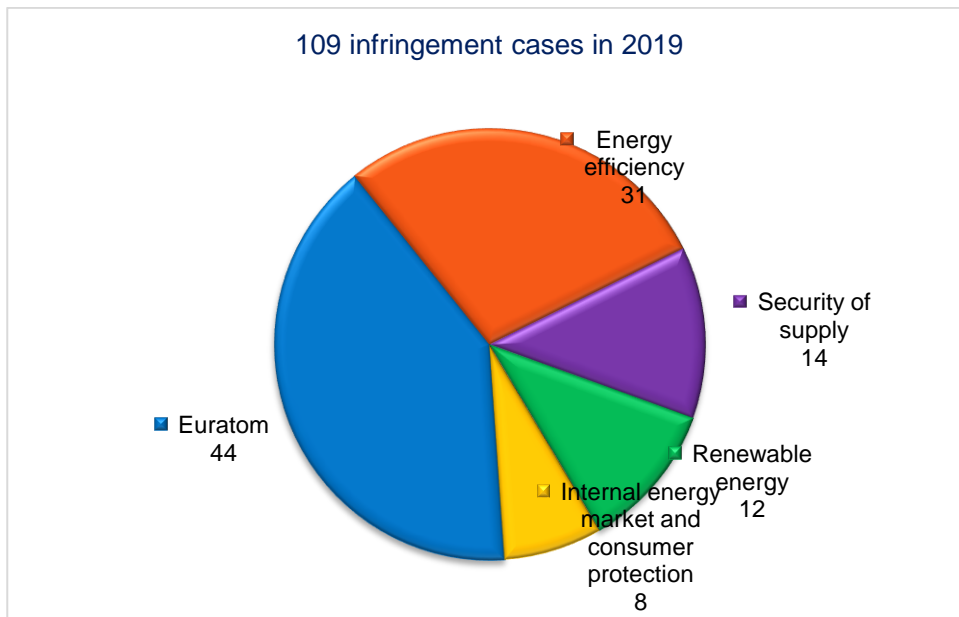
- energy efficiency;
- energy performance of buildings;
- internal energy market and consumer protection;
- radioactive waste.

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)

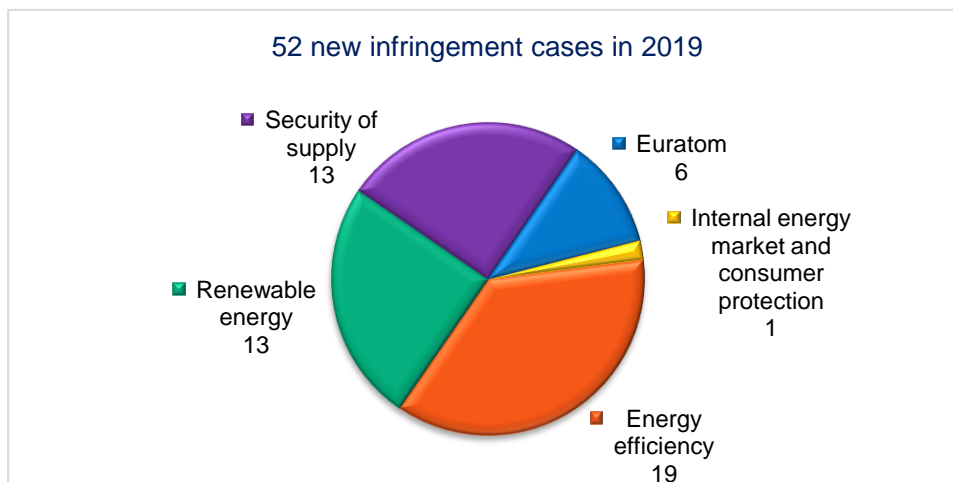


2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



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3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

a) The Commission opened 52 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- Croatia, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Poland, Denmark and Portugal: non-compliance with the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Directive⁵⁷;
- Croatia, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Romania: failure to submit their second cost-optimal report required by the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁵⁸;
- Romania: failure to correctly implement certain requirements of the Third Energy Package (the Gas Directive) and the Security of Gas Supply Regulation⁵⁹;
- Romania: non-compliance of national measures restricting the export of natural gas with the requirements of the Third Energy Package (the Gas Directive) and Articles 35 and 36 TFEU⁶⁰;
- Poland: failure to comply with the EU requirements on the security of gas supply⁶¹;
- Latvia: failure to correctly transpose certain requirements of the Radioactive Waste Directive⁶²;
- Belgium and Spain: failure to adopt a national programme for the implementation of a spent fuel and radioactive waste management policy that is compliant with the requirements of the Radioactive Waste Directive⁶³.

b) The Commission referred five cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU. They concern:

- Belgium: incorrect transposition of the Third Energy Package Directives (Electricity and Gas Directives)⁶⁴;
- Czechia and Slovenia: incorrect transposition and application of certain provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁶⁵;

⁵⁷ Directive [2012/27/EU](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

⁵⁸ Directive [2010/31/EU](#), [MEMO/19/462](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#) and [INF/19/4251](#).

⁵⁹ Directive [2009/73/EC](#), Regulation (EU) [2017/1938](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

⁶⁰ Directive [2009/73/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

⁶¹ Regulation (EU) [2017/1938](#), [INF/19/6304](#).

⁶² Council Directive [2011/70/Euratom](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

⁶³ Council Directive [2011/70/Euratom](#), [INF/19/6304](#).

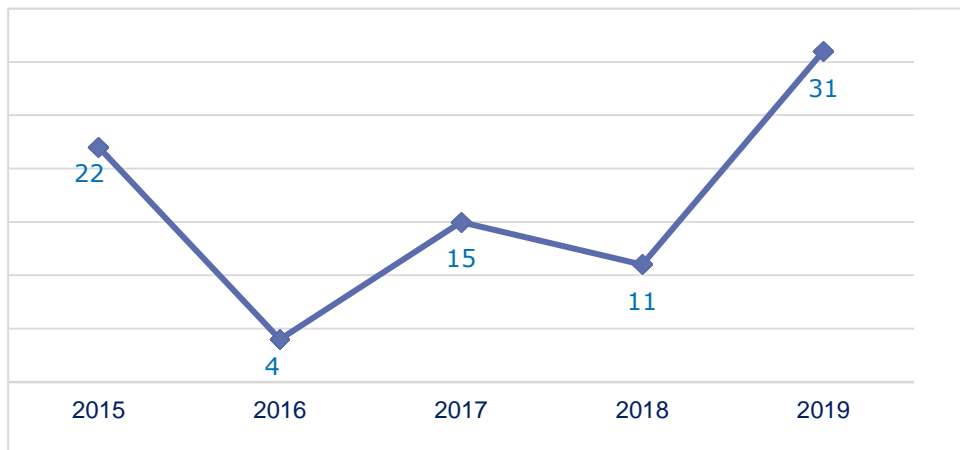
⁶⁴ Directives [2009/72/EC](#) and [2009/73/EC](#), Commission v Belgium, [C-767/19](#); [IP/19/4254](#).

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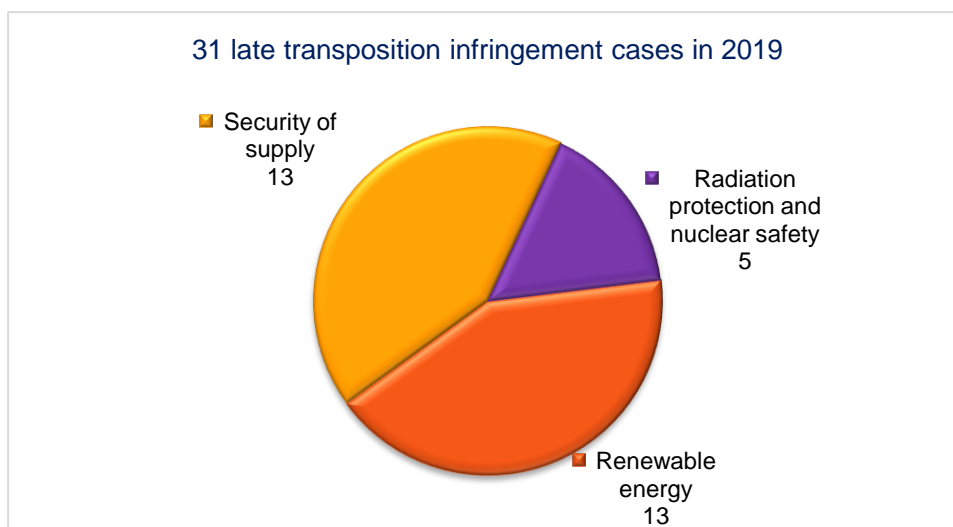
- *Spain: failure to comply with the requirements on individual metering in multi-apartment and multi-purpose buildings laid down in the Energy Efficiency Directive⁶⁶,*
 - *Italy: failure to notify transposition measures under the Basic Safety Standards Directive⁶⁷.*
- c) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU. |

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



⁶⁵ Directive [2010/31/EU](#), Commission v Czechia, [C-305/19](#) and Commission v Slovenia, [C-413/19](#); [IP/19/464](#). Slovenia subsequently took the necessary steps to ensure compliance with EU law, and the Commission has therefore withdrawn this case from the Court.

⁶⁶ Directive [2012/27/EU](#), Commission v Spain, [C-347/19](#); [IP/19/1473](#).

⁶⁷ Directive [2013/59/Euratom](#), Commission v Italy, [C-744/19](#).

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3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission opened 31 cases for late transposition in 2019.

They concern the:

- Indirect Land Use Change Directive⁶⁸
- amendment to the Oil Stocks Directive as regards the methods for calculating stockholding obligations⁶⁹
- Basic Safety Standards Directive⁷⁰.
- The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU. |

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019.

These concerned:

- *Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands and Slovenia*: non-compliance with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁷¹;
- *Luxembourg and Romania*: failure to submit their second cost-optimal report required by the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁷²;
- *Czechia, Ireland and Malta*: failure to correctly transpose certain requirements of the Radioactive Waste Directive⁷³;
- *Croatia*: failure to notify the national programme for the implementation of a spent fuel and radioactive waste management policy⁷⁴;
- *Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Spain and Sweden*: incorrect transposition of the Third Energy Package Directives⁷⁵;
- *Spain and Poland*: non-communication of national measures transposing the Offshore Safety Directive⁷⁶;
- *Romania*: non-compliance with the Oil Stocks Directive⁷⁷;
- *Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, France, Portugal and Romania*: failure to adopt all transposition measures for the Indirect Land Use Change Directive⁷⁸;
- *Finland and Malta*: non-compliance with the Energy Efficiency Directive⁷⁹;
- *Belgium, Poland and Spain*: failure to adopt all transposition measures for the Nuclear Safety Directive⁸⁰.

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following rulings:

⁶⁸ Directive (EU) [2015/1513](#).

⁶⁹ Directive (EU) [2018/1581](#).

⁷⁰ Directive [2013/59/Euratom](#).

⁷¹ Directive [2010/31/EU](#).

⁷² Directive [2010/31/EU](#).

⁷³ Directive [2011/70/Euratom](#).

⁷⁴ Directive [2011/70/Euratom](#).

⁷⁵ Directives [2009/72/EC](#) and [2009/73/EC](#).

⁷⁶ Directive [2013/30/EU](#).

⁷⁷ Directive [2009/119/EC](#).

⁷⁸ Directive (EU) [2015/1513](#).

⁷⁹ Directive [2012/27/EU](#).

⁸⁰ Directive [2014/87/Euratom](#).

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- Italy has failed to comply with the Radioactive Waste Directive since it has not notified a final adopted national programme for radioactive waste and spent fuel management⁸¹.
- The General Court annulled a 2016 Commission decision amending the conditions for an exemption granted by an earlier decision to the gas pipeline Ostseepipeline-Anbindungsleitung from the rules on third-party access and unbundling set out in the Gas Directive. The Court found that the Commission had failed to examine the impact of the revised exemption conditions on energy solidarity to determine whether they could negatively impact the interests of other Member States or the Union⁸².
- The General Court annulled on procedural grounds the decision of the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) on the capacity calculation regions which led to the split of the German-Austrian bidding zone, based on the reason that the Austrian regulatory authority had asked for an amendment of the proposal for the capacity calculation regions before the expiry of the six-month period during which the national regulatory authorities may approve the proposal⁸³.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Bulgaria*: National legislation obliging apartment owners in buildings in co-ownership to pay for the thermal energy used by the common parts and the internal installation of the building is compatible with EU law, even though the owners do not use that thermal energy in their own apartments. In such buildings, the bills for thermal energy consumption by the internal installation are calculated for each property owner in the building in proportion to the heated volume of their apartment⁸⁴.
- *Bulgaria*: The Court gave guidance as to the relevant criteria under the Electricity Directive to distinguish between transmission and distribution systems⁸⁵.
- *Finland*: The Energy Efficiency Directive does not prevent energy companies from giving customers discounts to encourage the uptake of electronic billing delivery methods⁸⁶.
- *France*: The Gas Directive allows a regulatory authority settling a dispute between energy companies to extend the effects of its decision to the situation of the parties before the emergence of that dispute, by requiring one party to bring a contract for the transmission of natural gas in line with EU law for the entire contractual period⁸⁷.
- *Italy*: National legislation under which the amount of royalties payable by holders of licences for the extraction of natural gas is calculated on the basis of an index based on the prices of oil and other fuels in the medium and long term and not an index that reflects the short-term market price of natural gas is not incompatible with EU law⁸⁸.
- *Spain*: A financial contribution imposed on certain electricity generating undertakings to finance savings and energy efficiency plans managed by a public authority does not constitute a public service obligation under the Electricity Directive⁸⁹.
- *Spain*: National legislation may set taxes on the production and storage of nuclear fuel and waste which apply only to electricity-generating undertakings using nuclear energy and whose main

⁸¹ Directive [2011/70/Euratom](#), Commission v Italy, [C-434/18](#).

⁸² Directive [2009/73/EC](#), Poland v Commission, [T-883/16](#) and Court press release No 107/2019.

⁸³ E-Control v ACER, [T-332/17](#).

⁸⁴ Joined cases: EVN Bulgaria Toplofikatsia, [C-708/17](#) and Toplofikatsia Sofia, [C-725/17](#).

⁸⁵ Directive [2009/72/EC](#), Elektrorazpredelenie Yug, [C-31/18](#).

⁸⁶ Directive [2012/27/EU](#), Oulun Sähkömyynti, [C-294/18](#).

⁸⁷ Directive [2009/73/EC](#), GRDF, [C-236/18](#).

⁸⁸ Directive [94/22/EC](#), joined cases: Eni, [C-364/18](#) and Shell Italia, [C-365/18](#).

⁸⁹ Directive [2009/72/EC](#), Engie Cartagena, [C-523/18](#).

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objective is to increase the amount of revenue for the electricity financial system. Such legislation does not violate the principle of non-discrimination provided for by the Electricity Directive⁹⁰.

- *Spain*: EU law does not prohibit a tax on the use of inland waters for the production of electricity which does not incentivise the efficient use of water, nor establish mechanisms for the preservation and protection of public water resources, as it is focused solely and exclusively on the income-generating capacity of hydroelectricity producers. A tax on the use of inland waters to produce electricity which exclusively affects hydroelectricity generators operating in river basins encompassing more than one autonomous community and not those operating in river basins encompassing a single autonomous community is not considered discriminatory⁹¹.

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- assessing the national energy and climate plans adopted by the Member States pursuant to the Governance Regulation⁹²;
- taking legal action to ensure correct and complete transposition of the Electricity and Gas Directives⁹³, the Indirect Land Use Change Directive⁹⁴, the Energy Efficiency Directive⁹⁵, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive⁹⁶, the Oil Stocks Directive⁹⁷, the Radioactive Waste Directive⁹⁸, the Nuclear Safety Directive⁹⁹, the Basic Safety Standards Directive¹⁰⁰, the Euratom Drinking Water Directive¹⁰¹;
- assessing the Member States reports on the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive, due to be submitted to the Commission by 22 July 2020;
- taking legal action to ensure the correct application of the Governance Regulation¹⁰², the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations, the Risk Preparedness Regulation¹⁰³, the Electricity Regulation¹⁰⁴, the Network Codes¹⁰⁵ and the Security of Gas Supply Regulation¹⁰⁶.

⁹⁰ Directive [2009/72/EC](#), joined cases: UNESA, [C-80/18](#), Endesa Generación, [C-81/18](#), Endesa Generación, [C-82/18](#) and Iberdrola Generación Nuclear, [C-83/18](#).

⁹¹ Joined cases: UNESA, [C-105/18](#), Engasa, [C-106/18](#), Duerocanto, [C-107/18](#), Acciona, [C-108/18](#), Associació de Productors i Usuaris d'Energia Elèctrica, [C-109/18](#), Burgos Pérez and Guinea Bueno, [C-110/18](#), Endesa Generación, [C-111/18](#), APPA, [C-112/18](#), Parc del Segre and Others, [C-113/18](#).

⁹² Regulation (EU) [2018/1999](#).

⁹³ Directives [2009/72/EC](#) and [2009/73/EC](#).

⁹⁴ Directive (EU) [2015/1513](#).

⁹⁵ Directive [2012/27/EU](#) as amended by (EU) [2018/2002](#).

⁹⁶ Directive [2010/31/EU](#) as amended by Directive (EU) [2018/844](#).

⁹⁷ Directive (EU) [2018/1581](#).

⁹⁸ Directive [2011/70/Euratom](#).

⁹⁹ Directive [2009/71/Euratom](#), as amended by [2014/87/Euratom](#).

¹⁰⁰ Directive [2013/59/Euratom](#).

¹⁰¹ Directive [2013/51/Euratom](#).

¹⁰² Regulation (EU) [2018/1999](#).

¹⁰³ Regulation (EU) [2019/941](#).

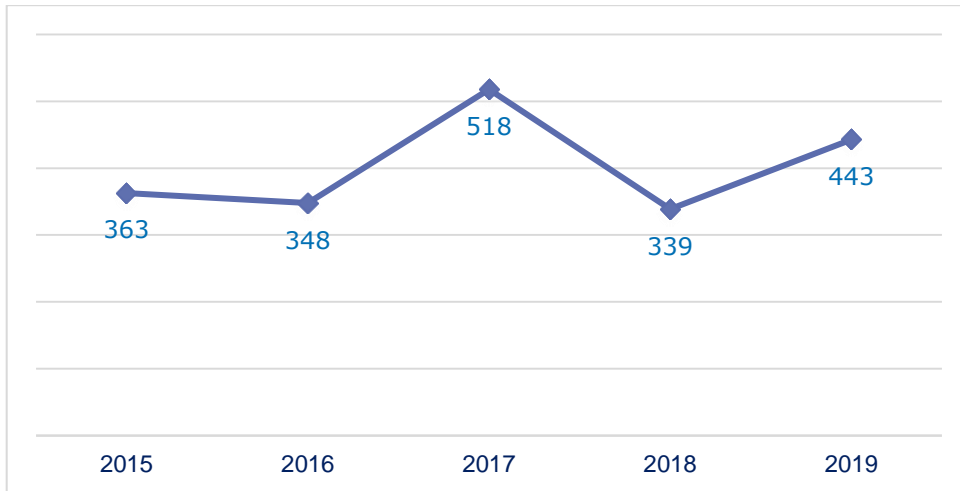
¹⁰⁴ Regulation (EU) [2019/943](#).

¹⁰⁵ Regulation (EU) [2015/1222](#).

¹⁰⁶ Regulation (EU) [2017/1938](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

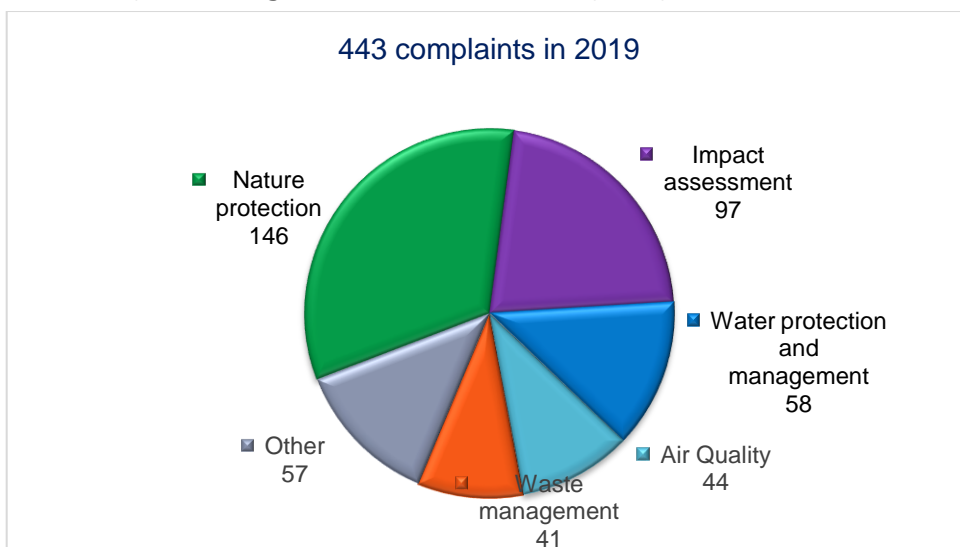
546 ► Complaints open at end-2018

443 ► New complaints registered in 2019

422 ► Complaints handled in 2019

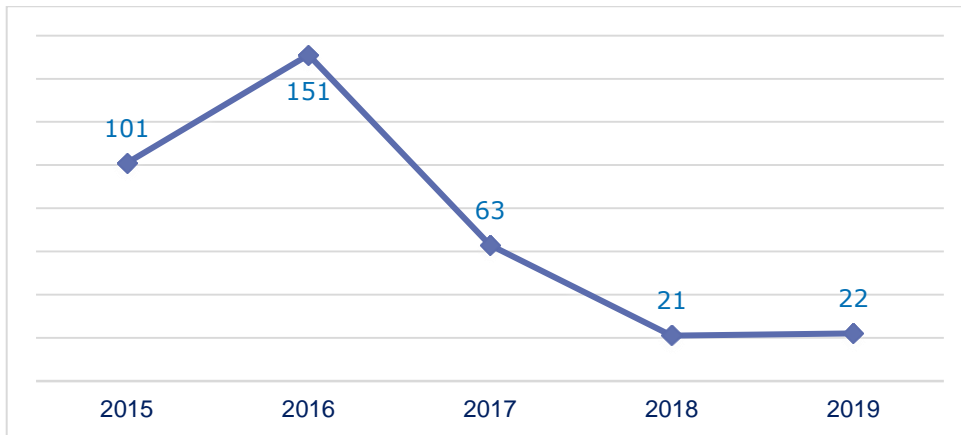
= 567 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors

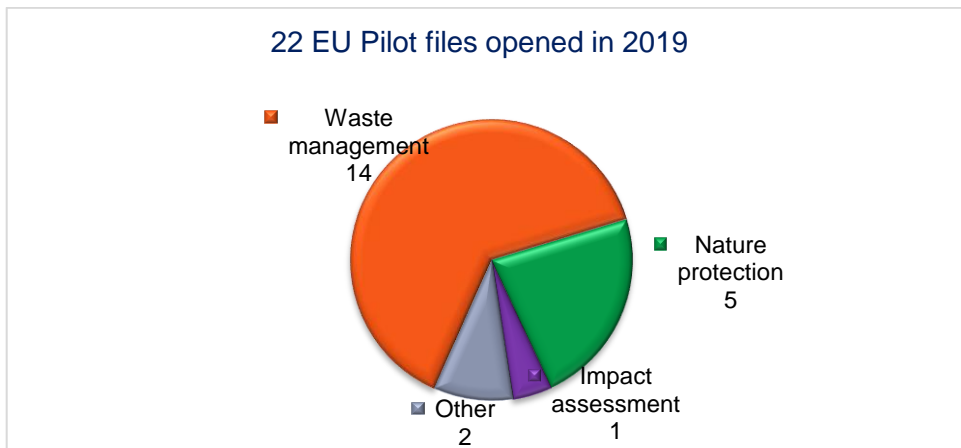


II. EU PILOT

1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



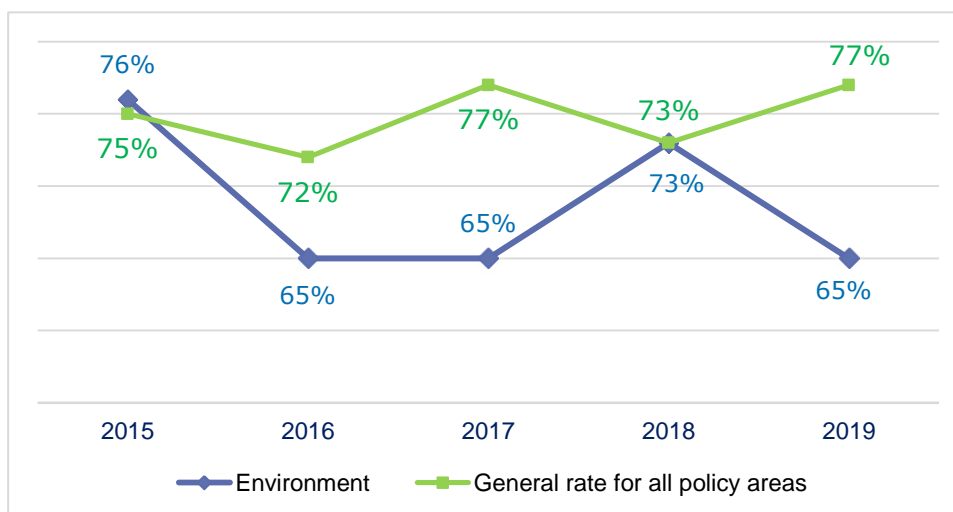
2. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors



3. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 128 EU Pilot files remained open.

4. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

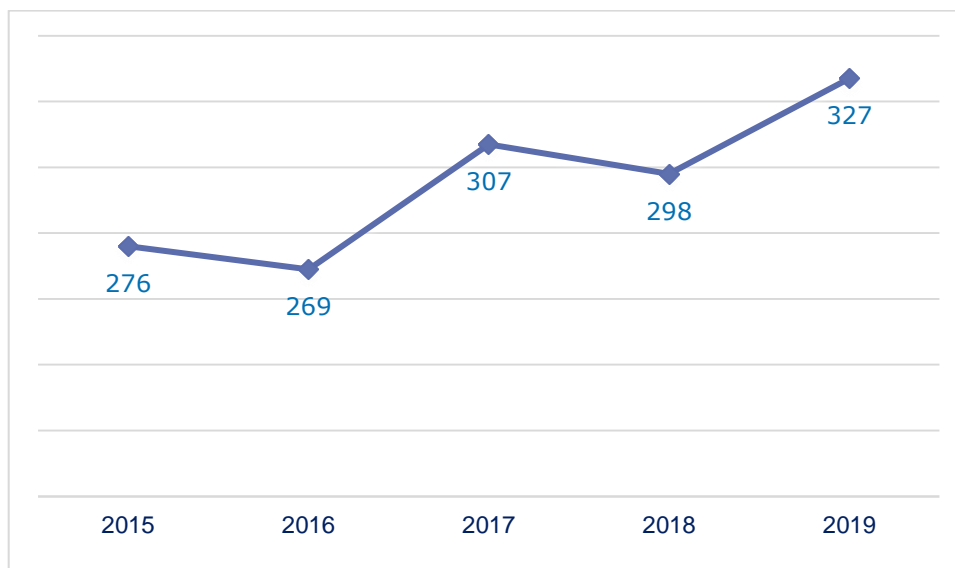
New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over:

- incorrect transposition of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Directive¹⁰⁷;
- failure to complete the Natura 2000 network and to ensure protection of this network;
- incorrect transposition of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive¹⁰⁸;
- incorrect transposition of the SEVESO III Directive¹⁰⁹;
- failure to share spatial information, in line with the INSPIRE Directive¹¹⁰;
- non-compliance with the Industrial Emissions Directive¹¹¹;
- incorrect transposition of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes¹¹²;
- failure to ensure adequate protection of certain bird species and of certain natural habitats;
- bad application of the Birds Directive in relation to the hunting of certain bird species¹¹³;
- failure to set dissuasive penalties and to adopt specific lists of invasive alien species for outermost regions, in breach of the Invasive Alien Species Regulation¹¹⁴;
- non-compliance with reporting obligations under EU waste legislation.

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)



¹⁰⁷ Directive [2011/92/EU](#), as amended by Directive [2014/52/EU](#).

¹⁰⁸ Directive [2012/19/EU](#).

¹⁰⁹ Directive [2012/18/EU](#).

¹¹⁰ Directive [2007/2/EC](#).

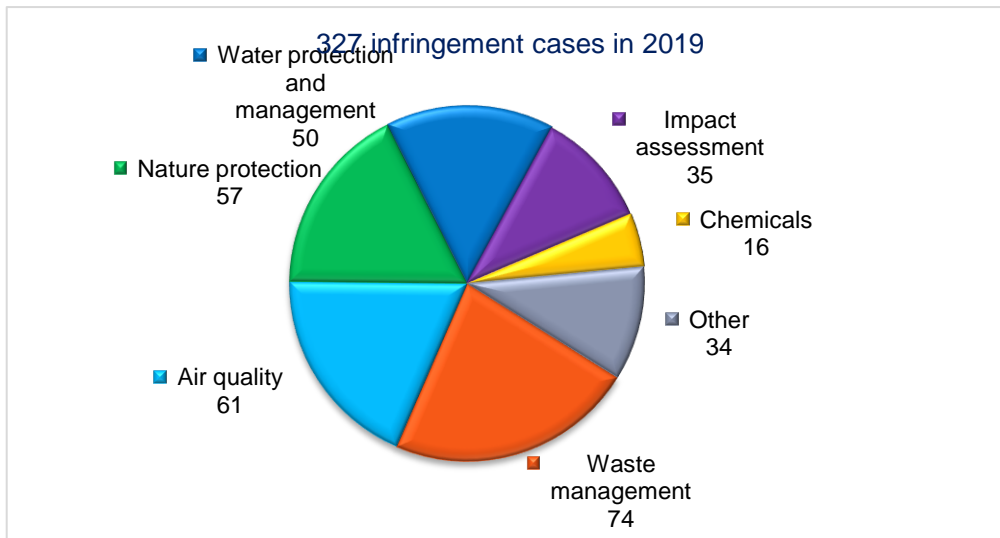
¹¹¹ Directive [2010/75/EU](#).

¹¹² Directive [2010/63/EU](#).

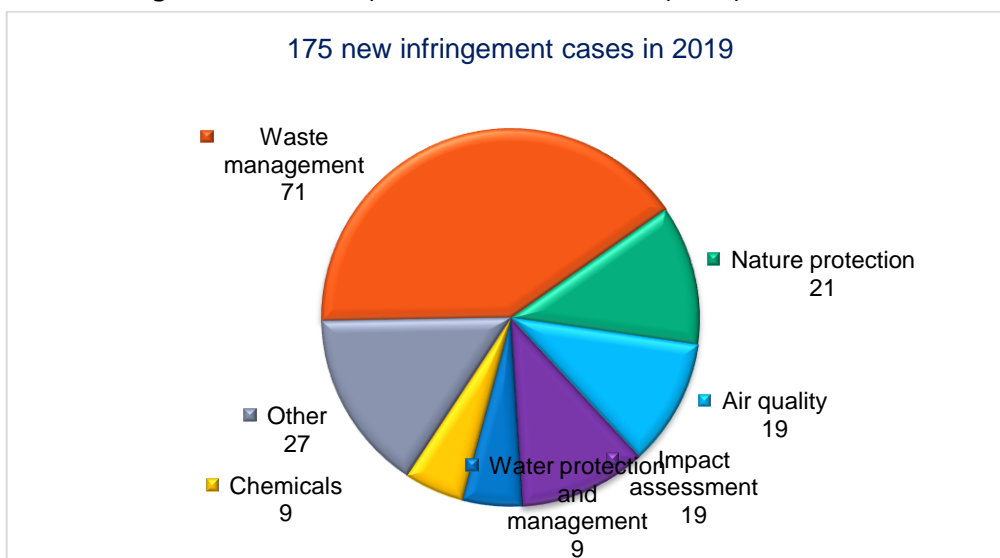
¹¹³ Directive [2009/147/EC](#).

¹¹⁴ Regulation (EU) [1143/2014](#).

2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

a) The Commission opened 175 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- *United Kingdom: failure to comply with a Court judgment finding that the United Kingdom had breached its obligations under EU law as regards collection and treatment of urban waste water in London and Whitburn¹¹⁵;*
- *Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Spain: failure to ensure that urban waste water is adequately collected and treated¹¹⁶;*
- *Poland and Slovakia: failure to comply with EU rules on landfills¹¹⁷;*
- *Greece: lack of measures to address waste problems on the island of Corfu¹¹⁸;*

¹¹⁵ Directive [91/271/EEC](#), [MEMO/19/462](#), Commission v United Kingdom, [C-301/10](#).

¹¹⁶ Directive [91/271/EEC](#), [INF/19/4251](#), [MEMO/19/462](#) and [INF/19/6304](#).

¹¹⁷ Directive [1999/31/EC](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

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- *Germany: failure to comply with a Court judgment finding that Germany was in breach of its obligations under the Nitrates Directive by failing to revise an action programme whose measures had proved insufficient*¹¹⁹;
- *Belgium: failure to protect waters from nitrates pollution*¹²⁰;
- *Belgium and Poland: non-compliance with key provisions of the Noise Directive*¹²¹;
- *Czechia, Latvia, Slovakia, Poland, Portugal and Romania: failure to ensure adequate protection of habitats and species of EU interest by designating nature protection areas to complete the NATURA 2000 network*¹²²;
- *Slovenia: incorrect transposition of the Habitats and Birds Directives*¹²³;
- *Cyprus: general and persistent failure to ensure that plans and projects undergo an appropriate assessment of their implications on Natura 2000 sites, as required by the Habitats Directive*¹²⁴;
- *Slovakia: failure to provide for an appropriate assessment of the effects that projects within Natura 2000 sites, such as forest logging activities, may have on the protected areas, which resulted in a significant fall in bird numbers*¹²⁵;
- *Bulgaria, Italy and Germany: failure to establish Special Areas of Conservation, as well as conservation objectives and measures to maintain or restore the protected species and habitats to a favourable condition, as required by the Habitats Directive*¹²⁶;
- *France: authorisation of non-selective hunting practices which are not in line with the Birds Directive*¹²⁷;
- *France and Spain: failure to take the necessary measures to enhance protection of the species of the Turtle dove as required by the Birds Directive*¹²⁸;
- *Germany and Slovenia: failure to ensure adequate protection of grasslands, as required by the Habitats Directive*¹²⁹;
- *Poland: failure to establish adequate safeguards to protect forests and its plant and animal species, as required under the Birds and Habitats Directives. Also, failure to provide access to justice with regard to forest management plans*¹³⁰;
- *Austria, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Germany, Slovenia and Poland: incorrect transposition of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes*¹³¹;
- *Greece: incorrect transposition of the Industrial Emissions Directive and failure to protect citizens from noxious air pollution from several power plants, as required by the said Directive*¹³²;
- *Romania: failure to ensure that installations under the Industrial Emissions Directive operate with appropriate permits*¹³³;

¹¹⁸ [MEMO/19/1472](#).

¹¹⁹ Directive [91/676/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#), Commission v Germany, [C-543/16](#).

¹²⁰ Directive [91/676/EC](#), [INF/19/6304](#).

¹²¹ Directive [2002/49/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#) and [MEMO/19/462](#).

¹²² [INF/19/6304](#) and [INF/19/4251](#).

¹²³ Directives [92/43/EEC](#) and [2009/147/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹²⁴ Directive [92/43/EEC](#), [INF/19/6304](#).

¹²⁵ [MEMO/19/462](#).

¹²⁶ Directive [92/43/EEC](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

¹²⁷ Directive [2009/147/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹²⁸ Directive [2009/147/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹²⁹ Directive [92/43/EEC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹³⁰ Directives [92/43/EEC](#) and [2009/147/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹³¹ Directive [2010/63/EU](#), [INF/19/5950](#) and [INF/19/4251](#).

¹³² Directive [2010/75/EU](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹³³ Directive [2010/75/EU](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

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- *Poland: failure to comply with a Court judgment finding that Poland had breached its obligations under the Ambient Air Quality Directive¹³⁴;*
 - *Greece: failure to comply with the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limit values set by the Air Quality Directive, failure to put in place adequate sampling points to properly monitor NO₂ concentrations and failure to make available a complete air quality report¹³⁵;*
 - *Romania: systemic failure to monitor air pollution as required by EU legislation on ambient air quality¹³⁶;*
 - *France: non-conformity of national legislation with the Directive on public access to environmental information¹³⁷;*
 - *Croatia: non-conformity of the Croatian Water Act with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive¹³⁸;*
 - *Austria: failure to provide for a strategic environmental assessment of plans in the energy sector as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessments Directive¹³⁹;*
 - *Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden: incorrect transposition of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Directive¹⁴⁰;*
 - *Austria: restrictions regarding access to justice in environmental procedures, not in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive¹⁴¹;*
 - *Poland: failure to fully comply with the EU rules on reviewing environmental decisions¹⁴²;*
 - *Ireland: failure to apply the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive to peat extraction operations¹⁴³;*
 - *Croatia: non-conformity of national legislation with the Groundwater Directive¹⁴⁴;*
 - *Croatia: non-conformity of national legislation with the Drinking Water Directive¹⁴⁵;*
 - *Luxembourg: incorrect transposition of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive¹⁴⁶;*
 - *France: failure to comply with the Water Framework Directive concerning the ecological continuity of the Rhine River¹⁴⁷;*
 - *Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Lithuania and Malta: late reporting on the environmental status of marine waters under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹⁴⁸;*
 - *Ireland: incorrect transposition of the Water Framework Directive¹⁴⁹.*
- b) The Commission referred nine cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU. They concern:
- *Bulgaria: exceedance of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) limit values set by the Air Quality Directive¹⁵⁰;*
 - *Greece: failure to establish the necessary conservation measures and objectives for all sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive¹⁵¹;*

¹³⁴ Directive [2008/50/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#), Commission v Poland, [C-336/16](#).

¹³⁵ Directive [2008/50/EC](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

¹³⁶ Directives [2004/107/EC](#) and [2008/50/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹³⁷ Directive [2003/4/EC](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

¹³⁸ Directives [2011/92/EU](#), [92/43/EEC](#) and [2000/60/EC](#).

¹³⁹ Directive [2001/42/EU](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹⁴⁰ Directive [2011/92/EU](#), as amended by Directive [2014/52/EU](#); [INF/19/5950](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#), [INF/19/4251](#) and [INF/19/6304](#).

¹⁴¹ Directive [2011/92/EU](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹⁴² Directive [2011/92/EU](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

¹⁴³ Directive [2011/92/EU](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹⁴⁴ Directive [2006/118/EC](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

¹⁴⁵ Council Directive [98/83/EC](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

¹⁴⁶ Directive [2008/105/EC](#), [INF/19/6304](#).

¹⁴⁷ Directive [2000/60/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

¹⁴⁸ Directive [2008/56/EC](#), [INF/19/5950](#).

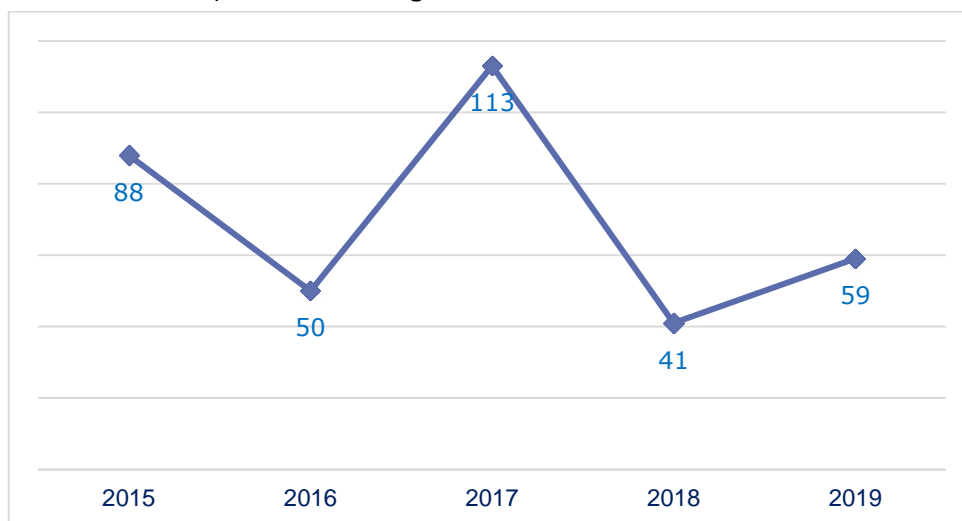
¹⁴⁹ Directive [2000/60/EC](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

¹⁵⁰ Directive [2008/50/EC](#), Commission v Bulgaria, [C-730/19](#), [IP/19/4256](#).

- *Spain: failure to take adequate measures to protect the groundwater bodies that feed the Doñana wetlands and to prevent the deterioration of protected habitats in these wetlands, in violation of the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive¹⁵²;*
 - *Spain: absence of flood risk management plans, required under the Floods Directive, for all seven river basin districts in the Canary Islands¹⁵³;*
 - *Italy: failure to ensure that all agglomerations with a population of more than 2,000 are provided with collecting systems for urban waste water and that urban waste water entering collecting systems is adequately treated before discharge, as required by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive¹⁵⁴;*
 - *Cyprus: lack of proper collection and treatment of urban waste waters of various agglomerations in breach of the Urban Waste Water Directive¹⁵⁵;*
 - *Italy: exceedance of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limit values set by the Air Quality Directive¹⁵⁶;*
 - *Finland: illegal spring hunting of male eiders in the province of Åland, in violation of the Birds Directive¹⁵⁷;*
 - *Austria: hunting of woodcock during its reproductive period in the Land of Lower Austria, in breach of the Birds Directive¹⁵⁸.*
- c) The Commission referred one case to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU. It concerns
- *Greece: failure to comply with a Court judgment establishing that Greece had failed to protect its waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources¹⁵⁹.*

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



¹⁵¹ Directive [92/43/EEC](#), Commission v Greece, [C-849/19](#), [IP/19/4257](#).

¹⁵² Directives [2000/60/EC](#) and [92/43/EEC](#), Commission v Spain, [C-559/19](#), [IP/19/466](#).

¹⁵³ Directive [2007/60/EC](#), Commission v Spain, [C-384/19](#), [IP/19/465](#).

¹⁵⁴ Directive [91/271/EEC](#), Commission v Italy, [C-668/19](#), [IP/19/1475](#).

¹⁵⁵ Directive [91/271/EEC](#), Commission v Cyprus, [C-248/19](#), [IP/19/1474](#).

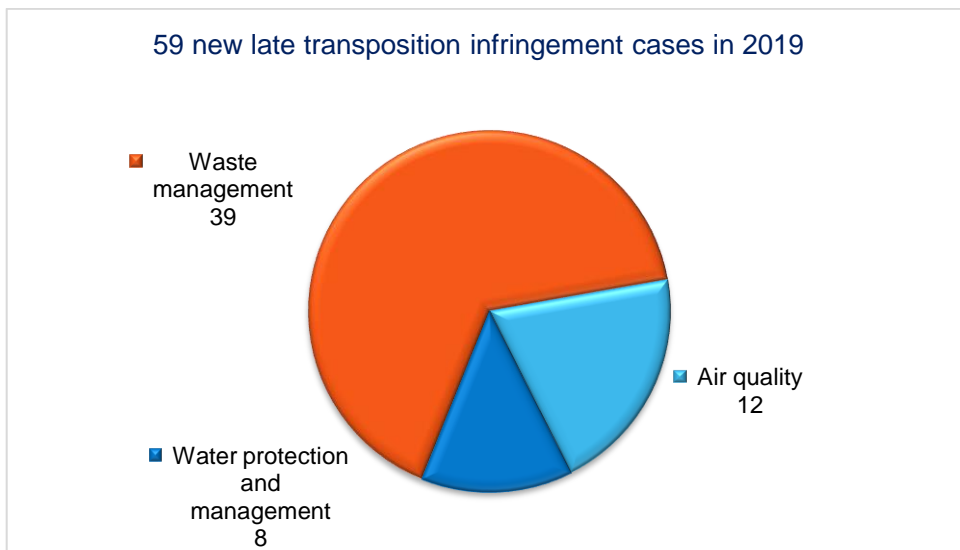
¹⁵⁶ Directive [2008/50/EC](#), Commission v Italy, [C-573/19](#), [IP/19/1475](#).

¹⁵⁷ Directive [2009/147/EC](#), Commission v Finland, [C-217/19](#), [IP/18/1446](#).

¹⁵⁸ Directive [2009/147/EC](#), Commission v Austria, [C-161/19](#), [IP/18/3449](#).

¹⁵⁹ Commission v Greece, [C-298/19](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

- a) The Commission opened 59 cases for late transposition in 2019. They included the:
- *Directive concerning the indicative lists of elements to be taken into account for the preparation of marine strategies*¹⁶⁰
 - *Directive establishing common noise assessment methods*¹⁶¹.
- b) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU.

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These concerned mainly:

- *Belgium*: bad application of the Timber Regulation¹⁶² by not carrying out a significant number of verifications;
- *Denmark*: exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limit values set by the Air Quality Directive¹⁶³;
- *Greece*: failure to establish a general system for the protection of wild birds, prohibiting, in particular, their deliberate killing through poison baits;
- *Spain*: trapping of five species of wild finches beyond the strict conditions set by EU rules on the conservation of wild birds¹⁶⁴;
- *Croatia*: incorrect transposition of the Habitats Directive¹⁶⁵;
- *Croatia*: incorrect transposition of the Birds Directive¹⁶⁶;
- *Estonia, Hungary and Spain*: incorrect transposition of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes¹⁶⁷;
- *Austria*: incomplete Natura 2000 network;

¹⁶⁰ Directive (EU) [2017/845](#).

¹⁶¹ Directive (EU) [2015/996](#).

¹⁶² Regulation (EU) n° [995/2010](#).

¹⁶³ Directive [2008/50/EC](#).

¹⁶⁴ Directive [2009/147/EC](#).

¹⁶⁵ Directive [92/43/EEC](#).

¹⁶⁶ Directive [2009/147/EC](#).

¹⁶⁷ Directive [2010/63/EU](#).

- *Poland*: incorrect application of the Habitats Directive by authorising and commencing the construction of a coal mine near Natura 2000 sites¹⁶⁸;
- *Slovenia*: incorrect transposition of the *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive*¹⁶⁹;
- *Slovakia*: incorrect transposition and implementation of the Nitrates Directive¹⁷⁰.

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following rulings:

- *Ireland* has failed to comply with an earlier Court judgment¹⁷¹ requiring a remedial environmental impact assessment to be carried out for a large windfarm development in Derrybrien. The Court ordered Ireland to pay a lump sum of €5,000,000 and a periodic penalty payment of €15,000 for every day of delay until compliance is achieved¹⁷².
- *Ireland* has not complied with the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in multiple agglomerations as it had failed to put in place compliant waste water collecting systems to tackle excessive spills from storm water overflows and failed to provide adequate treatment of urban waste waters¹⁷³.
- *Spain* has not adopted on time, as required by the Water Framework Directive, the second round of river basin management plans for Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Gomera, La Palma and El Hierro¹⁷⁴.
- *France* has systematically and persistently exceeded the limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) since 2010 in 12 agglomerations and air quality zones. It has also failed to take the appropriate measures to keep the exceedance period as short as possible¹⁷⁵.
- *Croatia* has breached the Waste Framework Directive as it did not classify as waste a large amount of stone-like material deposited in Biljane Donje, it did not take the necessary measures to ensure that waste management is carried out without endangering human health and harming the environment, and it did not ensure that the waste is properly treated by the waste holder¹⁷⁶.
- *Italy* has not fulfilled its obligations under the Landfill Directive as regards 44 landfills, by having failed to adopt all measures necessary to close or to bring those landfill sites into line with the Directive¹⁷⁷.
- *Portugal* has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Habitats Directive as it had not designated its Sites of Community Interest as Special Areas of Conservation and it had not established the necessary conservation measures for these zones¹⁷⁸.
- The Court dismissed the Commission's action against *Czechia* concerning its refusal to ensure the take-back of 20,000 tonnes of a mixture called TPS-NOLO (Geobal) shipped from Czechia to Poland. The Court found that the Commission did not provide sufficient evidence that the respective mixture constitutes waste and, thus, that its shipment constitutes a shipment of waste¹⁷⁹.

¹⁶⁸ Directive [92/43/EEC](#).

¹⁶⁹ Directive [2011/92/EU](#).

¹⁷⁰ Council Directive [91/676/EEC](#).

¹⁷¹ Commission v Ireland, [C-215/06](#).

¹⁷² Commission v Ireland, [C-261/18](#) and Court press release No 142/2019.

¹⁷³ Directive [91/271/EEC](#), Commission v Ireland, [C-427/17](#).

¹⁷⁴ Commission v Spain, [C-556/18](#).

¹⁷⁵ Commission v France, [C-636/18](#) and Court press release [No 132/2019](#).

¹⁷⁶ Directive [2008/98/EC](#), Commission v Croatia, [C-250/18](#).

¹⁷⁷ Directive [1999/31/EC](#), Commission v Italy, [C-498/17](#) and Court press release No 37/2019.

¹⁷⁸ Commission v Portugal, [C-290/18](#).

¹⁷⁹ Commission v Czech Republic, [C-399/17](#) and Court press release No 29/19.

- The Court dismissed the Commission's action against *Spain* concerning the adoption and/or revision of waste management plans. The Court found that the Commission had prematurely opened the pre-litigation stage of the infringement procedure and, consequently, dismissed the action as inadmissible¹⁸⁰.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Belgium*: A decree by which a body of a Member State establishes, at regional level for its Natura 2000 network, conservation objectives which have an indicative value whereas the conservation objectives at site level have a statutory value is not a 'plan or programme', within the meaning of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, for which an assessment under this Directive is mandatory¹⁸¹.
- *Belgium*: A decree whereby a Member State designates a Special Area of Conservation and makes provision for conservation objectives and certain preventive measures is not a 'plan or programme', within the meaning of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, for which an assessment under this Directive is required¹⁸².
- *Belgium*: National courts have jurisdiction to review the choice of location of air quality measuring stations and to take all necessary measures against the national authority concerned. In assessing whether limit values have been complied with, the pollution level at each sampling point must be taken into account individually¹⁸³.
- *Belgium*: The Belgian law extending the operating life of nuclear power stations Doel 1 and Doel 2 was adopted without the required environmental assessments being carried out first. However, it is not excluded that the effects of the law on extension may provisionally be maintained where there is a genuine and serious threat of an interruption to electricity supply¹⁸⁴.
- *Estonia*: In the absence of criteria set at EU level to determine end-of-waste status for a specific type of waste, such end status depends on the existence of criteria laid down in a generally applicable national legal act concerning that type of waste¹⁸⁵.
- *Germany*: The coercive detention of a person at the head of the Land of Bavaria for the purpose of enjoining them to adopt measures to improve ambient air quality in Munich can be ordered only if a national legal basis, which is sufficiently accessible, precise and foreseeable in its application, exists and if the detention is proportionate¹⁸⁶.
- *Germany*: Residues in the form of scrap metal and fire-extinguishing water mixed with sludge and cargo residues, attributable to damage occurring on board a ship at sea, must be regarded as waste generated on board ships, within the meaning of the Regulation on shipments of waste. Such waste is, therefore, excluded from the said Regulation's scope until it is offloaded in order to be recovered or disposed of¹⁸⁷.
- *Greece*: When the public is not put in a position to actually participate in the environmental impact assessment for a project, a time limit cannot be imposed on the public to bring proceedings against the decision granting consent for the project¹⁸⁸.

¹⁸⁰ Commission v Spain, [C-642/18](#).

¹⁸¹ Directive [2001/42/EC](#), *Terre wallonne*, [C-321/18](#).

¹⁸² Directive [2001/42/EC](#), CFE, [C-43/18](#).

¹⁸³ *Craeynest and Others*, [C-723/17](#) and Court press release No 82/2019.

¹⁸⁴ *Inter-Environnement Wallonie and Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen*, [C-411/17](#) and Court press release No 100/2019.

¹⁸⁵ *Tallinna Vesi*, [C-60/18](#).

¹⁸⁶ *Deutsche Umwelthilfe*, [C-752/18](#) and Court press release No 164/2019.

¹⁸⁷ Regulation (EC) No [1013/2006](#), *Conti 11. Container Schiffahrt*, [C-689/17](#).

¹⁸⁸ *Flausch and Others*, [C-280/18](#) and Court press release No 137/2019.

Environment

- *Italy*: The Waste Framework Directive¹⁸⁹ and the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources¹⁹⁰ do not prevent national legislation which refuses the replacement of methane, as a power source for an electric power plant producing atmospheric emissions, with a substance derived from the chemical treatment of used vegetable oils, on the ground that the respective substance is not included in the list of categories of biomass fuels authorised for that purpose¹⁹¹.
- *Italy*: National legislation which classifies waste incineration facilities as 'strategic infrastructure and installations of major national importance' is compatible with the 'waste hierarchy' principle under the Waste Framework Directive¹⁹² as long as that legislation is compatible with the other provisions of that Directive which lay down more specific obligations. National legislation which revises upwards the capacity of existing waste incineration facilities and provides for the construction of new installations of that kind constitutes, within the meaning of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive¹⁹³, a 'plan or programme' likely to have significant environmental effects and must, consequently, be subject to a prior environmental assessment¹⁹⁴.
- *The Netherlands*: The shipment to a third country of a consignment of electrical and electronic appliances, initially intended for retail sale but returned by the consumer or sent back by the retailer to its supplier, constitutes a 'shipment of waste' within the meaning of the Regulation on shipments of waste read in conjunction with the Waste Framework Directive, where that consignment contains appliances whose good working condition has not been previously ascertained or which are not adequately protected from transport damage. Such goods, which have become redundant in the seller's product range and which are in their unopened original packaging, must not, unless otherwise indicated, be regarded as waste¹⁹⁵.
- *Austria*: Natural and legal persons directly concerned by the pollution of groundwaters can rely, before national courts, on certain provisions of the Nitrates Directive¹⁹⁶.
- *Finland*: Wolf hunting for population management purposes, the objective of which is to combat poaching, is not compliant with the Habitats Directive where the strict conditions for derogations from the protection system are not fulfilled. There are very strict limitations to the use of derogations for the hunting of wolves and other large carnivores, and the possibility to use hunting as a management tool for wolf conservation is very limited¹⁹⁷.

¹⁸⁹ Directive [2008/98/EC](#).

¹⁹⁰ Directive [2009/28/EC](#).

¹⁹¹ Prato Nevoso Termo Energy, [C-212/18](#).

¹⁹² Directive [2008/98/EC](#).

¹⁹³ Directive [2001/42/EC](#).

¹⁹⁴ Associazione "Verdi Ambiente e Società - Aps Onlus" and Others, [C-305/18](#).

¹⁹⁵ Regulation (EC) No [1013/2006](#) and Directive 2008/98/EC, Tronex, [C-624/17](#).

¹⁹⁶ Directive [91/676/EEC](#), Wasserleitungsverband Nördliches Burgenland and Others, [C-197/18](#).

¹⁹⁷ Directive [92/43/EEC](#), Luonnonsuojeluyhdistys Tapiola, [C-674/17](#).

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- continuing enforcement action to ensure full compliance with the Air Quality Directive¹⁹⁸ as regards PM₁₀ and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) limit values, addressing non-compliance in relation to other pollutants, especially fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and benzo(a)pyrene, and continuing to address shortcomings in monitoring and reporting under the Ambient Air Quality Directives¹⁹⁹.
- enhancing enforcement action addressing non-conformity with and bad application of the National Emission Ceilings Directive²⁰⁰;
- giving follow up to the assessment of the second river basin management plans under the Water Framework Directive to ensure good status for all water bodies by 2027 at the latest²⁰¹;
- action to ensure finalisation of the Natura 2000 network, by designating new protected areas and adopting the necessary conservation objectives and measures;
- legal action to ensure that strategic noise maps and action plans pursuant to the Noise Directive cover all agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports²⁰²;
- continuing action to ensure correct transposition of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment²⁰³;
- pursuing cases concerning illegal landfills of waste;
- legal action to address incorrect transposition of the SEVESO III Directive²⁰⁴ and the Industrial Emissions Directive²⁰⁵.

¹⁹⁸ Directive [2008/50/EC](#).

¹⁹⁹ Directives [2008/50/EC](#) and [2004/107/EC](#).

²⁰⁰ Directive (EU) [2016/2284](#).

²⁰¹ Directive [2000/60/EC](#).

²⁰² Directive [2002/49/EC](#).

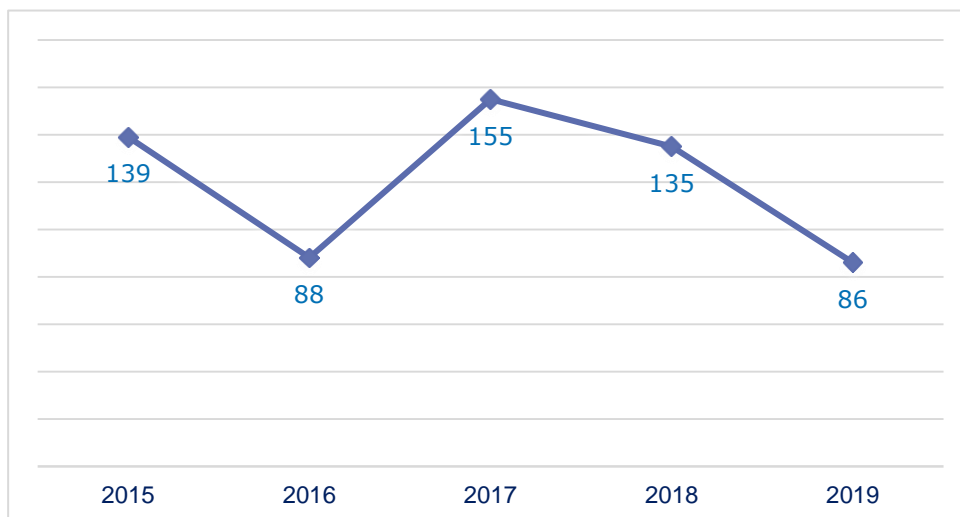
²⁰³ Directive [2011/92/EU](#), as amended by Directive [2014/52/EU](#).

²⁰⁴ Directive [2012/18/EU](#).

²⁰⁵ Directive [2010/75/EU](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

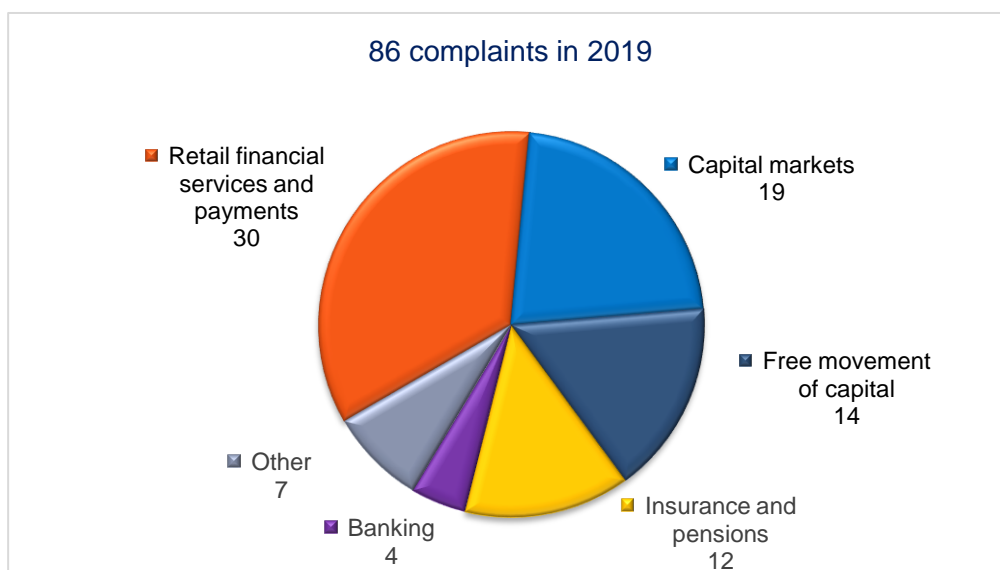
110 ► Complaints open at end-2018

86 ► New complaints registered in 2019

86 ► Complaints handled in 2019

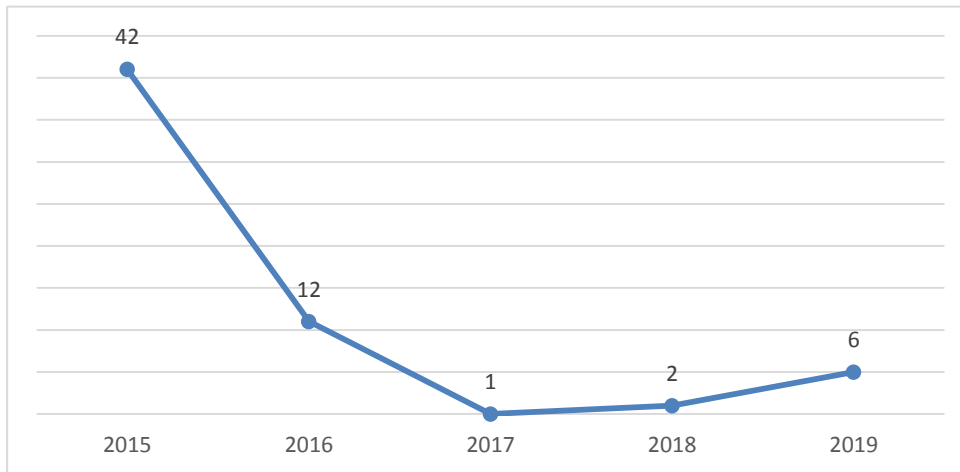
= 110 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors

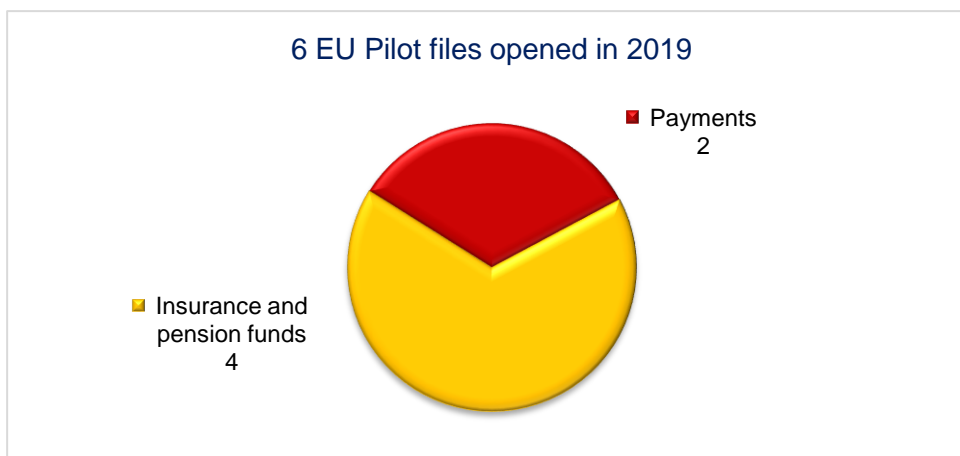


II. EU PILOT

1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



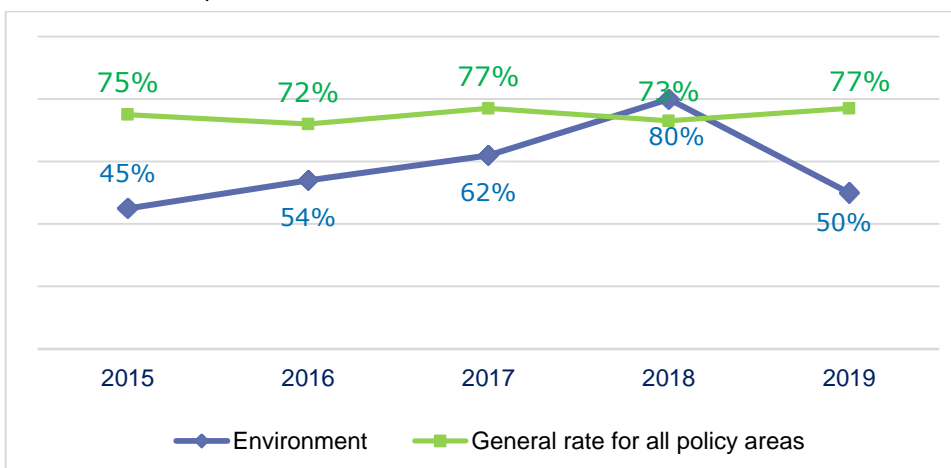
2. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors



3. EU Pilot files open at year-end

There were 10 EU Pilot files open at end-2019.

4. EU Pilot files: policies' combined resolution rate in 2015-2019



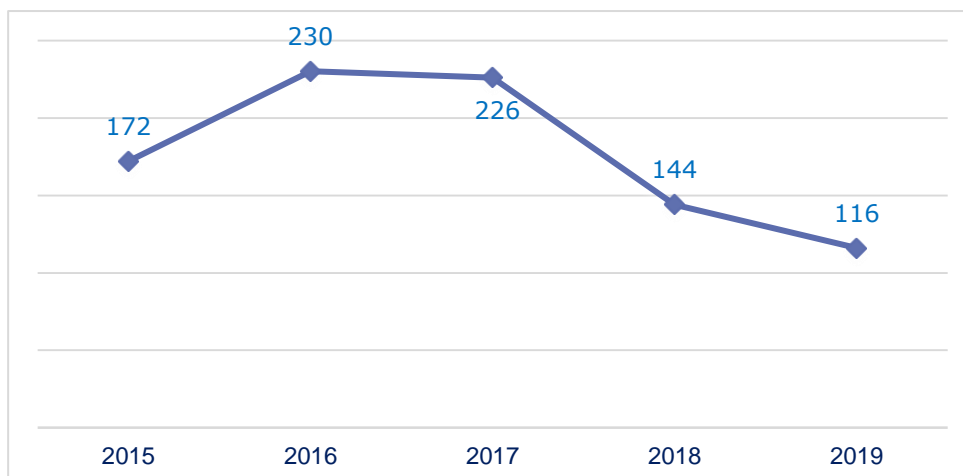
III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases

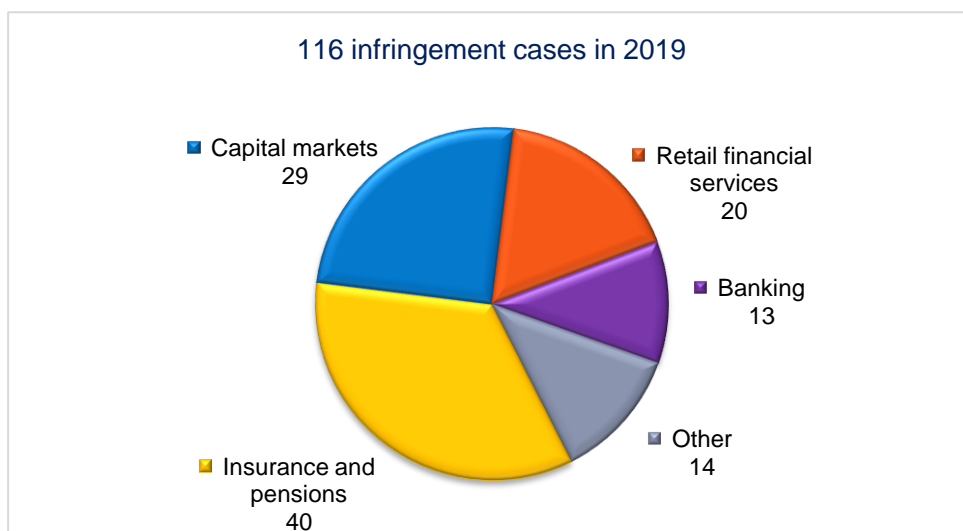
[In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over the incorrect transposition of the Solvency II Directive²⁰⁶.]

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)

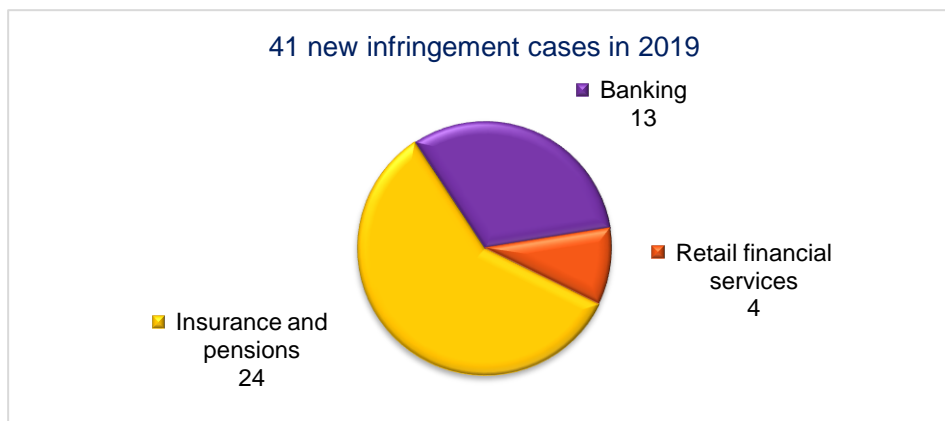


2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



²⁰⁶ Directive [2009/138/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

- a) The Commission opened 41 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:
- Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and Slovenia: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (IORPs II Directive)²⁰⁷;
 - Bulgaria, Ireland, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia: non-communication of national measures transposing the Bank Creditors Hierarchy Directive²⁰⁸;
 - Belgium, Croatia, Poland, Estonia and Sweden: the incorrect transposition of the Solvency II Directive²⁰⁹;
 - Poland, Greece and Latvia: incorrect implementation of the SEPA Regulation²¹⁰;
 - Cyprus: incorrect application of the Investor Compensation Scheme Directive²¹¹;
 - Romania: A national law sets limitations for the distribution of insurance products in Romania by insurance distributors from other Member States, which is contrary to the freedom to provide services²¹²;
 - Hungary: non-communication of transposition measures for the Mortgage Credit Directive²¹³;
 - Greece: non-conformity of certain provisions with the third Motor Insurance Directive²¹⁴.
- b) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU.
- c) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU.

²⁰⁷ Directive [2016/2341/EU](#).

²⁰⁸ Directive [2017/2399/EU](#).

²⁰⁹ Directive [2009/138/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

²¹⁰ Regulation (EU) [260/2012](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

²¹¹ Directive [97/9/EC](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

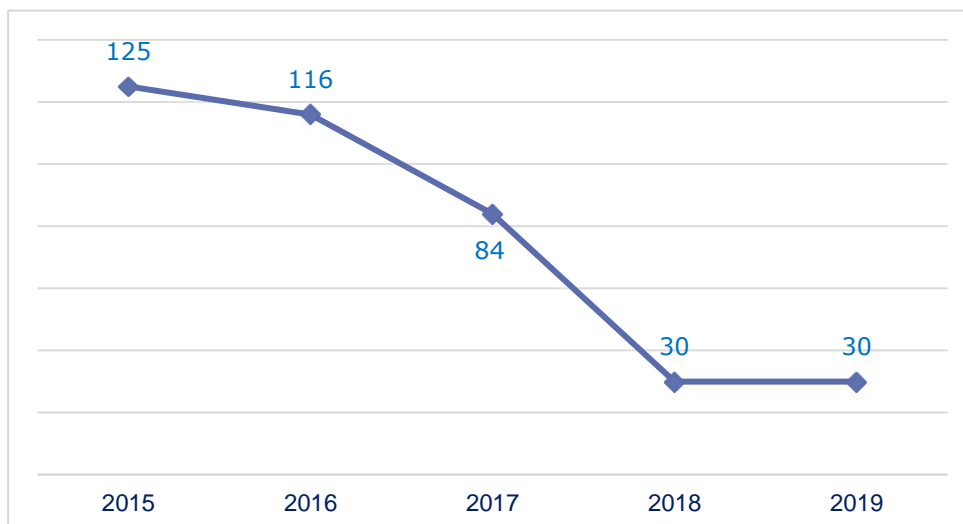
²¹² [INF/19/5950](#).

²¹³ Directive [2014/17/EU](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

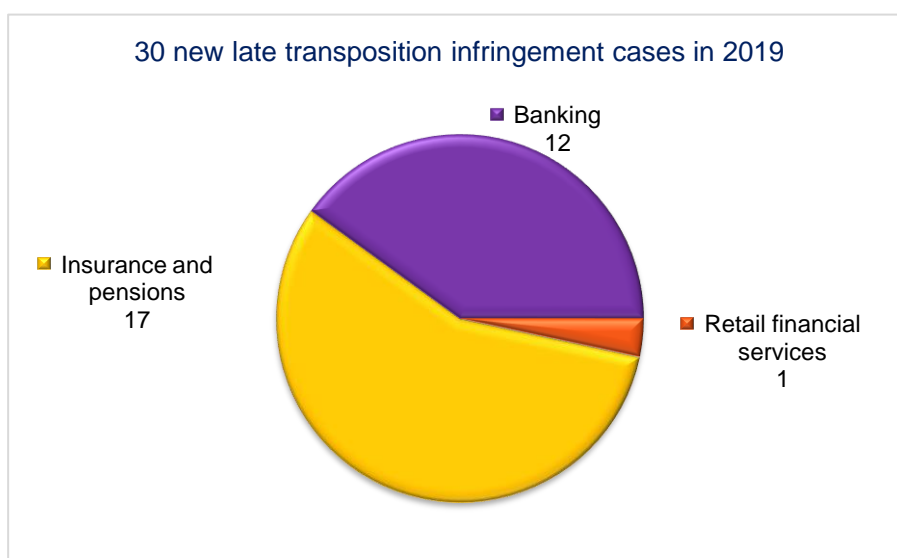
²¹⁴ Directive [2009/103/EC](#).

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

- a) The Commission opened 30 cases for late transposition in 2019. Most of these concern the:
 - *Bank Creditors Hierarchy Directive*²¹⁵
 - *IORPs II Directive*²¹⁶.
- b) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU.

²¹⁵ Directive [2017/2399/EU](#).

²¹⁶ Directive [2016/2341/EU](#).

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019²¹⁷

Some of the most important cases concerned:

- Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Romania, Sweden and Slovakia: failure to communicate national measures transposing the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II)²¹⁸;
- Croatia: national law on the privatisation of Industrija Nafta d.d. (INA): A law granting special powers to the Croatian State in INA²¹⁹.
- Slovakia and Lithuania: national legislation on the acquisition of agricultural land that violated the free movement of capital and freedom of establishment²²⁰.
- Belgium, Spain, Cyprus, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal and Slovenia: failure to communicate national measures transposing the Mortgage Credit Directive²²¹;
- Austria, Belgium, Czechia and Croatia: incorrect transposition of the Solvency II Directive²²².

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following ruling:

Hungary: The Court ruled that by cancelling the rights of usufruct over agricultural land in its territory that are held, directly or indirectly, by nationals of other Member States, Hungary has failed to fulfil its obligations arising from the principle of the free movement of capital and the right to property guaranteed by the Charter of Fundamental Rights. A Member State seeking to justify a restriction of a fundamental freedom under the TFEU must also ensure compliance with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Charter of Fundamental Rights²²³.

2. Preliminary rulings

There were no major preliminary rulings in 2019 in this area.

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- Monitoring the timely implementation of the fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive²²⁴.
- Assessing the conformity of national transposition measures (or implementing measures in case of Regulations) with a number of financial services directives and regulations. These include the IORPs 2 Directive²²⁵, the Bank Creditors Hierarchy Directive²²⁶, the Payment Services Directive²²⁷, the Insurance

²¹⁷ Infringement cases related to the non-communication of the national measures of transposition of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive fell under the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers until the end of 2019 and can be found under its chapter. As of 2020, they have moved to the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union.

²¹⁸ Directive [2014/65/EU](#).

²¹⁹ [JP/17/1949](#).

²²⁰ [MEMO/16/1823](#).

²²¹ Directive [2014/17/EU](#).

²²² [Directive 2009/138/EC](#).

²²³ Case *Commission v Hungary*, [C-235/17](#), EU:C:2019:432.

²²⁴ Directive [2018/843/EU](#).

²²⁵ Directive [2016/2341/EU](#).

²²⁶ Directive [2017/2399/EU](#).

²²⁷ Directive [2015/2366/EU](#).

Financial stability, financial services and Capital Markets Union

Distribution Directive²²⁸, the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive²²⁹, the Prospectus Regulation²³⁰ and the Securitisation Regulation²³¹.

- Ensuring that Member States take appropriate measures to implement the Achmea ruling²³². In 2020, the Member States are expected to terminate all their intra-EU bilateral investment treaties, either by signing the plurilateral treaty for the termination of intra-EU bilateral investment treaties or by terminating those treaties bilaterally.]

²²⁸ Directive [2016/97/EU](#).

²²⁹ Directive [2015/849/EU](#).

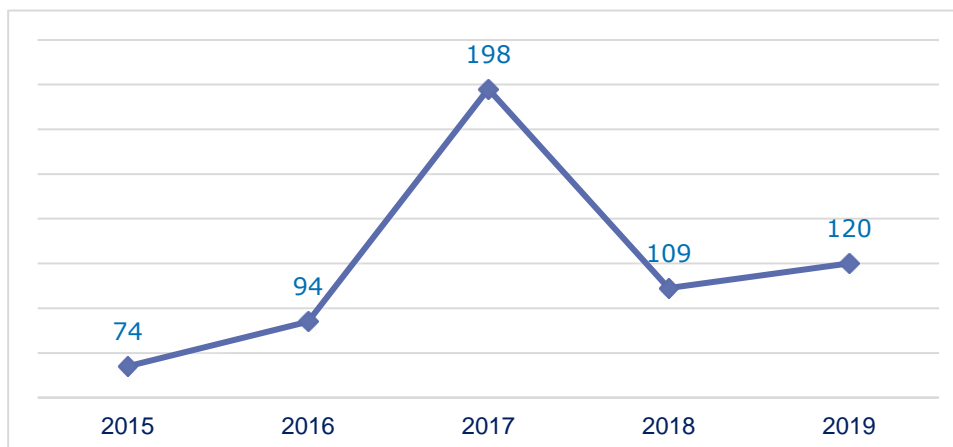
²³⁰ Regulation (EU) [2017/1129](#).

²³¹ Regulation (EU) [2017/2402](#).

²³² Case Achmea, [C-284/16](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

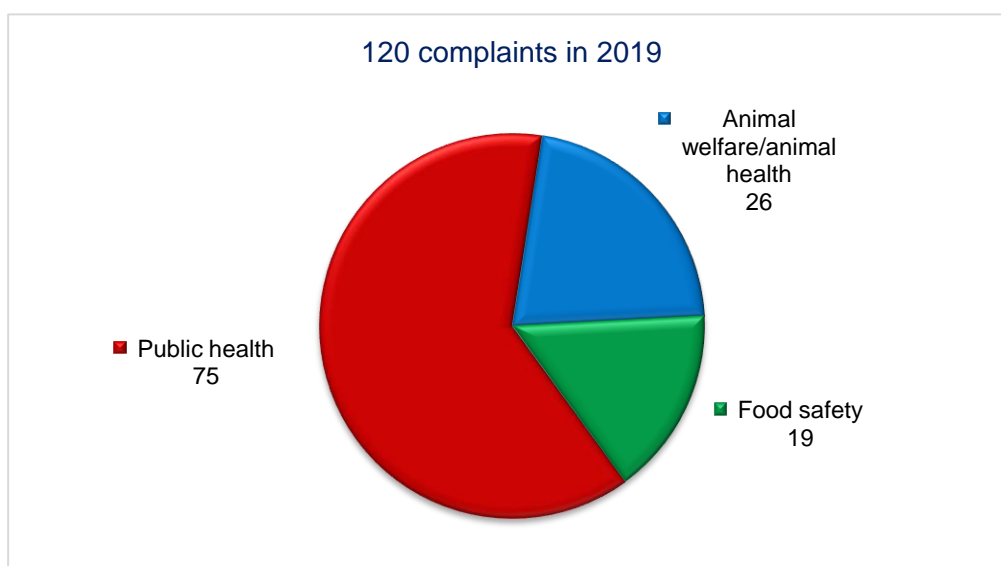
1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

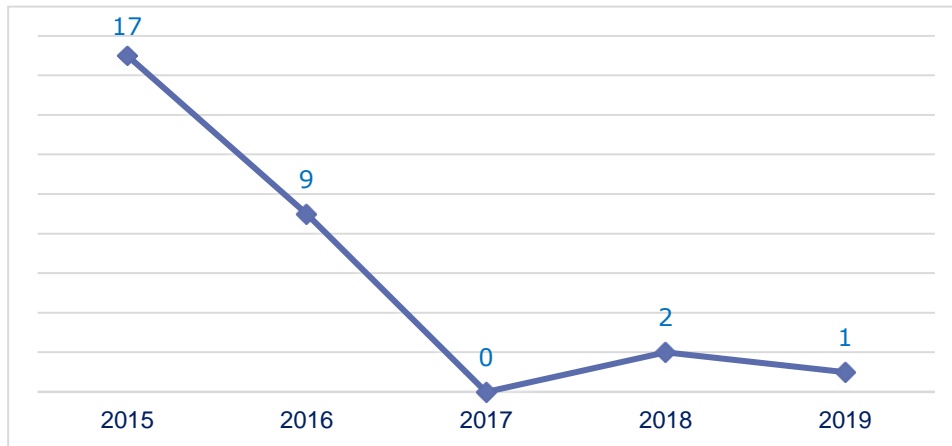
73	►	Complaints open at end-2018
120	►	New complaints registered in 2019
107	►	Complaints handled in 2019
<hr/>		
= 86	►	Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



II. EU PILOT

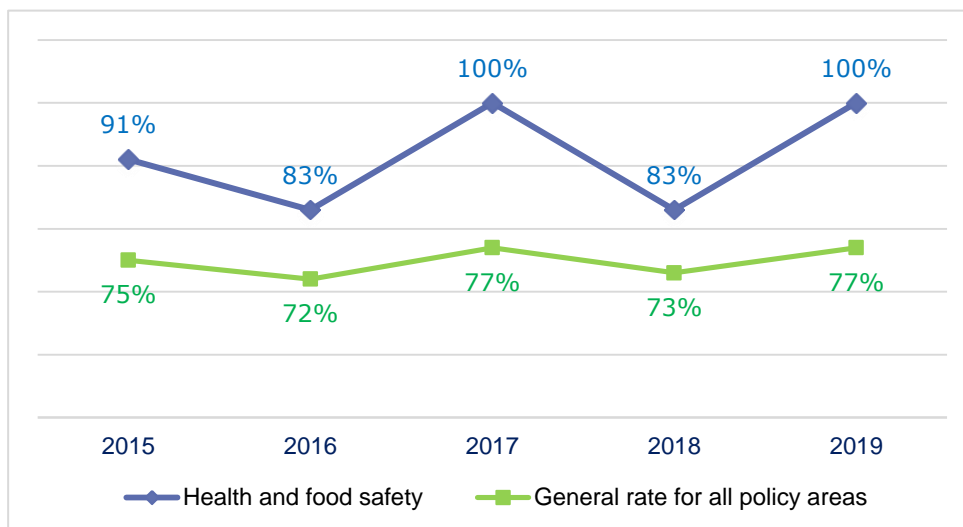
1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



2. EU Pilot open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 10 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases

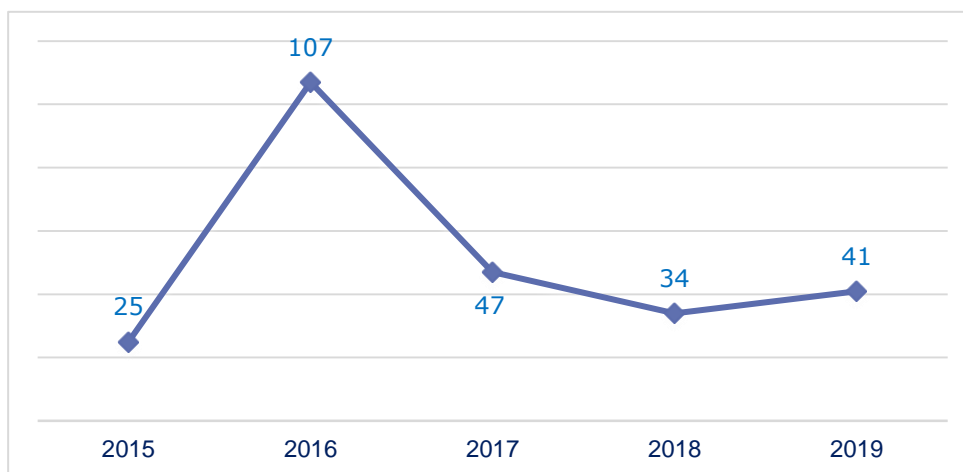
In 2019 the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over:

- patient rights under the Cross-border Health Directive²³³.

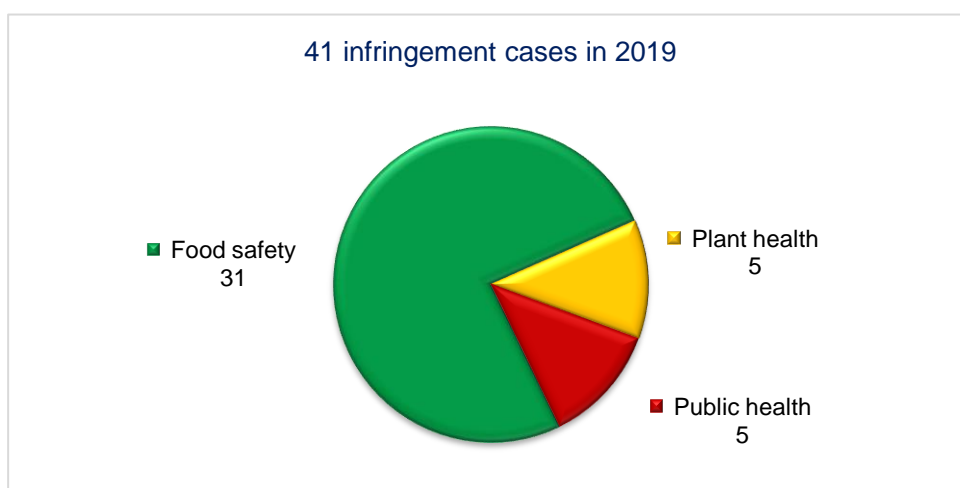
²³³ Directive [2011/24/EU](#).

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

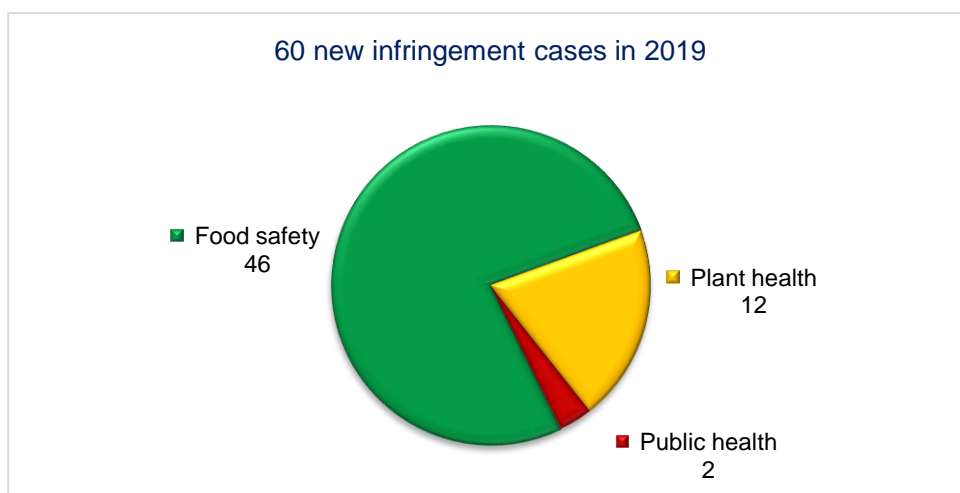
1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)



2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

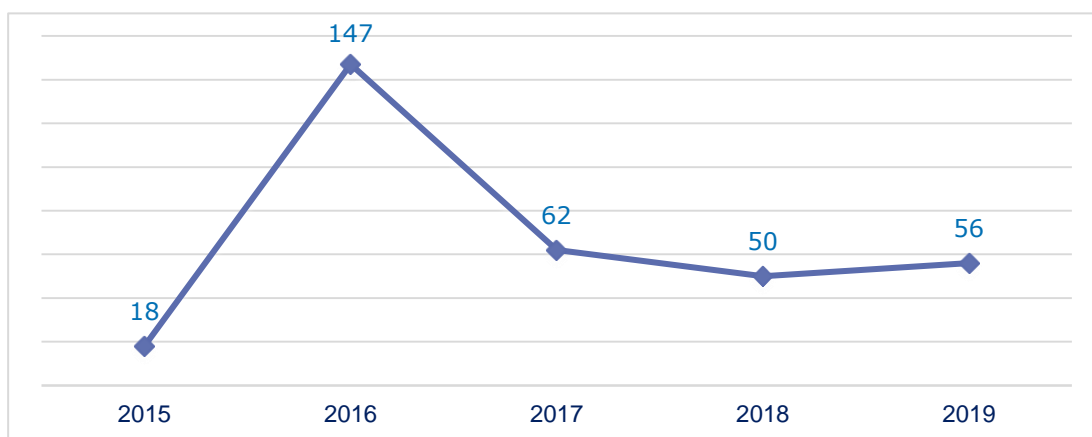
a) The Commission opened 60 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- *The Netherlands and Austria: incorrect transposition of the Cross-border Health Directive²³⁴, as these countries do not appear to reimburse patients who seek healthcare in another Member State to the same level of the costs, if the healthcare had been provided in these countries²³⁵;*
- *Czechia: systematic official controls targeting certain foodstuffs coming from another Member State each time such foodstuffs enter Czechia, in breach of EU rules on ensuring compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules²³⁶;*
- *Ireland: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directives on human tissues and cells²³⁷;*
- *Romania: failure to adopt fees for the processing of applications on biocidal products, as required by EU rules. As a result, applications for the national authorisation of biocidal products could not be processed²³⁸.* [

b) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU and under Article 260(2) TFEU.]

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors

[There are 56 new late transposition cases, all concerning directives on food safety.]

3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

[The Commission opened 56 cases for late transposition in 2019. Most concern the:

- Directive on the environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms²³⁹
- Directive on the establishment of harmonised risk indicators on sustainable use of pesticides²⁴⁰

²³⁴ Directive [2011/24/EU](#).

²³⁵ Directive [2011/24/EU](#), [MEMO-19-462](#).

²³⁶ Regulation (EC) No [882/2004](#), [MEMO-19-462](#), [INF-19-4251](#).

²³⁷ Directive (EU) [2015/565](#) and Commission Directive (EU) [2015/566](#), [MEMO-19-462](#).

²³⁸ Regulation (EU) No [528/2012](#), [MEMO-19-462](#).

²³⁹ Directive (EU) [2018/350](#).

²⁴⁰ Directive (EU) [2019/782](#).

- Directive on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants²⁴¹
- Directive setting out implementing measures as regards the characteristics to be covered as a minimum by the examination and the minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species²⁴².

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU. |

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These concerned:

- Belgium and the United Kingdom: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on extraction solvents used in the production of foodstuffs²⁴³;
- Belgium, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia and the United Kingdom: non-communication of national measures transposing the Commission Implementing Directive as regards isolation distances for *Sorghum* spp.²⁴⁴ ;
- Bulgaria, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania; Slovakia and the United Kingdom: non-communication of national measures transposing the Commission Implementing Directive on minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of agricultural plant species²⁴⁵;
- Czechia, Croatia, Spain and Sweden: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on tobacco products²⁴⁶;
- Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Hungary, Malta and Portugal: non-communication of national measures transposing the Commission Implementing Directive on characteristics to be covered as a minimum by the examination and the minimum conditions for examining certain varieties of agricultural plant species²⁴⁷;
- Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta and Portugal: non-communication of national measures transposing the Commission Implementing Directive on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants²⁴⁸;
- Ireland: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directives on human tissues and cells²⁴⁹;
- Greece: shortage of staff assigned to the services responsible for veterinary controls;
- Portugal: measures to prevent the spread within the Union of the pine wood nematode. |

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following rulings:

- Italy failed to fulfil its obligations under the EU Directive on testing of human tissues and cells by failing to adopt the required national transposition measures²⁵⁰;

²⁴¹ Directive (EU) [2019/523](#).

²⁴² Directive (EU) [2019/114](#).

²⁴³ Directive (EU) [2016/1855](#).

²⁴⁴ Directive (EU) [2018/1027](#).

²⁴⁵ Directive (EU) [2018/100](#).

²⁴⁶ Directive [2014/40/EU](#).

²⁴⁷ Directive (EU) [2019/114](#).

²⁴⁸ Directive (EU) [2019/523](#).

²⁴⁹ Directive (EU) [2015/565](#) and Directive (EU) [2015/566](#).

²⁵⁰ Commission v Italy, [C-481/18](#).

- Italy failed to adequately prevent further spread of the quarantined harmful organism *Xylella fastidiosa* in Apulia²⁵¹;

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *France*: the Court held that the procedural rules applicable to the authorisation of plant protection products, in particular products containing glyphosate, are valid; therefore, there are no grounds to question the validity of the regulation on the placing of plant protection products on the market²⁵²;
- *France*: The organic production logo of the EU cannot be placed on products derived from animals that have been slaughtered in accordance with religious rites without first being stunned. The organic logo of the EU aims to reassure consumers that products bearing it have been obtained in observance of the highest standards, in particular in the area of animal welfare²⁵³.
- *Germany*: the EU Regulation on shipments of waste²⁵⁴ does not apply to shipment mixtures of animal by-products and other substances transported between Member States²⁵⁵;
- *The Netherlands*: the meat after slaughter must be chilled in the slaughterhouse until it has reached a temperature throughout of 7 °C before being loaded into a refrigerated truck²⁵⁶
- *United Kingdom*: the marketing authorisation relied on in support of an application for a supplementary protection certificate concerning a new formulation of an old active ingredient, cannot be regarded as being the first marketing authorisation for the product concerned as a medicinal product. This is the case where that active ingredient has already been the subject of a marketing authorisation as an active ingredient.²⁵⁷ |

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- a) Monitoring the timely and correct implementation of Directives on:
 - the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products²⁵⁸;
 - the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare²⁵⁹;
- b) Following up on enforcement by national authorities of EU rules in the plant health sector, in particular the monitoring of cases of *Xylella fastidiosa*;
- c) Following up on enforcement by national authorities of EU rules on pesticides and their sustainable use²⁶⁰ and on animal welfare issues. |

²⁵¹ Commission v Italy, [C-443/18](#)

²⁵² Procureur de la République v Blaise and Others, [C-616/17](#).

²⁵³ Oeuvre d'assistance aux bêtes d'abattoirs, [C-497/17](#) and Court press release [15/19](#).

²⁵⁴ Regulation (EC) No [1013/2006](#).

²⁵⁵ ReFood GmbH & Co. KG v Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen, [C-634/17](#).

²⁵⁶ T. Boer & Zonen BV v Staatssecretaris van Economische Zaken, [C-98/18](#).

²⁵⁷ Abraxis Bioscience, [C-443/17](#).

²⁵⁸ Directive [2014/40/EU](#).

²⁵⁹ Directive [2011/24/EU](#).

²⁶⁰ Directive [2009/128/EC](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)

The Commission received 382 complaints from members of the public concerning the internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs in 2019, compared with 627 in 2018 and 476 in 2017.

2. Public complaints open at year-end

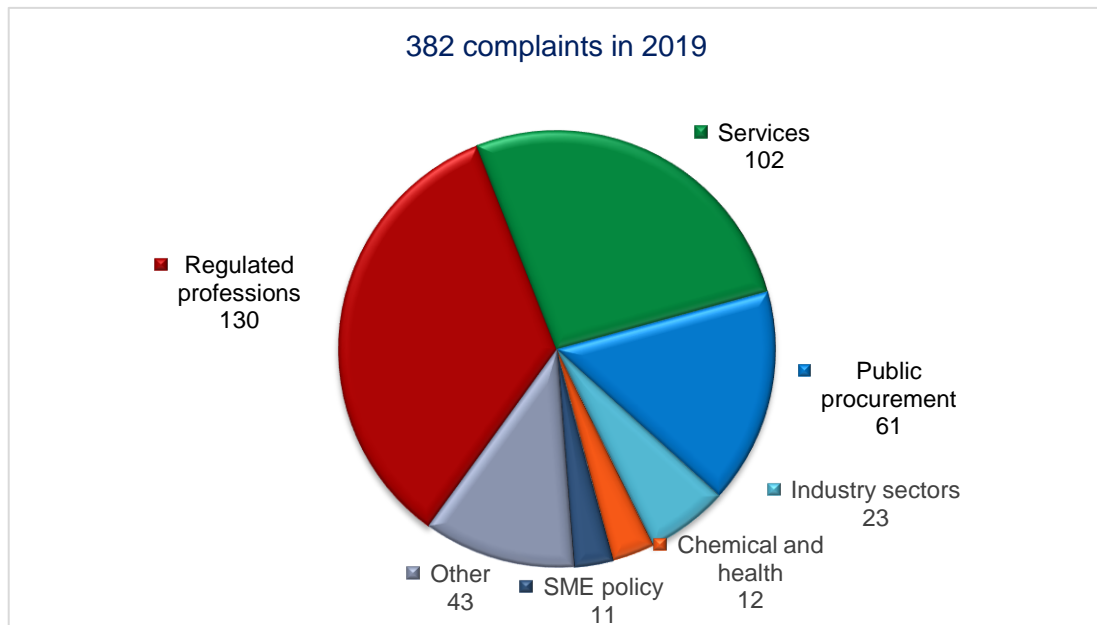
733 ► Complaints open at end-2018

382 ► New complaints registered in 2019

682 ► Complaints handled in 2019

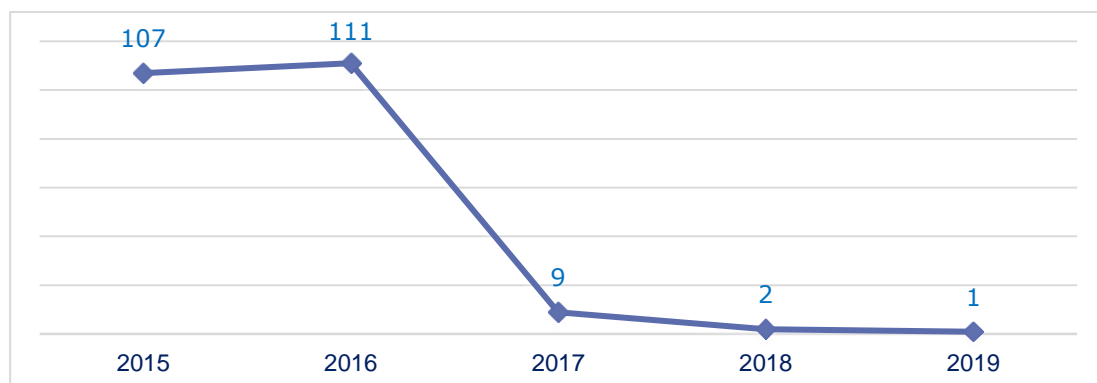
 = 433 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints register in 2019: main policy sectors



II. EU PILOT

1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

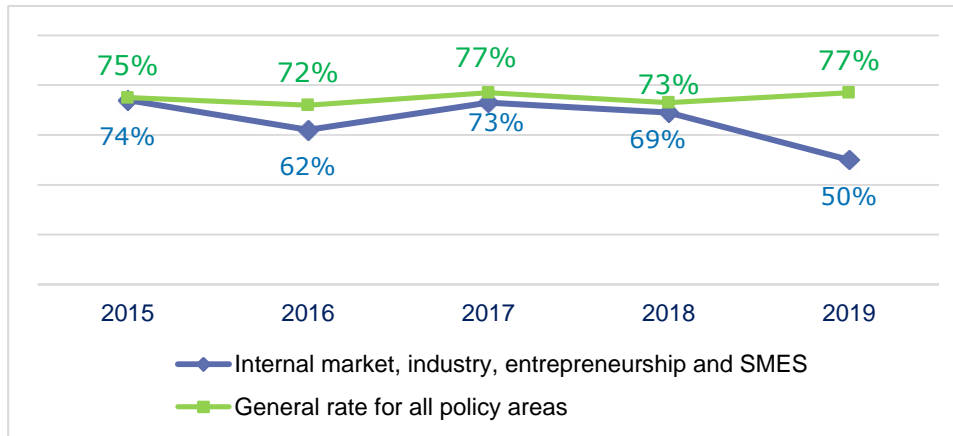
At the end of 2019, 34 EU Pilot files remained open.

Internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs

3. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors

In 2019, the Commission opened one EU Pilot file in the area of services.

4. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019 the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over:

- points of single contact in services²⁶¹.
- recognition of professional qualifications²⁶².
- public procurement and concessions²⁶³.
- Penalty systems for industry sectors²⁶⁴.

²⁶¹ Directive [2006/123/EC](#) and Directive [2005/36/EC](#), as amended by Directive [2013/55/EU](#).

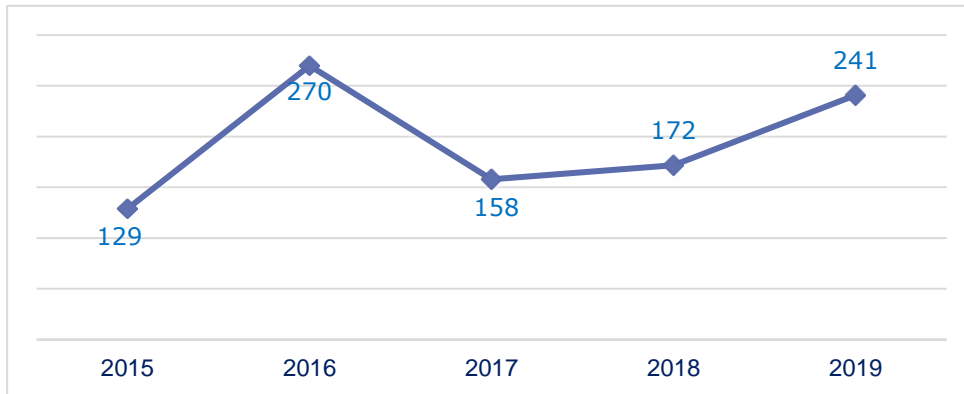
²⁶² Directive [2005/36/EC](#), as amended by Directive [2013/55/EU](#).

²⁶³ Directives [2014/23/EU](#), [2014/24/EU](#) and [2014/25/EU](#).

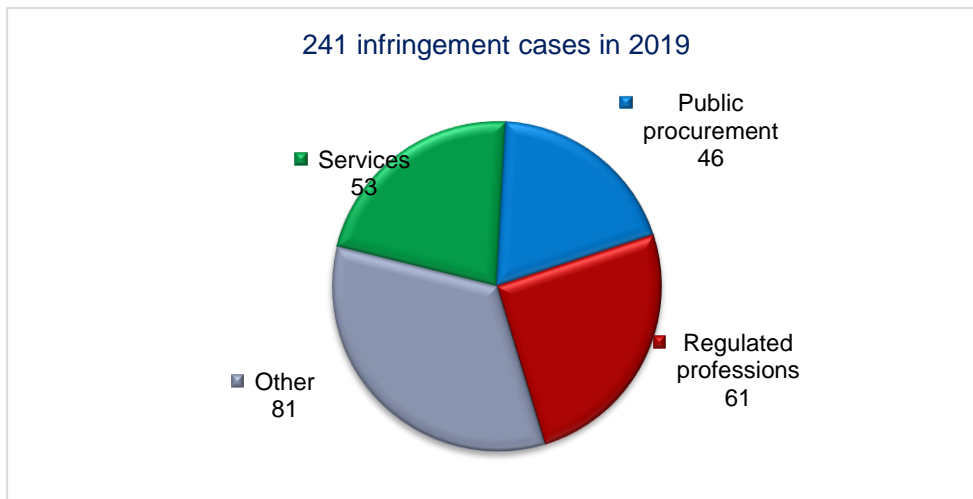
²⁶⁴ Regulations [2016/424](#), [2016/425](#) and [2016/426](#).

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

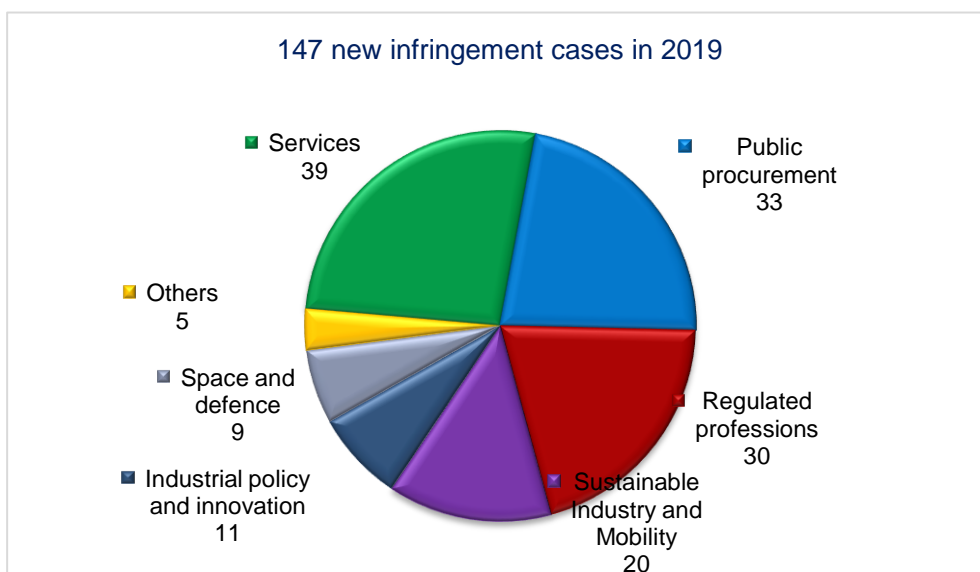
1. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019



2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

a) The Commission opened 147 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Sweden: non-conformity of national legislation with EU rules on public procurement and concessions²⁶⁵;
- Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Portugal: non-conformity of national legislation with EU rules on public procurement and concessions²⁶⁶;
- Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom: failure to award authorisations and concessions in the hydroelectric power sector in line with the Services Directive and public procurement rules²⁶⁷;
- Bulgaria: a national law provision that defines the duration for the temporary cross-border provision of services²⁶⁸;
- Bulgaria: restrictions on the temporary cross-border provision of private security services²⁶⁹;
- Germany: rules on fixed prices for prescription medicines negatively affect the sale of products by pharmacies established in other EU Member States in violation of Articles 34 and 36 TFEU ²⁷⁰;
- Germany: restrictions on the import of coffee in violation of the principle of the free movement of goods²⁷¹;
- Germany: non-conformity of national law with EU public procurement rules, forbidding health insurance funds to use procurement procedures to obtain assistive medical devices²⁷²;
- Germany: Application of the Directive on Mobile Air-Conditioning;²⁷³
- Greece: national legislation and administrative practice not complying with EU rules on recognition of professional qualifications ²⁷⁴.
- Greece: the duration of the process for recognition of qualifications from other Member States²⁷⁵.
- Croatia: restrictions for lawyers to provide multidisciplinary services, advertising restrictions and limitations on the right to practice²⁷⁶;
- France: unjustified restrictions on providers of services related to energy efficiency, in breach of the Services Directive²⁷⁷;
- Cyprus: specific rules concerning the access to activities of engineers and architects²⁷⁸;
- The Netherlands: Dutch housing authorities are in breach of EU public procurement rules, as they are not considered as contracting authorities²⁷⁹;

²⁶⁵ [INF/19/6304](#), [MEMO/19/462](#); Directives [2014/24/EU](#), [2014/25/EU](#) and [2014/23/EU](#).

²⁶⁶ [INF/19/5950](#); Directives [2014/24/EU](#), [2014/25/EU](#) and [2014/23/EU](#).

²⁶⁷ [IP/19/1477](#); Directives [2006/123/EC](#) and [2014/23/EU](#).

²⁶⁸ [INF 19/4251](#), Directive [2006/123/EC](#) and Article [56](#) TFEU.

²⁶⁹ [INF 19/4251](#), Article [56](#) TFEU.

²⁷⁰ [MEMO/19/1472](#); Articles 34-36 [TFEU](#) and [C-148/15](#).

²⁷¹ [MEMO/19/462](#).

²⁷² [INF/19/4251](#); Directive [2014/24/EU](#).

²⁷³ [INF 19/4251](#), Directive [2006/40/EC](#).

²⁷⁴ [INF 19/4251](#); Directive [2005/36/EC](#), as amended by Directive [2013/55/EU](#).

²⁷⁵ [INF 19/4251](#); Directive [2005/36/EC](#), as amended by Directive [2013/55/EU](#).

²⁷⁶ [IP 19/467](#), Directive [98/5/EC](#).

²⁷⁷ Directives [2006/123/EC](#), [2009/28/EC](#) and [2012/27/EU](#).

²⁷⁸ [IP 19/467](#), Directive [2013/55/EU](#).

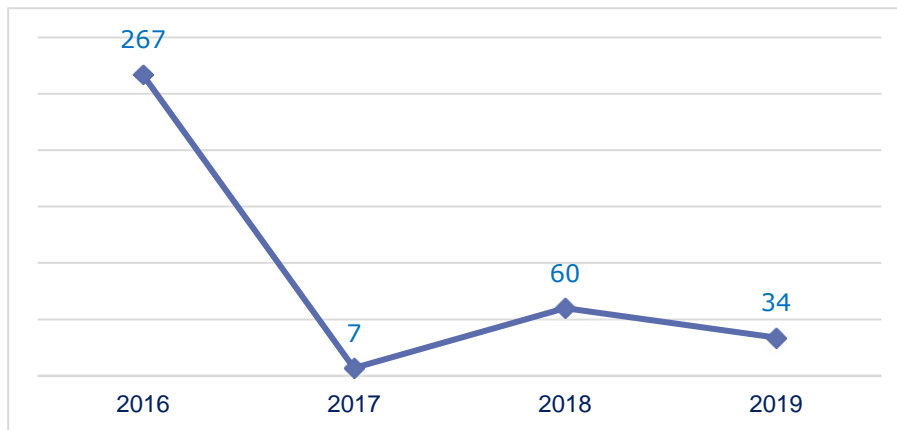
²⁷⁹ [MEMO/19/462](#); Directives [2014/23/EU](#) and [2014/24/EU](#).

Internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs

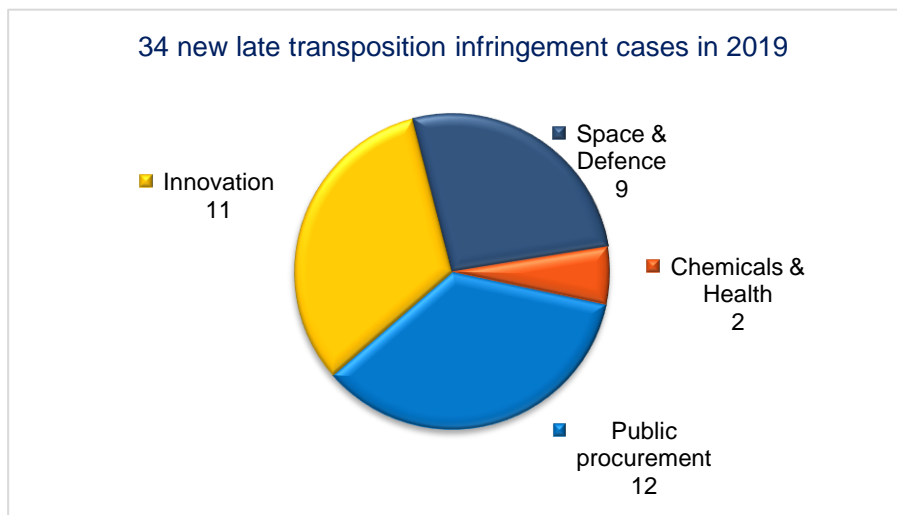
- Hungary: failure to comply with a judgment of the Court of Justice, in which the Court ruled that Hungarian legislation on the provision of mobile payment services did not comply with the principles of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services²⁸⁰;
- b) Portugal: non-conformity of rules concerning the acquired rights of engineers²⁸¹;The Commission referred 2 cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU. They concern:
 - Hungary: obstacles to retailers of imported agricultural and food products in breach of EU law on the free movement of goods²⁸²;
 - Austria: breach of EU public procurement rules due to construction without prior competition²⁸³.
- c) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU. |

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2016-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



²⁸⁰ [INF 19/4251](#), Directive [2006/123/EC](#).

²⁸¹ IP [19/467](#), Directive [2005/36/EC](#).

²⁸² Case *Commission v Hungary*, [C-400/19](#).

²⁸³ Case *Commission v Austria*, [C-537/19](#).

3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission opened 34 cases for late transposition in 2019. They included the:

- Directive on electronic invoicing in public procurement²⁸⁴
- Directive on Trademarks²⁸⁵
- Directive on the list of defence-related products²⁸⁶.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU.

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These concerned mainly:

- Belgium: incorrect application of EU rules concerning quantitative restrictions, by refusing German commercial plates for trucks transiting via Belgium to other Member States²⁸⁷.
- Belgium: incompatibility of Belgian advertising legislation in the health sector with EU advertising rules²⁸⁸.
- Germany: incorrect application of the freedom of establishment and of the free provision of services of other service providers due to reservation of certain approval services for some types of motor vehicles in favour of certain technical testing centres²⁸⁹.
- Germany: incompatibility of national legislation with EU rules on national accreditation bodies²⁹⁰;
- Spain: obstacles to the free movement of food supplements²⁹¹.
- Croatia: unjustified requirements imposed on the activities of driving schools²⁹²
- Latvia: restrictions to registration of right hand drive cars²⁹³.
- Czechia: non-conformity of national legislation with the Professional Qualifications Directive²⁹⁴;
- Austria: incompatibility of the national legislation with the Remedies Directive²⁹⁵;
- Poland: application of EU defence procurement rules²⁹⁶;
- Portugal: application of EU defence procurement rules²⁹⁷.

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

- *Germany*: the Court ruled against Germany, which was in breach of EU law by maintaining fixed tariffs for the planning services of architects and engineers²⁹⁸.

²⁸⁴ Directive [2014/55/EU](#).

²⁸⁵ Directive [2015/2436/EU](#).

²⁸⁶ Directive [2019/514/EU](#) amending Directive [2009/43/EC](#).

²⁸⁷ Article 34 [TFEU](#).

²⁸⁸ Directive [2000/31/EC](#).

²⁸⁹ Directive [2007/46/EC](#).

²⁹⁰ Regulation (EU) [765/2008](#).

²⁹¹ Article 34 [TFEU](#).

²⁹² Directive [2006/123/EC](#).

²⁹³ Directive [2007/46/EC](#).

²⁹⁴ Directive [2005/36/EC](#).

²⁹⁵ Directive [89/665](#).

²⁹⁶ Directive [2009/81/EC](#).

²⁹⁷ Directive [2009/81/EC](#).

²⁹⁸ *Commission v Germany*, Case [C-377/17](#).

- *Germany*: restricted the free movement of goods by introducing both an infrastructure-use charge and relief from a motor vehicle tax for vehicles registered in Germany²⁹⁹.
- *Greece* introduced illegal additional requirements to the training of mediators, in breach of EU rules³⁰⁰.
- *Italy*: failed to publish a notice on the extension of a motorway concession, thus breaching public procurement legislation³⁰¹.
- *Austria*³⁰² failed to fulfil its obligations under EU law by setting restrictions on the location of seat, legal form and shareholding requirements for professional companies of architects, engineers, patent attorneys, veterinarians³⁰³.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Germany* breached EU law by prohibiting commercial providers of search engines and commercial service providers which edit content of online press products, from making press products or parts of them available to the public³⁰⁴.
- *Greece*: Greek legislation prohibiting a monk who has the status of lawyer in another Member State from registering at the bar, on account of the incompatibility between the status of monk and the profession of lawyer, is contrary to EU law³⁰⁵.
- *Lithuania*: the Court clarified the conditions upon which in-house transactions concluded by public authorities are compatible with EU public procurement legislation³⁰⁶.
- *Hungary*³⁰⁷: EU law does not require a national court to set aside domestic rules of procedure conferring finality on a judgment, even if to do so would make it possible to remedy a domestic situation which is incompatible with EU law.
- *Hungary*: Minor restrictive effects, provided they are neither too indirect nor too uncertain, suffice to show the existence of a measure having equivalent effect within Article 35 TFEU. Such a measure needs to be justified on grounds relating to the protection of public health, and dispensing medicinal products on the basis of order forms other than nominative medical prescriptions may undermine public health³⁰⁸.
- *Poland*: National legislation cannot exempt commercial transactions financed with EU funds from the scope of the Late Payments Directive³⁰⁹.
- *Poland*: The issuance of a parallel import license cannot be conditional upon the imported medicine and domestic reference products sharing the same 'registration status', whether as reference or generic medicinal products. If the Member State of import can establish that the imported medicine and domestic reference product, 'without being totally identical', are manufactured with the same formulation, using the same active substance and have the same therapeutic effects, then the imported product may be granted a parallel import license on the basis of existing national marketing authorisation³¹⁰.

²⁹⁹ *Austria v Germany*, Case [C-591/17](#).

³⁰⁰ *Commission v Greece*, Case [C-729/17](#).

³⁰¹ *Commission v Italy*, Case [C-526/17](#).

³⁰² *Commission v Austria*, Case [C-209/18](#).

³⁰³ Directive [2006/123/EC](#).

³⁰⁴ *VG Media*, Case [C-299/17](#).

³⁰⁵ *Monachos Eirinaios*, Case [C-431/17](#) and Court press release No [56/2019](#).

³⁰⁶ *Irgita*, Case [C-285/18](#).

³⁰⁷ *Hochtief*, Case [C-620/17](#).

³⁰⁸ *VIPA*, Case [C-222/18](#).

³⁰⁹ *KROL*, Case [C-722/18](#).

³¹⁰ *Delfarma*, Case [C-387/18](#).

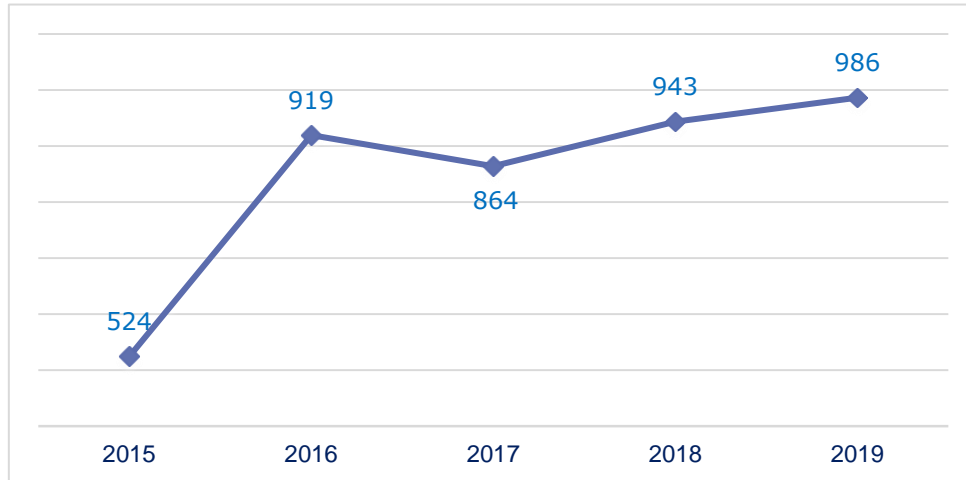
VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- The Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of EU rules in the hydropower sector.
- Building on the work already launched in 2019, the Commission will keep assessing compliance of the measures adopted by the Member States to transpose the 2014 Public Procurement and Concessions Directives. It should be noted that Spain still has to complete transposition for both the Concessions and Utilities Directives (cases still pending before the Court) and that the compliance check for the Concessions Directive for Slovenia, which was delayed due to late transposition, still has to be completed.

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

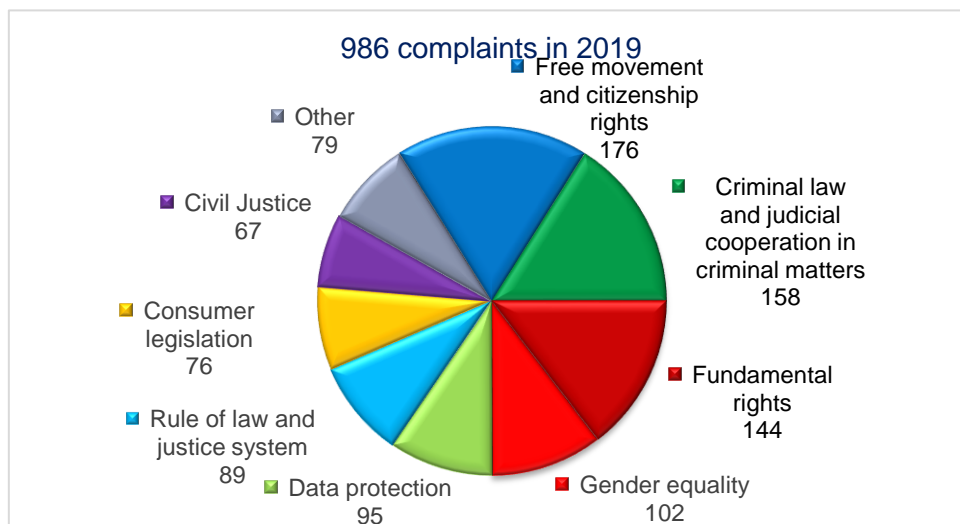
689 ► Complaints open at end-2018

986 ► New complaints registered in 2019

932 ► Complaints handled in 2019

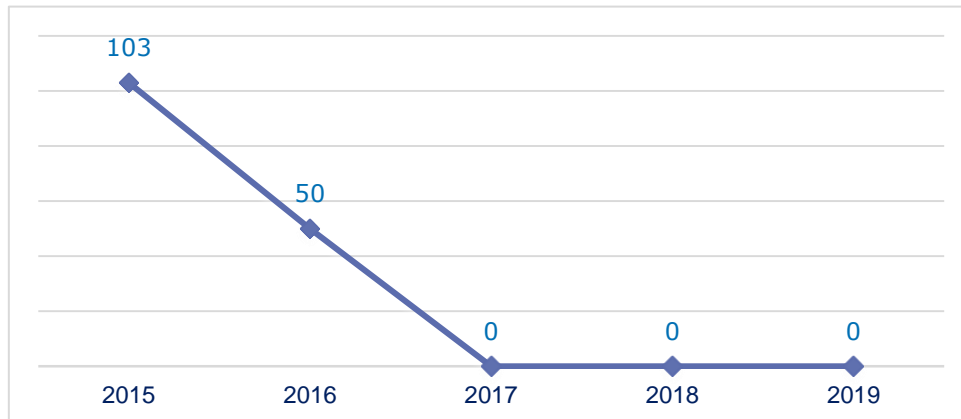
689 + 986 - 932 = 743 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



II. EU PILOT

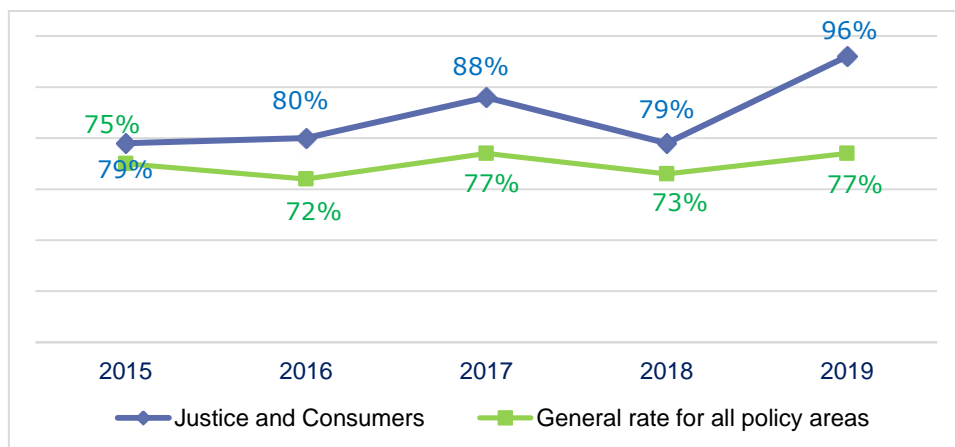
1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 61 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over:

- The incorrect transposition of the Directive on criminal sanctions for market abuse³¹¹;
- The violation of rule of law by the new disciplinary regime for judges in Poland;
- The non-compliance with obligations set by the Regulation establishing a European Account Preservation Order procedure³¹²;
- The violation of free movement rights as regards the delivery of residence documents and the rights of family members;

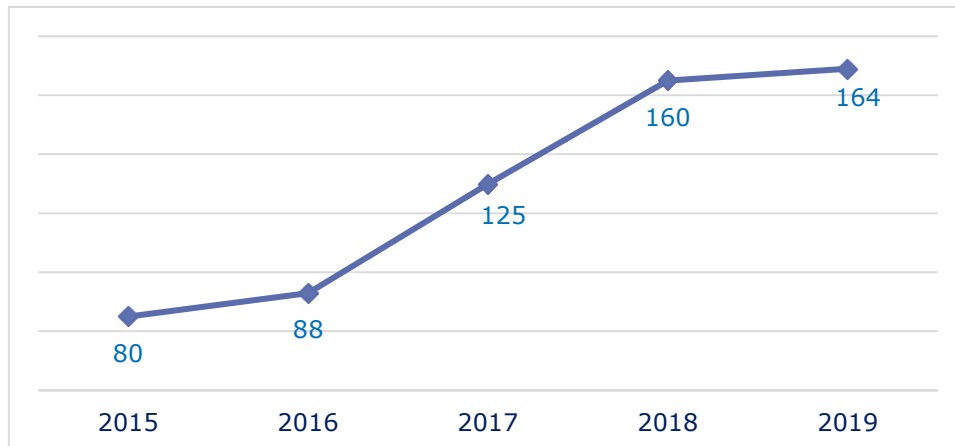
³¹¹ Directive [2014/57/EU](#).

³¹² Regulation (EU) [No 655/2014](#).

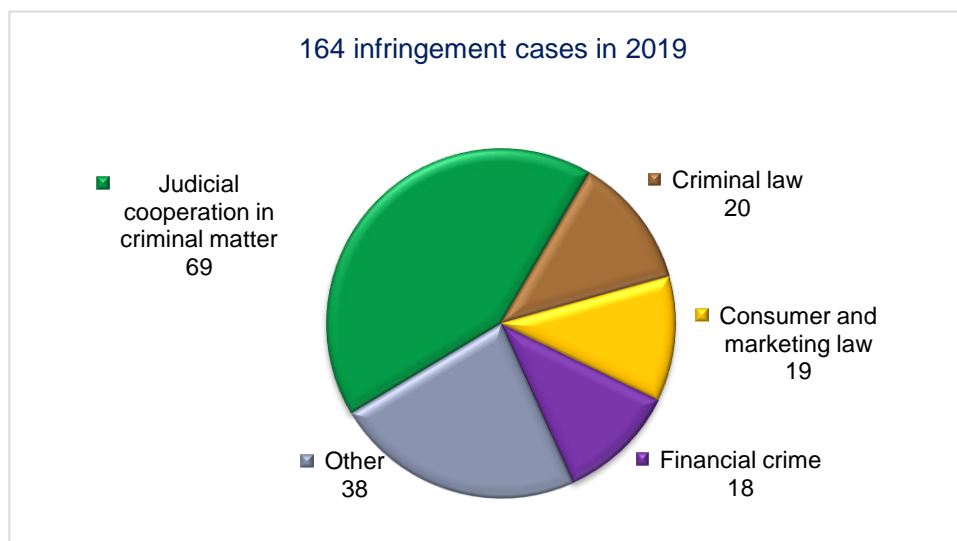
- Partial non-communication of the national measures of transposition of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive³¹³.

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)

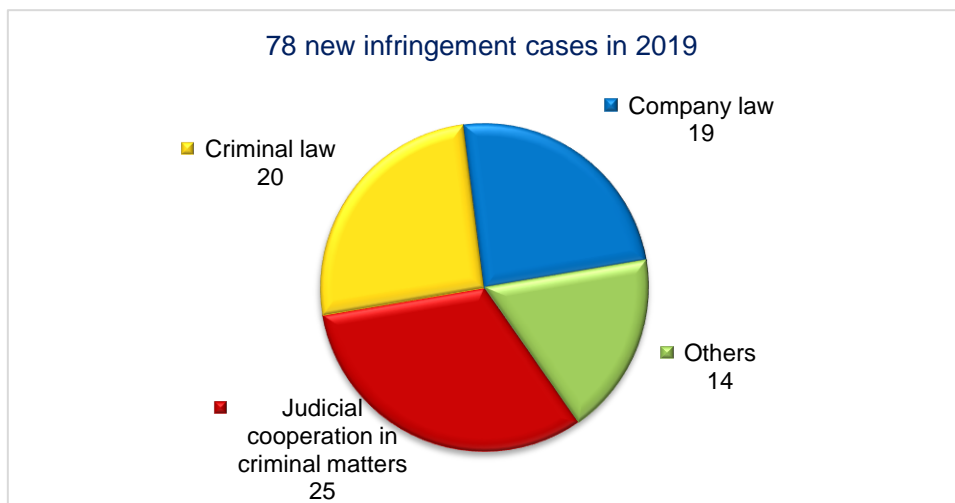


2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



³¹³ Directive [2015/849/EU](#).

3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission opened 28 new infringement cases in 2019.

These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- *Bulgaria*: inadequate protection of consumers against unfair terms in contracts, in particular in payment order proceedings; certain creditors can obtain orders for immediate enforcement quasi automatically, with very limited possibilities for the consumers to prevent or challenge the enforcement based on unfair contract terms³¹⁴;
- *France*: the incorrect transposition of the free movement Directive³¹⁵ as regards the delivery of residence documents³¹⁶;
- *Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Italy and France*: incorrect transposition of the Directive on criminal sanctions for market abuse³¹⁷;
- *Poland*: the new disciplinary regime for judges in Poland, which undermines the judicial independence of Polish judges by not offering necessary guarantees to protect them from political control³¹⁸;
- *Slovakia*: Racial discrimination against Roma children in education³¹⁹.

The Commission referred one case to the Court under Article 258 TFEU.

The case concerned the violation of the rule of law principles and Article 19 TFEU by the new disciplinary regime for judges in *Poland*³²⁰.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU. |

³¹⁴ [MEMO/19/462](#).

³¹⁵ Directive [2004/38/EC](#).

³¹⁶ [INF/19/4251](#).

³¹⁷ Directive [2014/57/EU](#); [INF/19/4251](#).

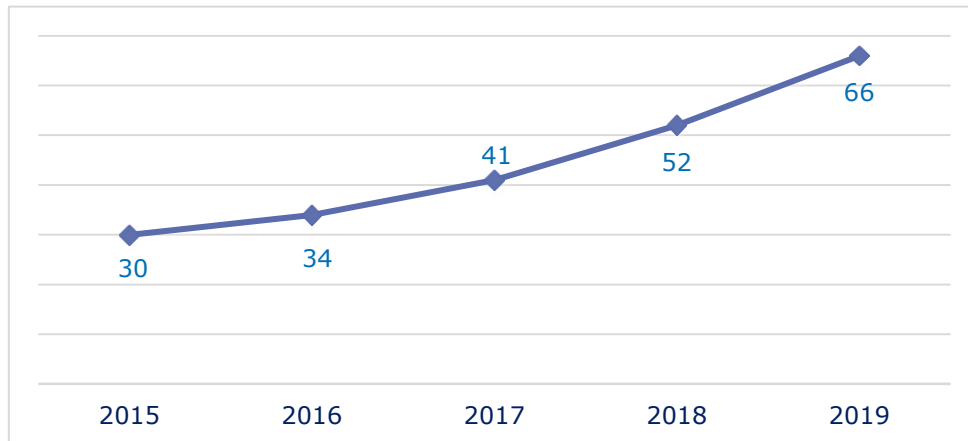
³¹⁸ [IP/19/1957](#).

³¹⁹ [INF/19/5950](#).

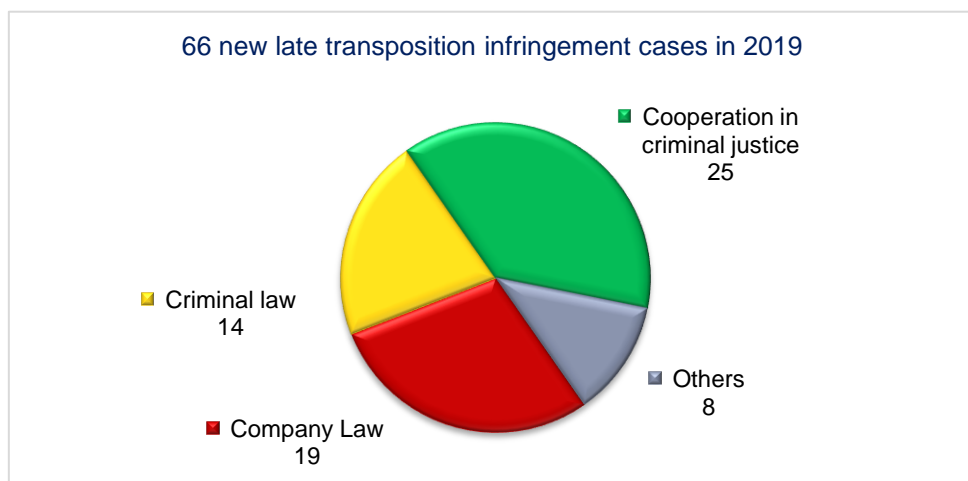
³²⁰ Commission v Poland, [C-791/19](#), [IP/19/6033](#).

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission opened 66 cases for late transposition in 2019. Among the directives concerned were the:

- Directive on shareholders' rights³²¹;
- Directive on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law³²²;
- Directive on victims' rights³²³;
- Directive on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings³²⁴;
- Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive³²⁵.

³²¹ Directive [2017/828/EU](#).

³²² Directive [1371/2017/EU](#).

³²³ Directive [2012/29/EU](#).

³²⁴ Directive [2016/800/EU](#).

The Commission referred one case to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU.

The case concerned the failure to transpose the Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive³²⁶ by *Spain*.

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These concerned:

- Croatia, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden: incorrect transposition of the Directive on unfair commercial practices³²⁷;
- Spain: incompatibility of the Spanish procedural law with the Directive on unfair contract terms and breach of Article 47 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (NIF 2015/2200)³²⁸;
- Austria and Poland: incorrect transposition of the Consumer Rights Directive³²⁹;
- Belgium: incorrect application of EU rules concerning civil judicial cooperation and requiring review procedures for the recognition of other Member States' executive measures³³⁰;
- *Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain*: partial non-communication of the national measures of transposition of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive³³¹.

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following rulings:

- *Poland* failed to fulfil its obligations under EU law, first, by establishing a different retirement age for men and women who were judges or public prosecutors in Poland and, second, by lowering the retirement age of judges of the ordinary courts while conferring on the Minister for Justice the power to extend the period of active service of those judges³³².
- *Poland* failed to fulfil its obligations under EU law by lowering the retirement age of judges of the Supreme Court³³³.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Bulgaria*: the Procedural Rights Directives³³⁴ apply to judicial proceedings leading to compulsory medical internment of persons having committed acts representing a danger to

³²⁵ Directive [2016/680/EU](#).

³²⁶ *Commission v Spain*, [C-658/19](#), [IP/19/4261](#). The Commission has decided to refer Spain and ask both for the payment of a daily penalty (EUR 89 548.20 per day) and a lump sum: EUR 21 321.00 per day, with a minimum of EUR 5 290 000.

³²⁷ Directive [2005/29/EC](#).

³²⁸ Directive [93/13/EEC](#).

³²⁹ Directive [2011/83/EU](#).

³³⁰ Regulations (EC) No [805/2004](#), (EC) No [1896/2006](#) and (EC) No [4/2009](#).

³³¹ Directive [2015/849/EU](#). Infringement cases related to the non-communication of the national measures of transposition of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive fell under the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers until the end of 2019. As of 2020, they have moved to the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union.

³³² *Commission v Poland*, [C-192/18](#), Court press release [No 134/19](#).

³³³ *Commission v Poland*, [C-619/18](#); Court press release [No 81/19](#).

society. Because of their mental state, these persons are to be considered vulnerable persons for the purpose of the Directives. Persons suspected of having committed a criminal offence must be informed of their rights as soon as possible upon deprivation of liberty and, at the latest, before their first questioning by the police. A Member State's national legislation cannot prevent the exercise of the right to an effective remedy in case of violation of the procedural rights protected by the Directives³³⁵.

- *Germany*: the Austrian system of issuing a European arrest warrant, in which both the public prosecutor's offices and the courts are involved, is compatible with EU law³³⁶.
- *Germany*: EU law does not designate directly, or by analogy, the law applicable to the third-party effects of the assignment of claims³³⁷.
- *Germany*: the operator of a website that features a Facebook 'Like' button can be a controller jointly with Facebook in respect of the collection and transmission to Facebook of the personal data of visitors to its website³³⁸.
- *Germany*: a pre-ticked box cannot be considered valid consent to the processing of personal data. The information that the service provider must give to a user includes the duration of the operation of cookies and whether or not third parties may have access to those cookies³³⁹.
- *Ireland*: although a third-country national who is married to a Union citizen may lose a right of residence in a Member State following the departure of the Union citizen from the host Member State, the procedural safeguards laid down in the Free Movement Directive apply to the expulsion of that third-country national from the host Member State³⁴⁰.
- *Ireland*: an EU citizen who acquired in another Member State the status of worker for the activity he pursued there for a period of 2 weeks before becoming involuntarily unemployed retains this status for a further period of no less than 6 months. The citizen must register as a jobseeker with the relevant employment office. Any entitlement under national law to social security benefits or social assistance may be conditional upon a specified period of employment, if the same condition is applicable to nationals of the Member State concerned³⁴¹.
- *Ireland*: the public prosecutor's offices of a Member State, such as those of Germany, which may be subject, directly or indirectly, to directions or instructions from the executive, such as a Minister for Justice, in the issuing a European arrest warrant cannot be regarded as an 'issuing judicial authority'³⁴².
- *Ireland*: the Prosecutor General of a Member State, such as that of Lithuania, whose legal position affords him or her a guarantee of independence from the executive when issuing a European arrest warrant, is an 'issuing judicial authority'. When the competent issuing judicial authority under national law is not itself a court, the decision to issue such a European arrest warrant must be subject to court proceedings, which meet the requirements of effective judicial protection³⁴³.

³³⁴ Directive [2012/13/EU](#), [2013/48/EU](#) and [2016/343/EU](#).

³³⁵ EP, [C-467/18](#).

³³⁶ NJ, [C-489/19 PPU](#).

³³⁷ BNP Paribas, [C-548/18](#).

³³⁸ Fashion ID, [C-40/17](#).

³³⁹ Planet 49, [C-673/17](#).

³⁴⁰ Directive [2004/38/EC](#); *Nalini Chenchooliah v Minister for Justice and Equality*, [C-94/18](#).

³⁴¹ *Neculai Tarola v Minister for Social Protection*, [C-483/17](#).

³⁴² OG and PI, [C-508/18](#) and [C-82/19](#).

³⁴³ PF, [C-509/19](#).

- *Spain*: the requirements stemming from the principles of effectiveness and ex officio review of unfair contract terms apply also to proceedings for a European payment order. Therefore, the courts seized with a request to issue a European order for payment must request from the creditor additional information on the contract terms in order to assess the possible unfairness of such terms³⁴⁴.
- *Spain*: immunity implies lifting the pre-trial detention measure imposed prior to the election of the person concerned as member of the European Parliament, allowing him or her to take part in the inaugural session of the European Parliament. However, if the competent national court considers that the detention measure should be maintained after that person has become member of the European Parliament, it must, as soon as possible, request that the European Parliament waive that immunity³⁴⁵.
- *France*: mortgage loans reserved for employees of an undertaking and granted for private purposes fall within the scope of the Directive on unfair terms in consumer contracts³⁴⁶. The Court confirmed that the notion of 'seller or supplier' has to be interpreted broadly, and it is not necessary that the contract reflect a person's main activity³⁴⁷.
- *France*: the prohibition on processing certain categories of sensitive personal data applies also to operators of search engines. The search engine operator has in principle the obligation to de-reference, if asked by the person concerned. To this end, the search engine operator must carry out a case-by-case assessment to verify if the publication of the 'sensitive' data and personal data on criminal convictions is strictly necessary to protect the freedom of information of internet users potentially interested in accessing this web page by means of such a search³⁴⁸.
- *France*: the right to be forgotten applies within the EU. Search engine operators have to take sufficiently effective measures to ensure the effective protection of this right, which does not necessarily apply outside the EU³⁴⁹.
- *Latvia*: the recording of a video of police officers in a police station while a statement is being made, and the publication of that video on a video website on which users can send, watch and share videos, are covered by the EU rules on data protection. Further, such recording and such publication on a video website may constitute a processing of personal data solely for journalistic purposes³⁵⁰.
- *Luxembourg and the Netherlands*: the French public prosecutor's office is regarded as an 'issuing judicial authority', since the independence of French public prosecutors is not called into question³⁵¹.
- *Poland*: In a case concerning loan contracts concluded in Poland and indexed to a foreign currency, the unfair contract terms relating to the difference in exchange rates cannot be replaced by general provisions of Polish civil law in order to preserve the validity of the contract³⁵².
- *Poland*: the lack of transparency of a contract term is an important element in the assessment of its unfairness. The national courts must examine the unfairness of contract terms. Thus, in payment order proceedings based on a promissory note, national courts need

³⁴⁴ Bondora, [C-453/18 and C-494/18](#).

³⁴⁵ Junqueras Vies, [C-502/19](#).

³⁴⁶ Directive [93/13/EEC](#).

³⁴⁷ Pouvin Dijoux, [C-590/17](#).

³⁴⁸ Google 2, [C-136/17](#).

³⁴⁹ Google 3, [C-507/17](#).

³⁵⁰ Buivids, [C-345/17](#).

³⁵¹ JR and YC, [C-566/19 PPU and C-626/19 PPU](#).

³⁵² Dziubak, [C-260/18](#).

to assess the promissory note agreement, even where national law or case law does not permit this³⁵³.

- *Poland*: a notary who draws up a certificate of succession at the unanimous request of all the parties to the procedure conducted by the notary does not constitute a 'court', and consequently, such a deed does not constitute a 'decision' but an 'authentic instrument'³⁵⁴.
- *Slovenia*: when enforcing mortgages based on a directly enforceable notarial instrument, the preventive checks by notaries cannot replace effective judicial protection. Obstacles for effective remedies against such enforcement can be, for instance, costs for legal representation, the absence of legal aid or strict conditions for suspending the enforcement³⁵⁵.
- *The United Kingdom*: In assessing whether a Union citizen who is a minor has sufficient resources not to become an unreasonable burden on the social assistance system of the host Member State during his period of residence account is to be taken of resources placed at his or her disposal stemming from income obtained from the employment of his third-country national parent following the expiry of his residence or work permit³⁵⁶.
- *The United Kingdom*: the concept of a 'direct descendant' of a citizen of the Union does not include a minor who has been placed in permanent legal guardianship under the Algerian kafala system, because that placement does not create any parent-child relationship between them. However, where the EU citizen has exercised his/her right to free movement to a Member State other than the one of which he/ she is a national, the citizen's Member State of residence must facilitate the minor's entry to and residence in its territory as one of the 'other family members' pursuant to the Free Movement Directive³⁵⁷.

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- closely monitoring the application of the:
 - *General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)*³⁵⁸ and evaluation of the application of the GDPR (Article 97 GDPR);
 - *Rule of law*, notably Article 19(1) second subparagraph TEU and Article 267(2) and (3) TFEU;
 - *Framework Decision on European arrest warrant*³⁵⁹.
- closely monitoring that Member States complete transposition of the:
 - *Directive on victims' rights*³⁶⁰;
 - *Directives related to procedural rights in the context of criminal justice*³⁶¹;
 - *Directive on shareholders' rights*³⁶².
- assessing that Member States correctly transpose the:
 - *Directive on criminal sanctions for market abuse*³⁶³;

³⁵³ Profi Credit Polska, [C-419/18](#) and [C-483/18](#).

³⁵⁴ WB, [C-658/17](#).

³⁵⁵ Kuhar, [C-407/18](#).

³⁵⁶ Bajratari, [C-93/18](#).

³⁵⁷ Directive [2004/38/EC](#); SM v Entry Clearance Officer, UK Visa Section, [C-129/18](#).

³⁵⁸ Regulation (EU) [No 2016/679](#).

³⁵⁹ Council Framework Decision, [2002/584/JHA](#).

³⁶⁰ Directive [2012/29/EC](#).

³⁶¹ Germany, Greece, Croatia, Malta.

³⁶² Directive [2017/828/EU](#).

³⁶³ Directive [2014/57/EU](#).

- *Directive on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law*³⁶⁴;
- *Directive on the coordination and cooperation measures to facilitate consular protection for unrepresented citizens of the Union in third countries*³⁶⁵;
- *Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive*³⁶⁶;
- *Directives on procedural rights in the context of criminal procedures*³⁶⁷;
- *Directive on the interconnection of central, commercial and companies registers and the Implementing Regulation*³⁶⁸;
- *Directive on package travel and linked travel arrangements*³⁶⁹.
- ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Court's preliminary rulings on the:
 - *Directive on unfair terms in consumer contracts*³⁷⁰.

³⁶⁴ Directive [1371/2017/EU](#).

³⁶⁵ Directive [2015/637/EU](#).

³⁶⁶ Directive [2016/680/EU](#).

³⁶⁷ Directive [2010/64/EU](#), [2012/13/EU](#) and [2013/48/EU](#).

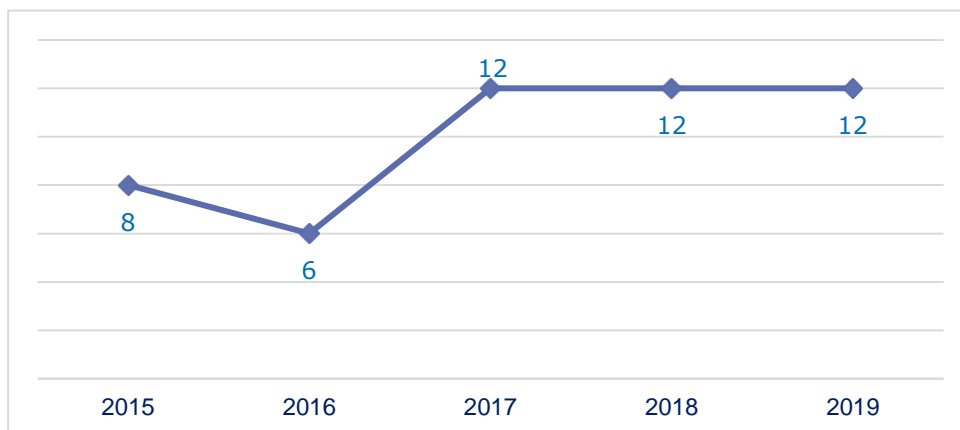
³⁶⁸ Directive [2012/17/EU](#) and Regulation (EU) [No 2015/884](#).

³⁶⁹ Directive [2015/2302/EU](#).

³⁷⁰ Directive [93/13/EEC](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

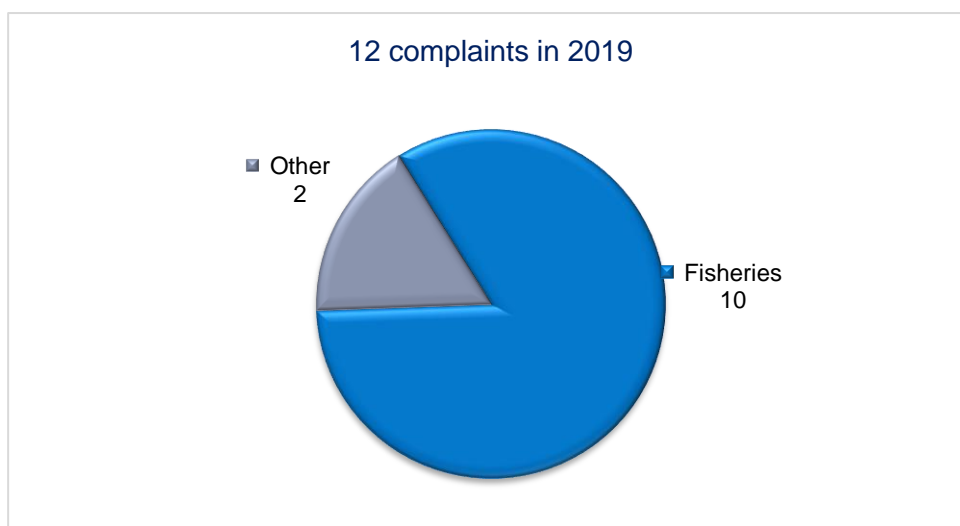
1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

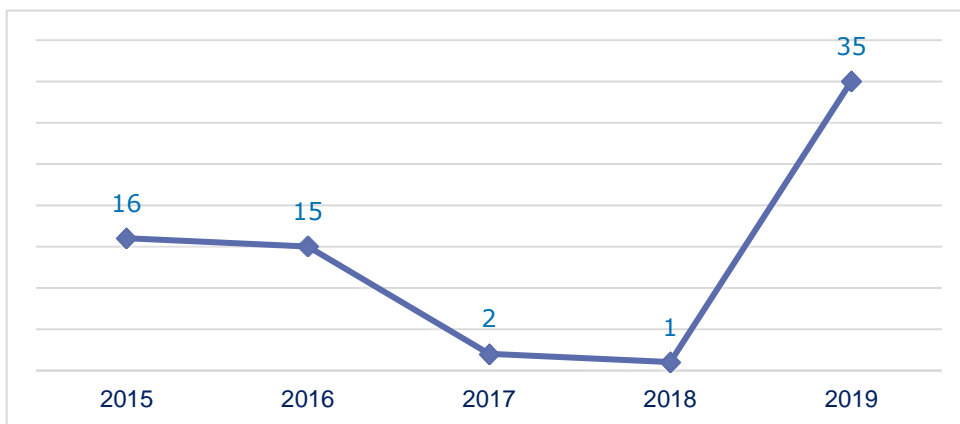


3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors

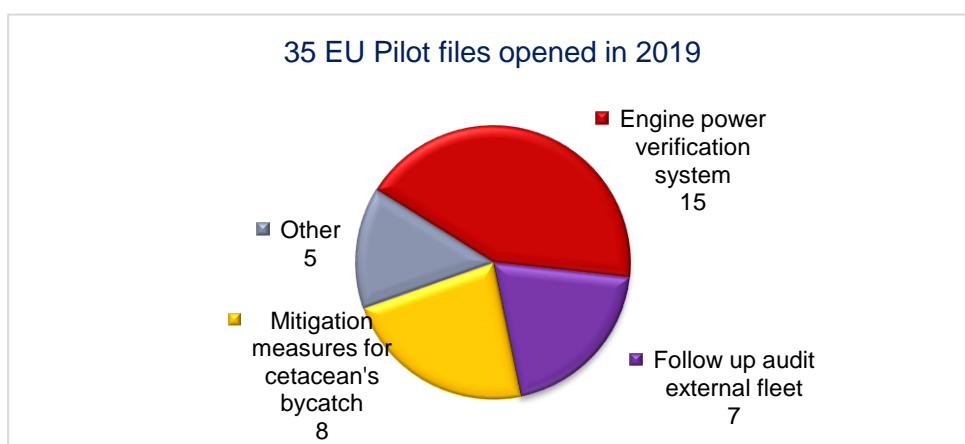


II. EU PILOT

1. New EU-Pilot files (2017-2019)



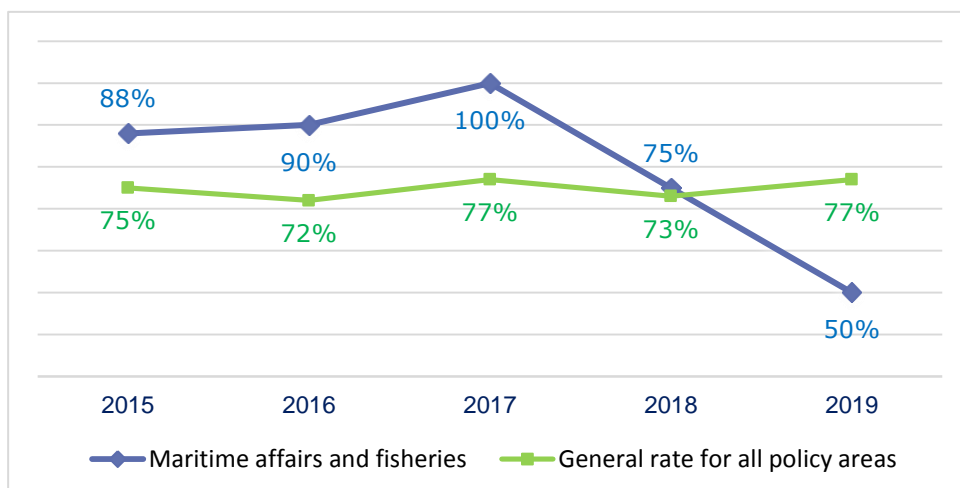
2. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors



3. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 36 EU Pilot files remained open.

4. EU Pilot files: policies' combined resolution rate in 2015-2019



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases.

In 2019, the Commission did not open own-initiative infringement cases in this area.

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission did not open new infringement cases in 2019 in this area.

Major ongoing infringement cases include the following:

- Denmark: failure to enforce several important provisions of the EU Control Regulation³⁷¹. The Commission considers that Denmark fails to ensure that all fishery products are weighed at landing and that mandatory catch registration documents record the quantities of each species present, including industrial by-catches. The most serious issues concern fisheries for industrial purposes. These deficiencies significantly undermine the accuracy of catch registration documents, which are necessary for quota deduction purposes and to prevent overfishing. In addition, Denmark does not ensure that the Commission is notified of the quantities of stocks actually landed, with a consequent risk to the sustainability objectives of the common fisheries policy³⁷².

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU.

V. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

There were no major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019 in this area.

VI. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

There were no major Court rulings in 2019 in this area.

2. Preliminary rulings

There were no major Court preliminary rulings in 2019 in this area.

VII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- following up on EU Pilot dialogues;
- following up on audits and investigations performed under the EU Control Regulation³⁷³, including addressing through action plans certain systemic irregularities in Member States' fisheries control systems, where appropriate; monitoring the implementation of existing action plans;
- following up on the implementation of the constituent components of the common fisheries policy, such as the application of the landing obligation set out in the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation³⁷⁴;
- taking action to ensure the correct transposition by the Member States of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive³⁷⁵.

³⁷¹ Regulation (EC) No [1224/2009](#).

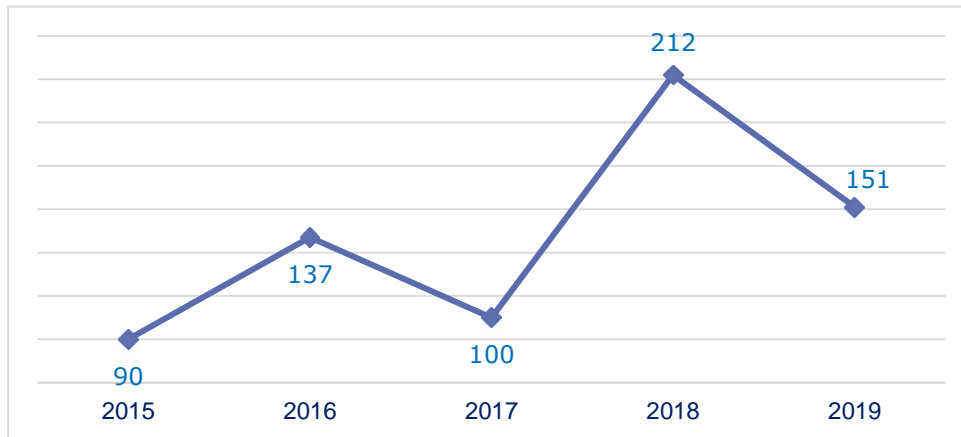
³⁷² [MEMO/19/462](#).

³⁷³ Regulation (EC) No [1224/2009](#).

³⁷⁴ Regulation (EU) No [1380/2013](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

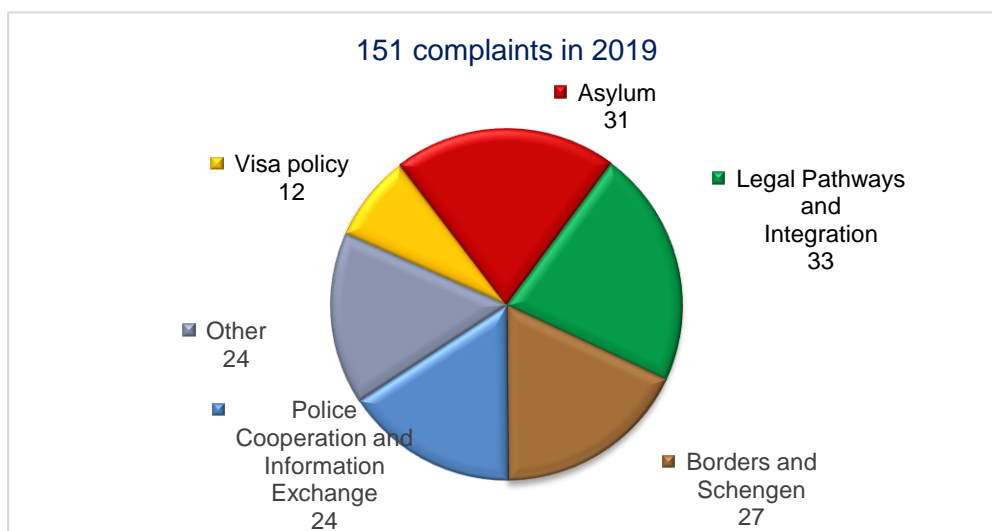
156 ► Complaints open at end-2018

151 ► New complaints registered in 2019

196 ► Complaints handled in 2019

151 = 111 ► Complaints open at end-2019

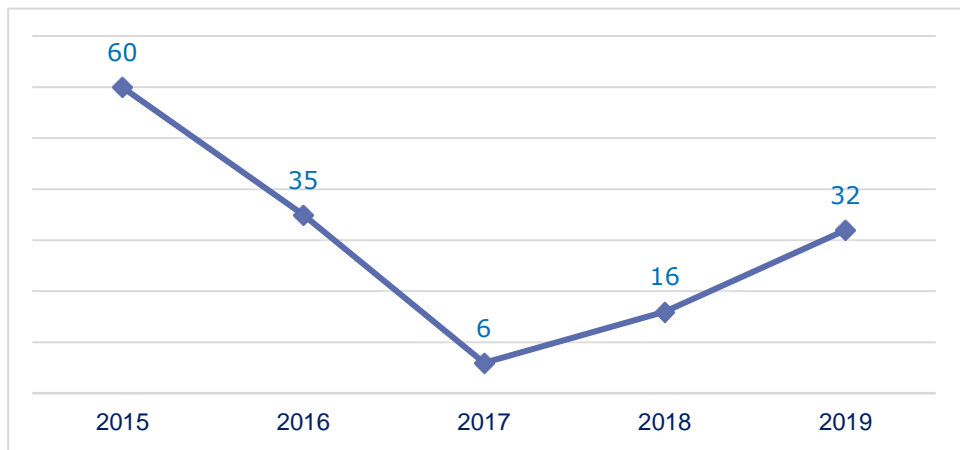
3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



³⁷⁵ Directive [2014/89/EU](#).

II. EU PILOT

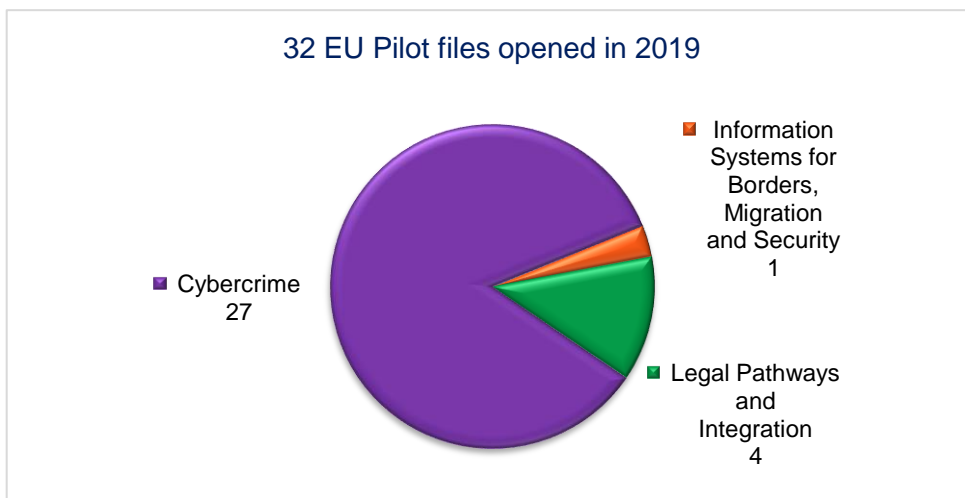
1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



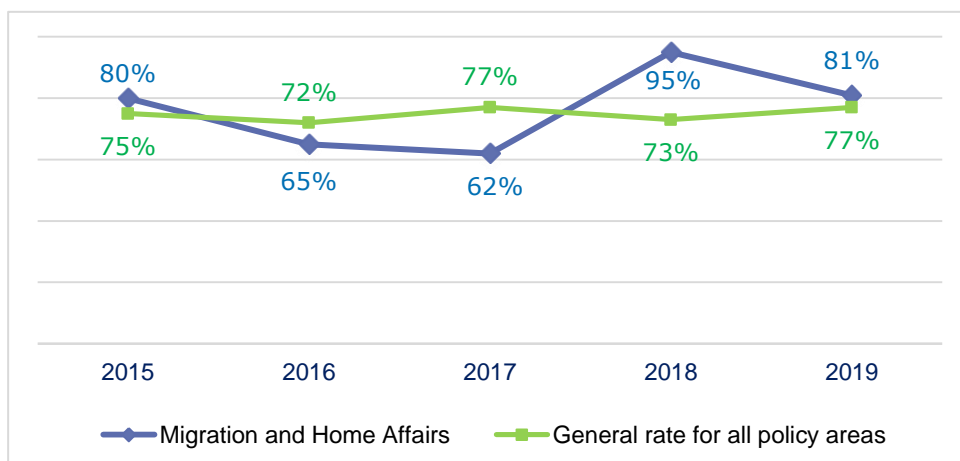
2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 60 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

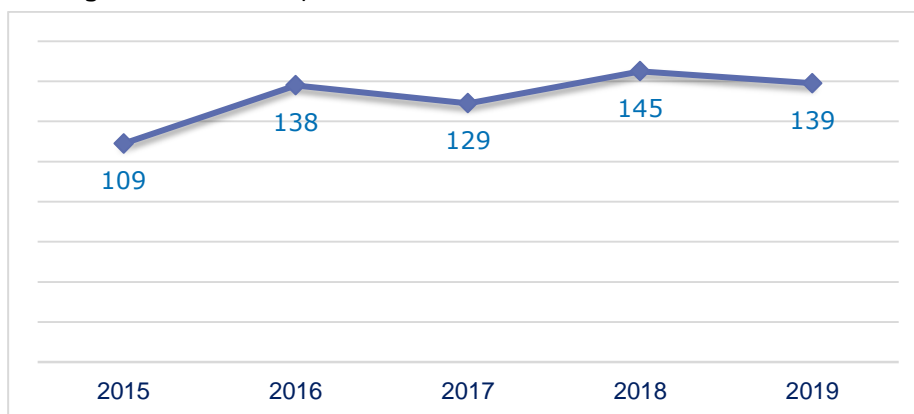
New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases regarding the:

- Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children³⁷⁶;
- Directive on attacks against information systems³⁷⁷;
- Single Permit Directive³⁷⁸;
- Violation of the EU external exclusive competence;
- Return Directive³⁷⁹;
- Asylum Procedures Directive³⁸⁰;
- Accreditation of forensic service providers³⁸¹.

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)



³⁷⁶ Directive [2011/93/EU](#).

³⁷⁷ Directive [2013/40/EU](#).

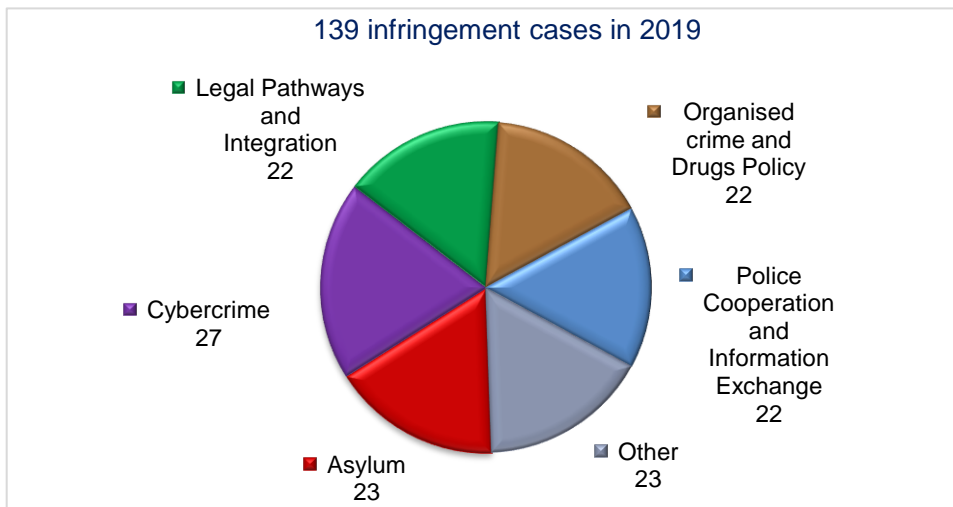
³⁷⁸ Directive [2011/98/EU](#).

³⁷⁹ Directive [2008/115/EC](#).

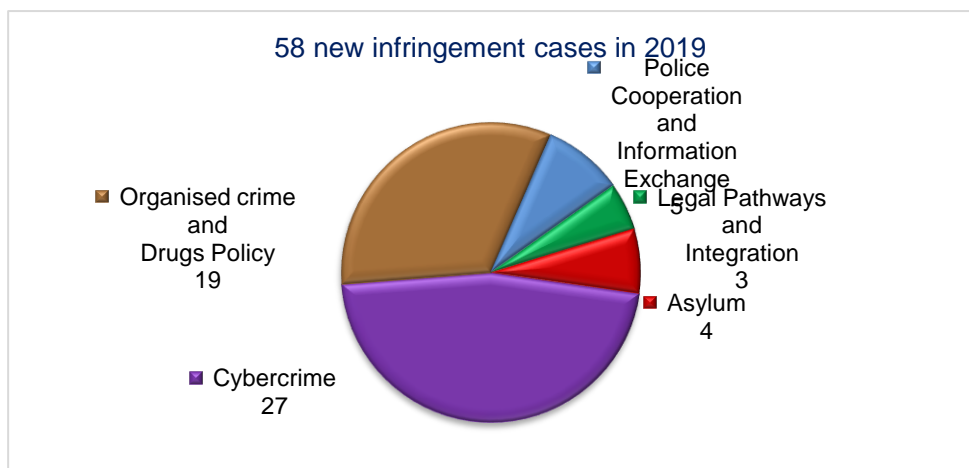
³⁸⁰ Directive [2013/32/EU](#).

³⁸¹ Framework Decision [2009/905/JHA](#).

2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sector



3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

a) The Commission opened 58 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- *Hungary: non-provision of food to persons held in the Hungarian transit zones at the border with Serbia, in breach of the Charter of Fundamental Rights*³⁸²;
- *Estonia: imposition of additional obligations on persons crossing the external EU border, in breach of the Schengen Borders Code*³⁸³;
- *Romania: incorrect implementation of provisions relating to the rejection of applications for residence permits and the obligation to justify the reasons for refusal under the EU Directives on legal migration*³⁸⁴;
- *Portugal: excessive and disproportionate fees for issuing residence permits*³⁸⁵;

³⁸² [IP/19/5994](#).

³⁸³ Regulation (EU) [2016/399](#) ; [MEMO/19/462](#).

³⁸⁴ [INF/19/4251](#).

Migration and home affairs

- *Sweden: incorrect transposition of several directives in the field of legal migration³⁸⁶, in particular as regards the processing applications for permits, as well as restrictions to equal treatment of certain categories of non-EU nationals³⁸⁷;*
- *Spain³⁸⁸, Finland and the Netherlands³⁸⁹: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on the use of passenger name records³⁹⁰;*
- *Greece³⁹¹, Belgium, France, Sweden and Slovenia³⁹²: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for research and studies³⁹³;*
- *Greece and Luxembourg: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on combating terrorism³⁹⁴;*
- *Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania: breach of the EU's exclusive competence in the automated exchange of DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data³⁹⁵;*
- *Italy, Slovenia³⁹⁶, Bulgaria and Portugal³⁹⁷: incorrect implementation of the Directive on Attacks against Information Systems³⁹⁸;*
- *Hungary, Poland and Slovenia: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals as beneficiaries of international protection³⁹⁹;*
- *Bulgaria and Spain: non-communication of national measures transposing the Asylum Procedures Directive⁴⁰⁰;*
- *Lithuania⁴⁰¹ and Slovenia⁴⁰²: non-communication of national measures transposing the Reception Conditions Directive⁴⁰³;*
- *Bulgaria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Croatia, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Malta, Lithuania, Sweden, Slovakia, Romania, Austria, Estonia, Greece, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia: incorrect transposition of the Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children⁴⁰⁴.*

³⁸⁵ [INF/19/4251](#).

³⁸⁶ Directive [2011/98/EU](#); Directive [2003/86/EC](#), Directive [2003/109/EC](#), Directive [2009/50/EC](#), Directive [2014/36/EU](#), Directive [2014/66/EU](#).

³⁸⁷ [INF/19/4251](#).

³⁸⁸ [MEMO/19/462](#).

³⁸⁹ [MEMO/19/1472](#).

³⁹⁰ Directive (EU) [2016/681](#).

³⁹¹ [MEMO/19/462](#).

³⁹² [INF/19/4251](#).

³⁹³ Directive [2016/801/EU](#).

³⁹⁴ Directive (EU) [2017/541](#); [INF/19/4251](#).

³⁹⁵ [INF/19/5950](#).

³⁹⁶ [INF/19/4251](#).

³⁹⁷ [INF/19/5950](#).

³⁹⁸ Directive [2013/40/EU](#).

³⁹⁹ Directive [2011/95/EU](#); [MEMO/19/462](#)

⁴⁰⁰ Directive [2013/32/EU](#); [INF/19/4251](#)

⁴⁰¹ [INF/19/4251](#)

⁴⁰² [INF/19/5950](#)

⁴⁰³ Directive [2013/33/EU](#).

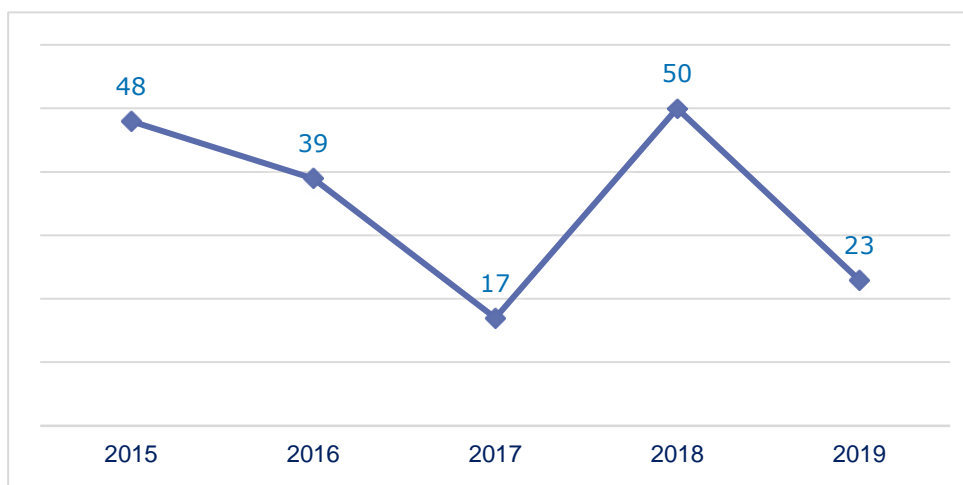
⁴⁰⁴ Directive [2011/93/EU](#), [MEMO/19/462](#) [INF/19/4251](#) and [INF/19/5950](#).

Migration and home affairs

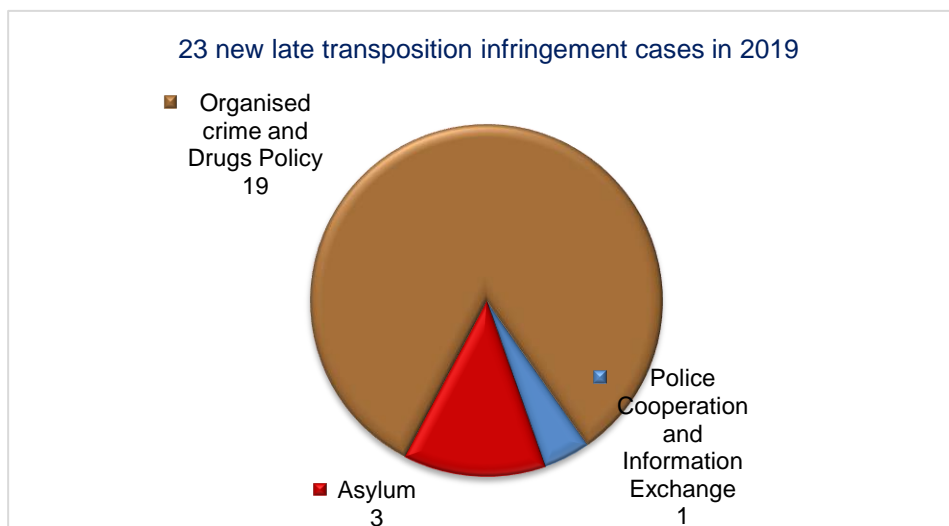
- b) The Commission referred two cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU. They concern:
- Hungary: exclusion of non-EU nationals with long-term resident status from exercising the veterinary profession, in breach of EU legislation on long-term residence ⁴⁰⁵;
 - Hungary: incorrect implementation of EU asylum rules by adopting legislation that criminalises activities in support of asylum applications and further restricts the right to request asylum ⁴⁰⁶.
- c) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU.

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: policy sectors



⁴⁰⁵ Case *Commission v Hungary*, [C-761/19](#); [IP/19/4260](#).

⁴⁰⁶ Case *Commission v Hungary*, [C-821/19](#); [IP/19/4260](#).

3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

- a) The Commission opened 23 cases for late transposition in 2019. They concern the:
- *Psychoactive Substances Directive (EU)*⁴⁰⁷;
 - *Illicit Drugs Directive*⁴⁰⁸;
 - *Directive on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals as beneficiaries of international protection*⁴⁰⁹;
 - *Asylum Procedures Directive*⁴¹⁰;
 - *Accreditation of Forensic Laboratories Framework Decision*⁴¹¹.
- b) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU.]

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These concerned:

- Belgium, Czechia, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia: non-communication of national measures transposing the Seasonal Workers Directive⁴¹²;
- Greece and the Netherlands: disproportionate charges for the issuance of residence permits;
- Poland and Slovenia: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals as beneficiaries of international protection⁴¹³;
- Cyprus, Spain and Poland: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for research and studies⁴¹⁴;
- Greece, Slovenia and Austria: non-communication of national measures transposing the Long-Term Residents Directive⁴¹⁵;
- Bulgaria, Spain, France, Poland and Slovenia: non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals as beneficiaries of international protection⁴¹⁶;
- Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania and Sweden: non-communication of national measures transposing the Reception Conditions Directive⁴¹⁷;
- Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Greece, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Germany and Latvia: non-communication of national measures transposing the Asylum Procedures Directive⁴¹⁸;
- Portugal and Croatia: failure to meet EU obligations on stepping up cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime⁴¹⁹.]

⁴⁰⁷ Directive (EU) [2019/369](#).

⁴⁰⁸ Directive(EU) [2017/2103](#).

⁴⁰⁹ Directive [2011/95/EU](#).

⁴¹⁰ Directive [2013/32/EU](#).

⁴¹¹ Framework Decision [2009/905/JHA](#).

⁴¹² Directive [2014/36/EU](#).

⁴¹³ Directive [2011/95/EU](#) ; [MEMO/19/462](#)

⁴¹⁴ Directive [2016/801/EU](#).

⁴¹⁵ Directive [2011/51/EU](#).

⁴¹⁶ Directive [2011/95/EU](#); [INF/19/4251](#).

⁴¹⁷ Directive [2013/33/EU](#); [INF/19/4251](#).

⁴¹⁸ Directive [2013/32/EU](#).

⁴¹⁹ Council Decisions [2008/615/JHA](#) and [2008/616/JHA](#).

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings⁴²⁰

There were no major Court rulings in 2019 in this area.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Belgium*: if within 6 months the national authorities have not decided on the application for family reunification, they cannot automatically issue a residence permit to the applicant as they have to establish whether the applicant meets the requirements for residence in the host Member State in accordance with EU law⁴²¹.
- *Belgium*: in case of serious breaches of the rules of the accommodation centres, as well as violent behaviour by an applicant, a Member State cannot provide for a sanction consisting in the withdrawal, even temporary, of material reception conditions relating to housing, food or clothing in so far as it would have the effect of depriving the applicant of the possibility of meeting his or her most basic needs⁴²².
- *Czechia and Belgium*: The formal recognition of the status of refugee implies that the refugee concerned is a beneficiary of international protection for the purpose of the Qualification Directive so that he is entitled to all the rights and benefits provided for in this Directive. This Directive contains both rights equivalent to those set out in the Geneva Convention and rights providing greater protection which have no equivalent in that Convention⁴²³.
- *Germany*: an applicant 'absconds' within the meaning of the Dublin Regulation if he deliberately evades the reach of the national authorities in order to prevent the transfer. It may be presumed that that is the case if the transfer cannot be carried out due to the fact that the applicant has left the accommodation allocated to him without informing the competent national authorities, provided that he has been informed of his obligations in that regard⁴²⁴.
- *Ireland*: the fact that a Member State, designated as responsible for the examination of an application for international protection pursuant to the rules set out in the Dublin Regulation, has notified its intention to withdraw from the European Union in accordance with Article 50 TEU does not oblige the Member State with which the application was lodged to itself examine the application.⁴²⁵
- *Hungary*: Member States may authorise the family reunification of a refugee's sister only if she is, on account of her state of health, unable to provide for her own needs, provided that that inability is assessed having regard to the special situation of refugees and at the end of a case-by-case examination taking into account all the relevant factors, and that the refugee is providing the material support required⁴²⁶.
- *The Netherlands*: the Member State can withdraw residence permits from family members of a third-country national who have obtained their permits further to submitting falsified documents. The fact that the beneficiaries of those permits were unaware of the fraud is irrelevant⁴²⁷.

⁴²⁰ These rulings are almost exclusively handed down on infringement procedures.

⁴²¹ X, Case [C-706/18](#)

⁴²² Zubair Haqbin, Case [C-233/18](#)

⁴²³ M and Others, Joined cases [C-391/16, C-77/17 et C-78/17](#)

⁴²⁴ Abubacarr Jawo, Case [C-163/17](#)

⁴²⁵ M.A. and Others, Case [C-661/17](#)

⁴²⁶ TB, Case [C-519/18](#)

⁴²⁷ Y.Z. and Others, Case [C-557/17](#)

Migration and home affairs

- *The Netherlands*: an EU country may withdraw the supplementary benefit to a Turkish national who returns to Turkey and who holds, at the date of his departure from the host EU country, long-term resident status⁴²⁸.
- *The Netherlands*: applications for family reunification by a beneficiary of international protection cannot be rejected solely on the ground of the fact that the sponsor has not provided official documentary evidence of the death of the minor's biological parents and, consequently, that the sponsor has an actual family relationship with the minor, without taking into consideration the specific circumstances of the sponsor and the minor and the particular difficulties they have encountered before and after fleeing their country of origin⁴²⁹.
- *The Netherlands*: the competent authorities may, on grounds of public policy, reject an application for entry and residence on the basis of a criminal conviction imposed during a previous stay on the territory of that Member State concerned; in addition, they could withdraw a residence permit or refuse to renew it where a sentence sufficiently severe in comparison with the duration of the stay has been imposed on the applicant provided that the offence which warranted the criminal conviction is sufficiently serious to establish that it is necessary to rule out residence of that applicant and that those authorities carry out an individual assessment⁴³⁰.
- *The Netherlands*: national authorities may issue a return decision to a third-country national not subject to a visa requirement, who is present on the territory of the Member States for a short stay; such a decision could be justified if that national is considered to be a threat to public policy because he or she is suspected of having committed a criminal offence, provided that the offence is sufficiently serious in the light of its nature and of the punishment which may be imposed, to justify that national's stay on the territory of the Member States being brought to an immediate end and, second, those authorities have consistent, objective and specific evidence to support their suspicions⁴³¹.
- Austria: a Member State which granted subsidiary protection status when the conditions for granting it were not met based on incorrect facts must revoke it; the fact that the person concerned cannot be accused of having misled the Member State is irrelevant⁴³².
- *The United Kingdom*: a third-country national who in the past has been tortured by the authorities of his or her country of origin but no longer faces a risk of being tortured if returned to that country, but whose physical and psychological health could, if so returned, seriously deteriorate, leading to a serious risk of him committing suicide on account of trauma resulting from the torture he was subjected to, is eligible for subsidiary protection. This is the case if there is a real risk of this person being intentionally deprived, in his or her country of origin, of appropriate care for the physical and mental after-effects of that torture⁴³³.

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- [closely monitoring that Member States transpose on time the:
- Directive on combating money laundering by criminal law⁴³⁴;

⁴²⁸ M. Çoban, Case [C-677/17](#)

⁴²⁹ E, Case [C-635/17](#)

⁴³⁰ G.S. and V.G., Joined Cases [C-381/18](#) and [C-382/18](#).

⁴³¹ EP, Case [C-380/18](#).

⁴³² Mohammed Bilali, Case [C-720/17](#)

⁴³³ MP, Case [C-353/16](#).

⁴³⁴ [Directive \(EU\) 2018/1673](#).

Migration and home affairs

- assessing that Member States correctly and completely transpose and implement the:
 - *Directives on seasonal workers and on intra-corporate transfer*⁴³⁵;
 - *Directives on asylum procedures and on reception conditions*⁴³⁶;
 - *Directive against trafficking in human beings*⁴³⁷;
 - *Directive on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals as beneficiaries of international protection*⁴³⁸;
 - *Directive on the freezing of proceeds of crime and confiscation of assets*⁴³⁹;
 - *Directive against sexual exploitation of children*⁴⁴⁰;
 - *Directive on attacks against information systems*⁴⁴¹;
 - *Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing*⁴⁴²;
 - *Directive on the use of passenger name record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime*⁴⁴³;
 - *Directive on combating terrorism*⁴⁴⁴;
 - *Directive on new psychoactive substances*⁴⁴⁵.
- ensuring appropriate follow-up to the Court's preliminary rulings on, among other things, data retention⁴⁴⁶;

⁴³⁵ Directives [2014/36/EU](#) and [2014/66/EU](#).

⁴³⁶ Directives [2013/32/EU](#) and [2013/33/EU](#).

⁴³⁷ Directive [2011/36/EU](#).

⁴³⁸ Directive [2011/95/EU](#).

⁴³⁹ Directive [2014/42/EU](#).

⁴⁴⁰ Directive [2011/93/EU](#).

⁴⁴¹ Directive [2013/40/EU](#).

⁴⁴² Directive [2016/801/EU](#).

⁴⁴³ Directive [2016/681/EU](#).

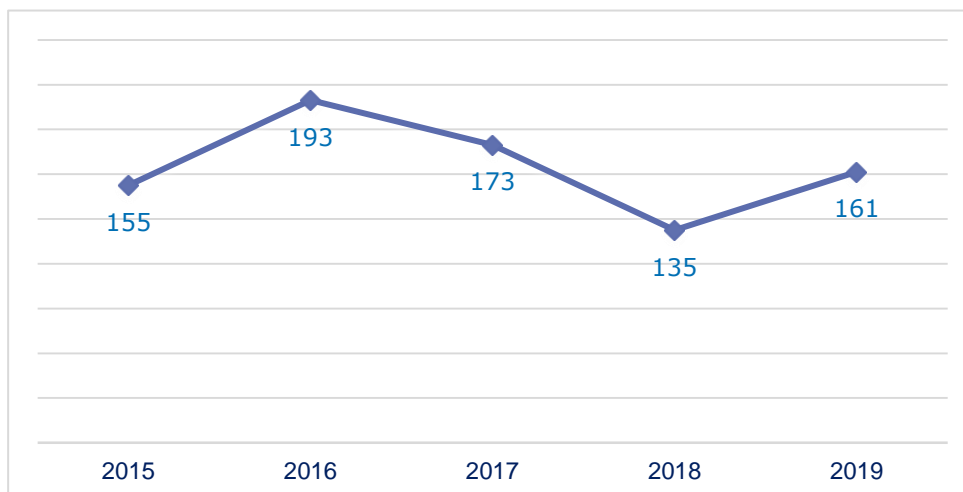
⁴⁴⁴ Directive [2017/541/EU](#).

⁴⁴⁵ Directive (EU) [2017/2103](#).

⁴⁴⁶ Tele2 Sverige, [C-203/15](#) and [C-698/15](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

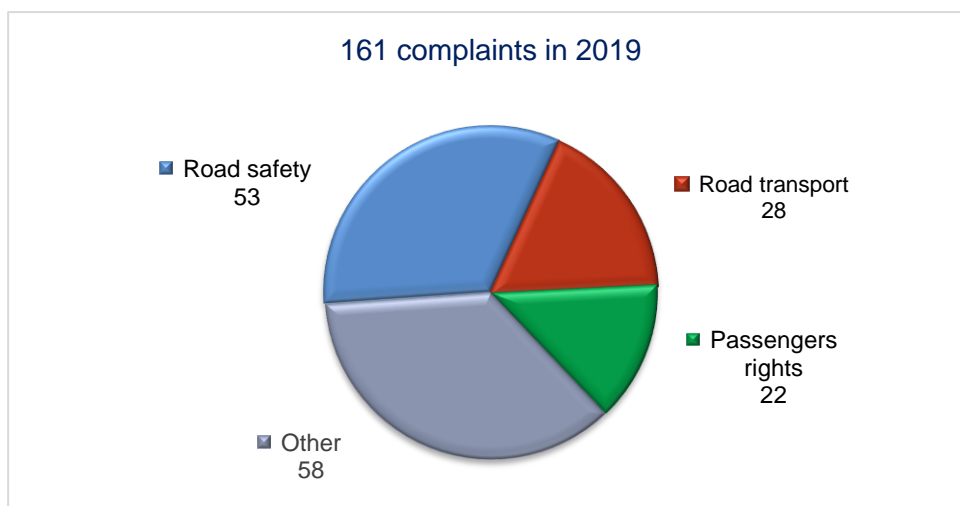
93 ► Complaints open at end-2018

161 ► New complaints registered in 2019

86 ► Complaints handled in 2019

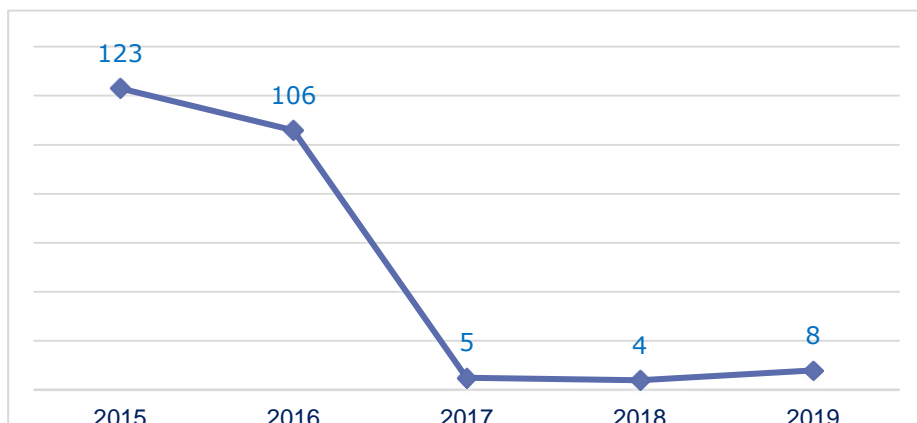
= 168 ► Complaints open at end-2019

3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



II. EU PILOT

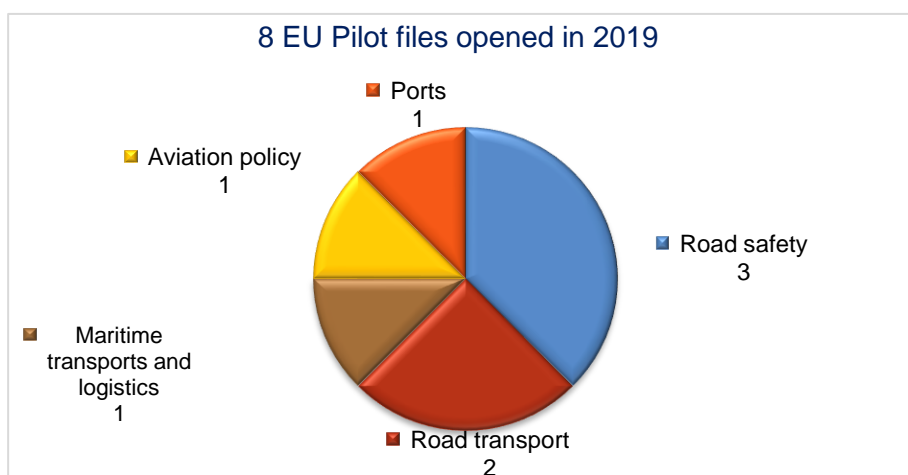
1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



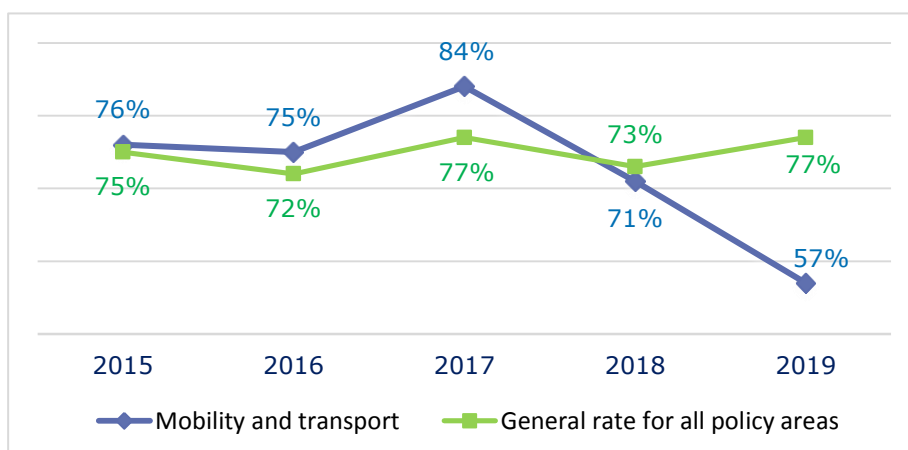
2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 18 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases over:

- Sustainable transport:
 - *Deployment of the interoperable EU-wide e-Call service*⁴⁴⁷;
 - *Information services for safe and secure parking places for trucks and commercial vehicles*⁴⁴⁸.
- Road sector:
 - *Interconnection of the national electronic registers to the European Registers of Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU) messaging system*⁴⁴⁹;
 - *Tachographs in road transport*⁴⁵⁰;
 - *European Electronic Toll Service (EETS) and its technical elements*⁴⁵¹;
 - *Minimum requirements for controlling compliance by drivers and road transport operators regarding driving and resting times and on the use of tachographs*⁴⁵².
- Road safety:
 - *Incorrect implementation of the Directive on minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the trans-European road network*⁴⁵³;
 - *Failure to submit the comprehensive report as provided by the Directive on cross-border exchange of information on road safety-related traffic offences*⁴⁵⁴.
- Rail sector:
 - *Non-compliance with the Directive establishing a single European railway area*⁴⁵⁵;
 - *Incorrect implementation of EU legislation on railway safety*⁴⁵⁶;
 - *Lack of submission of national implementation plans on the technical specifications for interoperability of the rail system*⁴⁵⁷.
- Maritime sector:
 - *Training of seafarers*⁴⁵⁸;
 - *Marine equipment*⁴⁵⁹.

⁴⁴⁷ Decision [585/2014/EU](#).

⁴⁴⁸ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No [885/2013](#).

⁴⁴⁹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2016/480](#).

⁴⁵⁰ Regulation (EU) No [165/2014](#).

⁴⁵¹ Commission Decision [2009/750/EC](#).

⁴⁵² Directive [2006/22/EC](#).

⁴⁵³ Directive [2004/54/EC](#).

⁴⁵⁴ Directive [2015/413/EU](#).

⁴⁵⁵ Directive [2012/34/EU](#).

⁴⁵⁶ Directive [2004/49/EC](#), Commission Regulation (EU) No [1158/2010](#), Commission Regulation (EU) [1077/2012](#).

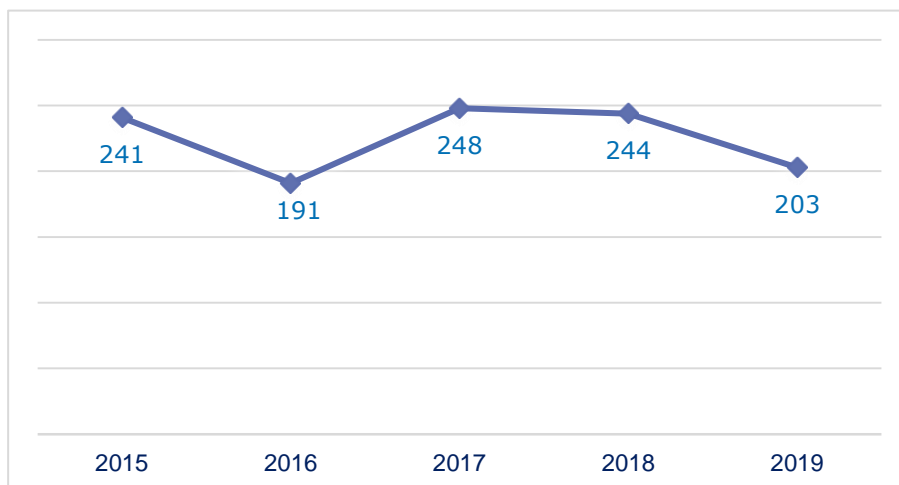
⁴⁵⁷ Commission Regulation (EU) No [1300/2014](#), Commission Regulation (EU) [2015/995](#).

⁴⁵⁸ Directive [2008/106/EC](#).

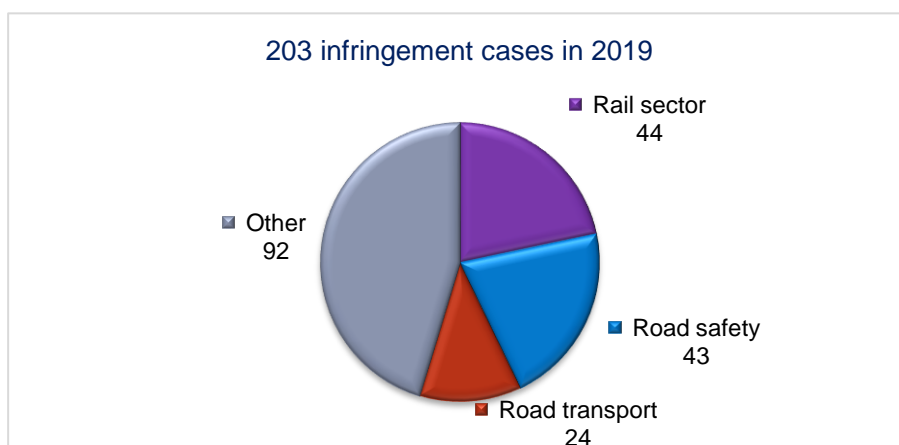
⁴⁵⁹ Directive [2014/90/EC](#).

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

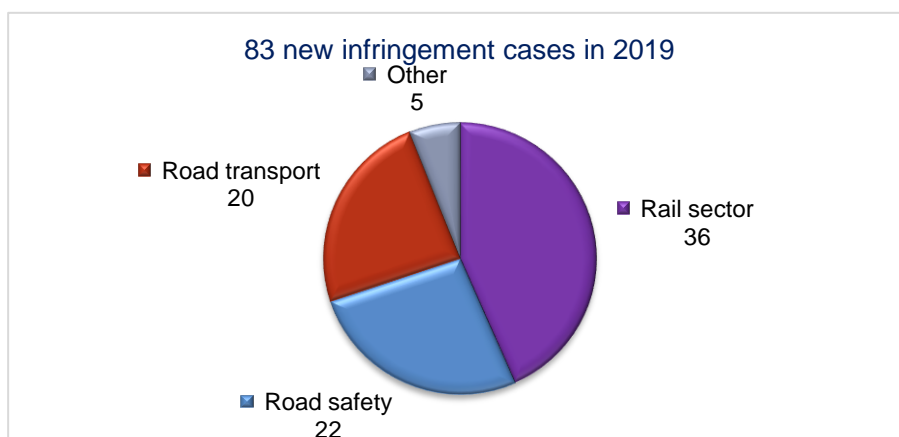
1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)



2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

- a) The Commission opened 83 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- *Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom: failure to upgrade*

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*the connection of their national electronic registers on road hauliers to the new version of European Registers of Road Transport Undertakings (ERRU)*⁴⁶⁰;

- *Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy and Spain: failure to comply with minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the trans-European road network*⁴⁶¹;
 - *Bulgaria and Malta: incorrect application of the Directive on marine equipment*⁴⁶²;
 - *Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain: failure to fulfil the obligations under the EU rules establishing a single European railway area*⁴⁶³;
 - *Belgium: failure to comply with the Directive on the minimum level of training of seafarers*⁴⁶⁴;
 - *Belgium: incorrect implementation of the Airspace Regulation and the Regulation on common rules for the flexible use of airspace*⁴⁶⁵;
 - *Belgium: incorrect implementation of the Directive on driving licences*⁴⁶⁶;
 - *Germany: failure to comply with the principles of fair and non-discriminatory remuneration for European Electronic Toll Service providers*⁴⁶⁷;
 - *Greece: failure to comply with the minimum requirements of control on driving and resting times, and on the use of tachographs*⁴⁶⁸;
 - *Spain: incorrect implementation of EU legislation on railway safety*⁴⁶⁹;
 - *Hungary: failure to put in place effective penalties for infringements related to the use of tachographs in road transport*⁴⁷⁰;
 - *Hungary: non-implementation of technical requirements and administrative procedures related to air operations*⁴⁷¹;
 - *Poland: incorrect application of common rules for access to the international market for coach and bus services*⁴⁷²;
- b) The Commission referred three cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU. They concern:
- *Bulgaria: failure to transpose and comply with EU rules on railway safety as regards the independence of the investigating body*⁴⁷³;
 - *Austria: failure to comply with several provisions of the Train Drivers Directive*⁴⁷⁴;
 - *Ireland: failure to correctly implement EU law establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector*⁴⁷⁵.
- c) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU.

⁴⁶⁰ Regulation (EU) [2016/480](#), [INF/19/4251](#), [INF/19/5950](#), [INF/19/6304](#).

⁴⁶¹ Directive [2004/54/EC](#), [INF/19/5950](#).

⁴⁶² Directive [2014/90/EU](#), [INF/19/4251](#) and [INF/19/5950](#).

⁴⁶³ Directive [2012/34/EU](#), [INF/19/5950](#), [MEMO/19/462](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

⁴⁶⁴ Directive [2008/106/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

⁴⁶⁵ Regulation (EC) No [2150/2005](#), Regulation (EC) No [551/2004](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

⁴⁶⁶ Directive [2006/126/EC](#), [INF/19/5950](#).

⁴⁶⁷ Commission Decision [2009/750/EC](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

⁴⁶⁸ Directive [2006/22/EC](#), Regulation (EC) No [561/2006](#), Regulation (EU) [165/2014](#), [MEMO/19/1472](#).

⁴⁶⁹ Directive [2004/49/EC](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

⁴⁷⁰ Regulation (EU) No [165/2014](#), [INF/19/4251](#).

⁴⁷¹ Commission Regulation (EU) No [965/2012](#), [INF/19/5950](#).

⁴⁷² Regulation (EC) No [2009/1073](#), [MEMO/19/462](#).

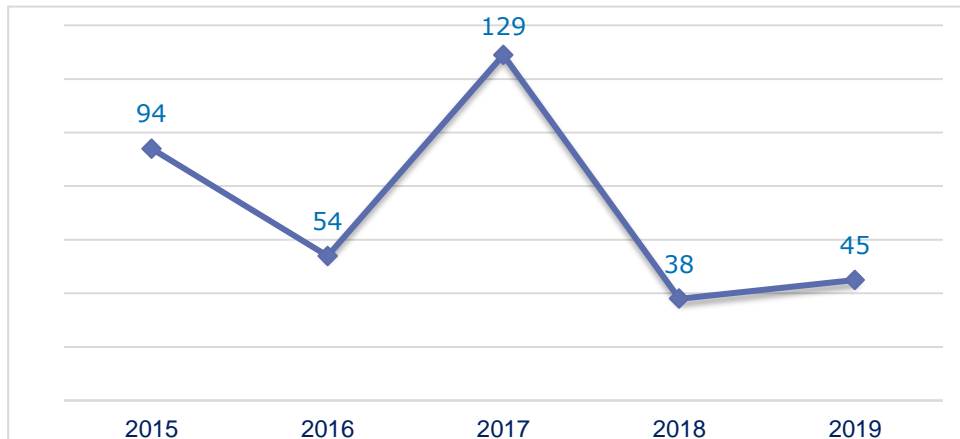
⁴⁷³ Directive 2004/49/EC, Commission v Bulgaria, [C-33/19](#), [IP/18/6252](#).

⁴⁷⁴ Directive 2007/59/EC, Commission v Austria, [C-796/19](#), [IP/19/4262](#).

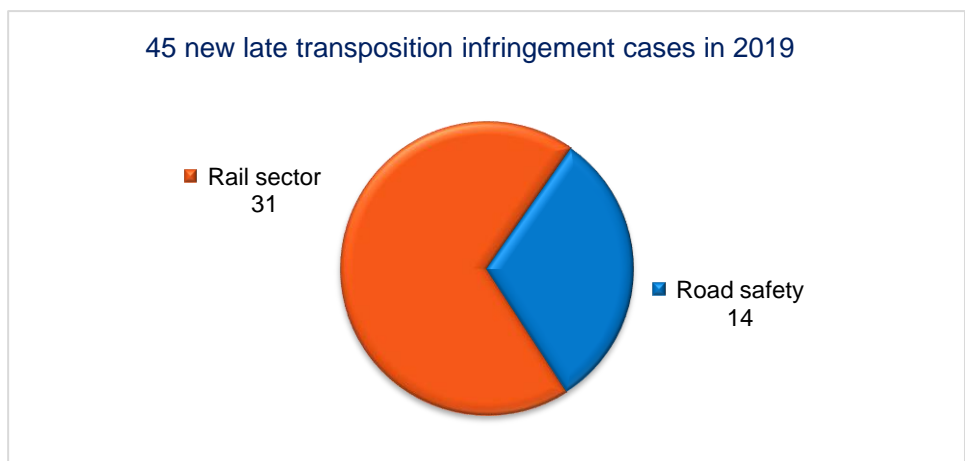
⁴⁷⁵ Directive 2009/18/EC, Commission v Ireland, [C-257/19](#), [IP/18/4492](#).

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

- a) The Commission opened 45 cases for late transposition in 2019. They concerned the:
- *amending Directive concerning the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure*⁴⁷⁶
 - *Single European Railway Area Directive*⁴⁷⁷
 - *Directive on the interoperability of the rail system within the European Union*⁴⁷⁸
 - *Railway Safety Directive*⁴⁷⁹
 - *directives amending the Directive on inland transport of dangerous goods*⁴⁸⁰.
- b) The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU.

⁴⁷⁶ Directive (EU) [2016/2370](#).

⁴⁷⁷ Directive [2012/34/EU](#).

⁴⁷⁸ Directive (EU) [2016/797](#).

⁴⁷⁹ Directive (EU) [2016/798](#).

⁴⁸⁰ Commission Directive (EU) [2018/217](#), Commission Directive (EU) [2018/1846](#).

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These included the following:

- *Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia and the United Kingdom*: failure to provide the required quality management system for operational parts of the flag State-related activities⁴⁸¹;
- *Germany and the Netherlands*: incorrect transposition of the Driving Licences Directive⁴⁸²;
- *Belgium and Sweden*: incorrect application of the provisions on access to the groundhandling market at EU airports⁴⁸³;
- *Italy and Malta*: incorrect application of the Directive on the minimum level of training of seafarers⁴⁸⁴;
- *Czechia*: non-compliance of national legislation with the provisions of the Train Drivers Directive⁴⁸⁵;
- *Denmark*: incorrect implementation of the Combined Transport Directive⁴⁸⁶;
- *Greece*: incorrect implementation of EU rules on civil aviation security⁴⁸⁷;
- *Hungary*: failure to submit the national implementation plans required by EU legislation on the technical specifications concerning accessibility of the Union's rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility, and the operation and traffic management of rail systems⁴⁸⁸;
- *Portugal*: incorrect implementation of EU legislation on the investigation of accidents in the maritime sector⁴⁸⁹;

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following rulings:

- *Germany*: failed to fulfil its obligations under EU law, at the 25th session of the Revision Committee of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail, by having voted against the position of the EU, and having publicly opposed that position and the arrangements for the exercise of voting rights⁴⁹⁰.
- *Poland*: failed to fulfil its obligations under the Directive on weights and dimensions in national and international traffic. The restrictions set on access to the Polish road network for vehicles complying with the maximum axle weights laid down in the Directive are not justified⁴⁹¹.

⁴⁸¹ Directive [2009/21/EC](#).

⁴⁸² Directive [2006/106/EC](#), as amended by Directive (EU) [2015/653](#).

⁴⁸³ Directive [96/67/EC](#).

⁴⁸⁴ Directive [2008/106/EC](#), as amended by Directive [2012/35/EU](#).

⁴⁸⁵ Directive [2007/59/EC](#).

⁴⁸⁶ Directive [92/106/EEC](#).

⁴⁸⁷ Regulation (EC) No [300/2008](#).

⁴⁸⁸ Regulations (EU) No [1300/2014](#) and (EU) No [2015/995](#).

⁴⁸⁹ Directive [2009/18/EC](#).

⁴⁹⁰ Decision [2014/699/EU](#), Commission v Germany, [C-620/16](#).

⁴⁹¹ Directive [96/53/EC](#), Commission v Poland, [C-127/17](#).

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Belgium*: The closure of an airport runway due to petrol spillage constitutes an ‘extraordinary circumstance’ when the petrol in question does not originate from an aircraft of the carrier operating that flight. It is a circumstance that could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken⁴⁹².
- *Belgium*: When a passenger boards a train without a ticket, he concludes a contract with the carrier. This covers the situation where access to the train is free⁴⁹³.
- *Czechia*: Connecting flights that are the subject of a single reservation departing from a Member State to a non-Member State via another non-Member State: the air carrier of the first flight is, in principle, liable to pay compensation to passengers who suffered a long delay in the arrival of the second flight performed by a non-Community air carrier⁴⁹⁴.
- *Germany*: An exception from the use of tachographs does not apply to vehicles used for the carriage of live animals directly from farms to local slaughterhouses⁴⁹⁵.
- *Germany*: A Member State may refuse to recognise a driving licence which has been issued by another Member State, without a test of fitness to drive, on the basis of a driving licence issued by another Member State based on the exchange of a driving licence issued by a third country⁴⁹⁶.
- *Germany*: The direct award of contracts for public passenger transport services by bus that do not take the form of service concessions is not subject to the Regulation on public passenger transport services by rail and road⁴⁹⁷.
- *Germany*: An air carrier is only required to compensate passengers for a long delay caused by damage to an aircraft tyre if it fails to prove that it deployed all means at its disposal for limiting the delay of the flight⁴⁹⁸.
- *Germany*: The system of airport charges is to be approved by an independent supervisory authority and must be mandatory for all airport users⁴⁹⁹.
- *Germany*: Exception from the application of certain social legislation covers only vehicles that are used exclusively, during a particular transport operation, for the purpose of delivering items as part of the universal postal service⁵⁰⁰.
- *Italy*: The provisions of the Regulation on public passenger transport services by rail and road, which govern the award of public service contracts, do not apply to award procedures carried out before 3 December 2019⁵⁰¹.
- *Italy*: The jurisdiction of a Member State court with respect to rights of passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or a long delay of flights must be assessed in light of the

⁴⁹² Regulation (EC) No [261/2004](#), Moens, [C-159/18](#).

⁴⁹³ Regulation (EC) No [1371/2007](#), joined cases: Kanyeba, [C-349/18](#), Nijs, C-350/18, Dedroog, C-351/18 and Court press release No 136/2019.

⁴⁹⁴ České aerolinie, [C-502/18](#) and Court press release No 95/2019.

⁴⁹⁵ Regulation (EC) No [561/2006](#), Regulation (EU) No [165/2014](#), NK, [C-231/18](#).

⁴⁹⁶ Directive [2006/126/EC](#), Meyn, [C-9/18](#).

⁴⁹⁷ Regulation (EC) No [1370/2007](#), joined cases: Verkehrsbetrieb Hüttebräucker and BVR Busverkehr Rheinland, [C-266/17](#) and [Rhenus Veniro, C-267/17](#), Court press release No 46/2019.

⁴⁹⁸ Regulation (EC) No [261/2004](#), Germanwings, [C-501/17](#) and Court press release No 45/2019.

⁴⁹⁹ Directive [2009/12/EC](#), Deutsche Lufthansa, [C-379/18](#).

⁵⁰⁰ Regulation (EC) No [561/2006](#), joined cases: Deutsche Post and Leymann, [C-203/18](#) and UPS Deutschland and Others, [C-374/18](#).

⁵⁰¹ Regulation (EC) No [1370/2007](#), joined cases: Mobit, [C-350/17](#) and Autolinee Toscane, [C-351/17](#).

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Regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters⁵⁰².

- *Italy*: National legislation providing for the automatic termination of the employment relationship at the age of 60 for aircraft pilots engaged in activities associated with protecting the national security of a Member State is compatible with EU law if it is necessary for public security and does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve this objective⁵⁰³.
- *Italy*: National authorities which intend directly to award a public service contract for the transport of passengers by rail are not required to publish or communicate to any interested economic operators all the information necessary in order to enable them to submit a sufficiently detailed offer which may be subject to a comparative assessment, or to carry out such an assessment of all bids that may have been received following publication of that information⁵⁰⁴.
- *Hungary*: A Member State is acting in breach of EU law if it imposes lesser penalties to resident road transport enterprises than to non-resident road transport enterprises for infringements to the rules on the use of tachographs that have the same degree of gravity⁵⁰⁵.
- *The Netherlands*: Passengers who have the right to hold their tour organiser liable for reimbursement of the cost of their air tickets cannot also claim reimbursement of the cost of those tickets from the air carrier⁵⁰⁶.
- *Austria*: An airline is liable for the harm caused by a spilt cup of hot coffee. It is not necessary for that accident to relate to a hazard typically associated with flight⁵⁰⁷.
- *Austria*: Workers providing services on board international trains, pursuant to a contract concluded between their employer and an undertaking established in another Member State, are not posted workers if they carry out a significant part of the work inherent to those services in the Member State where their employer is established and if they begin or end their shifts there⁵⁰⁸.
- *Austria*: The use of passenger platforms is part of the 'minimum access package' under the Single European Railway Directive, and infrastructure managers are required to make them available to all train operators⁵⁰⁹.
- *Romania*: The amount of the compensation provided by EU rules for cases of denied boarding or cancellation of a flight is not intended to compensate for damage such as loss of earnings, and that damage may be the subject of further compensation. In case of denied boarding, it is the responsibility of the operating air carrier to provide complete information to passengers on their right to reimbursement or re-routing. The passengers have no obligation to actively contribute to the search for information to that effect⁵¹⁰.

⁵⁰² Regulation (EU) No 1215/2012, Guaitoli, [C-213/18](#).

⁵⁰³ Regulation (EU) No [1178/2011](#), Directive [2000/78/EC](#), Cafaro, [C-396/18](#).

⁵⁰⁴ Regulation (EC) No [1370/2007](#), Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato, [C-515/18](#).

⁵⁰⁵ Regulation (EU) No [165/2014](#), UTEP 2006, [C-600/18](#).

⁵⁰⁶ Aegean Airlines, [C-163/18](#) and [press Court release](#) No 91/2019.

⁵⁰⁷ Niki Luftfahrt, [C-532/18](#) and [Court press release](#) No 163/2019.

⁵⁰⁸ Directive [96/71/EC](#), Dobersberger, [C-16/18](#).

⁵⁰⁹ Directive [2012/34/EU](#), WESTbahn Management, [C-210/18](#).

⁵¹⁰ Regulation (EC) No [261/2004](#), Rusu, [C-354/18](#).

VIII. OUTLOOK |

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

- Monitoring and assessing national measures transposing the Directives on:
 - railway safety⁵¹¹;
 - the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure⁵¹²;
 - the rail sector⁵¹³;
 - safety rules and standards for passenger ships⁵¹⁴;
 - registration of persons sailing on board passenger ships and reporting formalities for ships⁵¹⁵;
 - inspections for the safe operation of roll-on roll-off passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft⁵¹⁶.
- Closely monitoring restrictions to market access and development of sustainable transport and safety and security in all modes of transport.

⁵¹¹ Directive [2016/798](#).

⁵¹² Directive [2016/2370](#).

⁵¹³ Directives [2012/34/EC](#) and [2016/2370/EU](#).

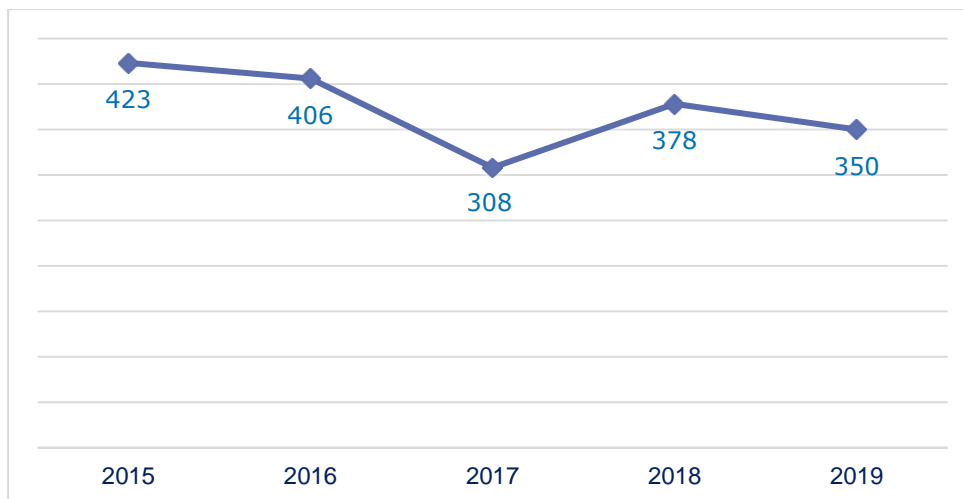
⁵¹⁴ Directive (EU) [2017/2108](#).

⁵¹⁵ Directive (EU) [2017/2109](#).

⁵¹⁶ Directive (EU) [2017/2110](#).

I. COMPLAINTS

1. New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)



2. Public complaints open at year-end

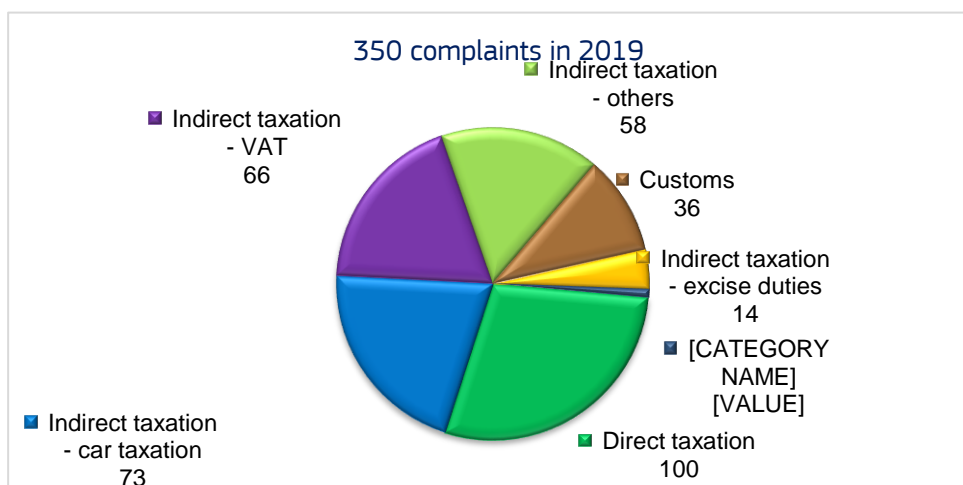
331 ► Complaints open at end-2018

350 ► New complaints registered in 2019

321 ► Complaints handled in 2019

360 ► Complaints open at end-2019

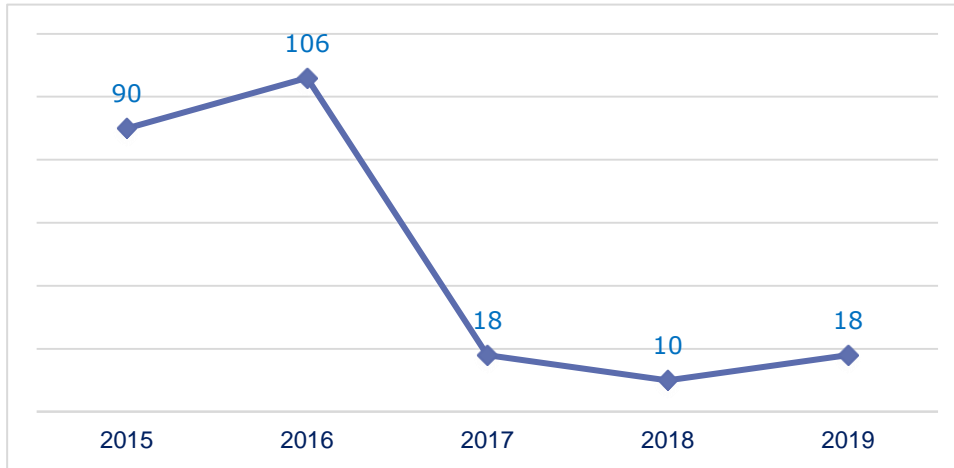
3. New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors



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II. EU PILOT

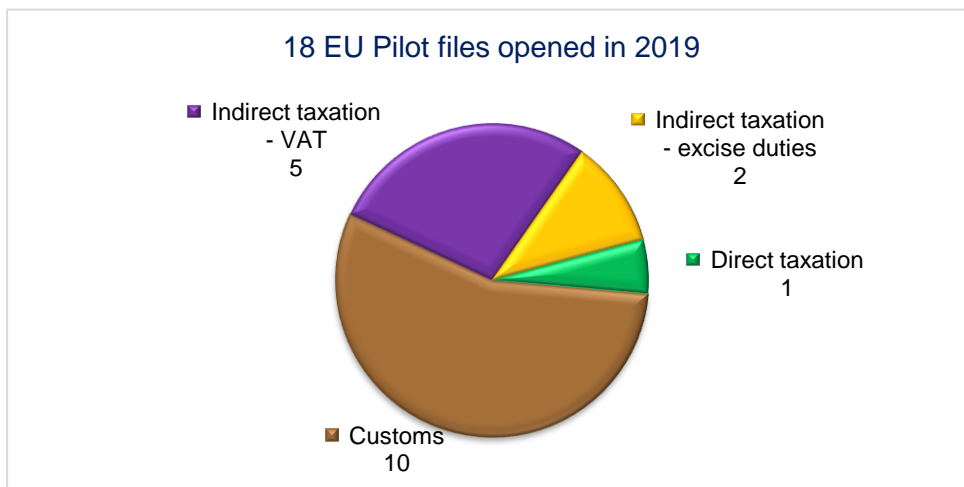
1. New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)



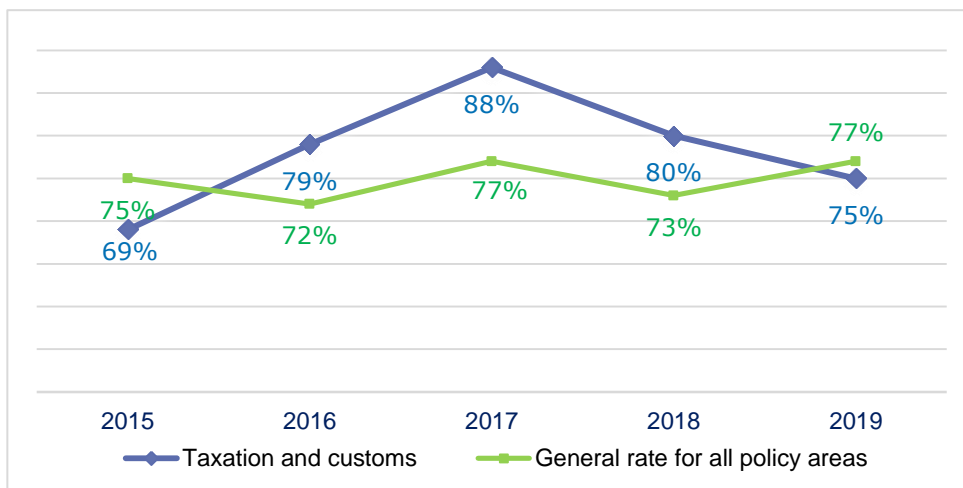
2. EU Pilot files open at year-end

At the end of 2019, 35 EU Pilot files remained open.

3. New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies (2015-2019)



III. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

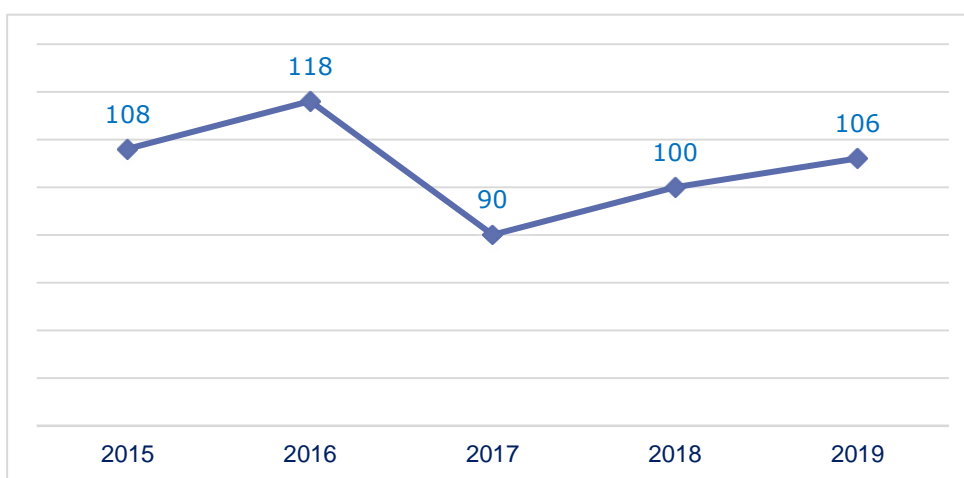
New own-initiative infringement cases

In 2019, the Commission opened own-initiative infringement cases on the:

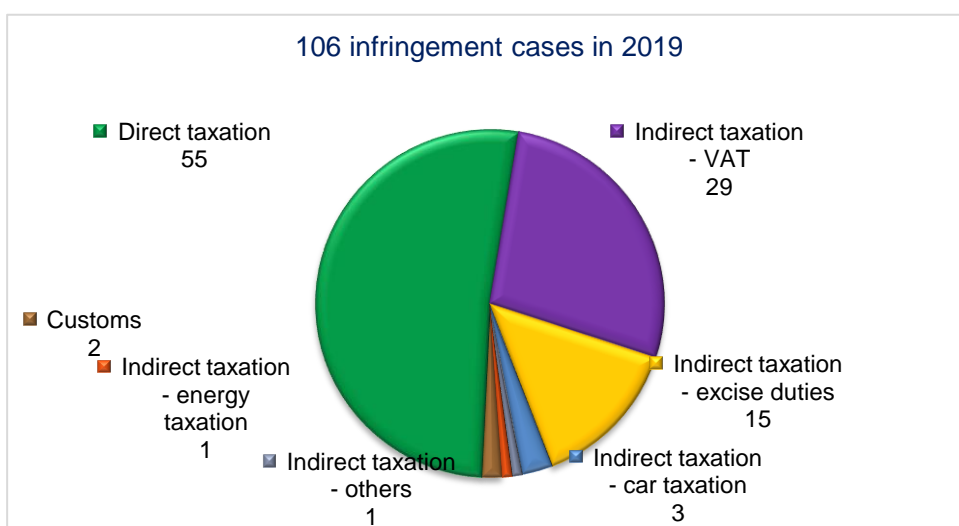
- Directive on tax dispute resolution mechanisms in the European Union⁵¹⁷;
- Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD1)⁵¹⁸;
- Directive on value-added tax obligations for supplies of services and distance sales of goods⁵¹⁹;
- Directive on the treatment of vouchers⁵²⁰.

IV. INFRINGEMENT CASES

1. Infringement cases open on 31 December (2015-2019)



2. Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors



⁵¹⁷ Directive (EU) [2017/1852](#).

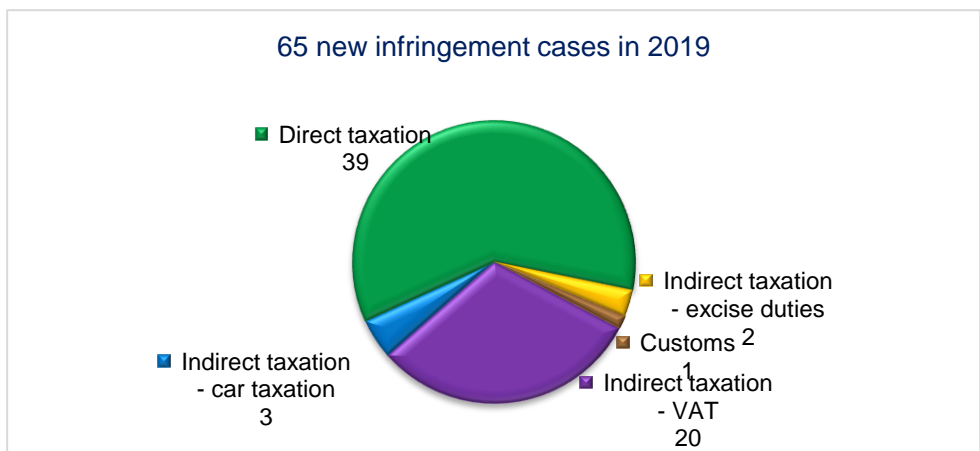
⁵¹⁸ Directive (EU) [2016/1164](#).

⁵¹⁹ Directive (EU) [2017/2455](#).

⁵²⁰ Directive (EU) [2016/1065](#).

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3. New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



4. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

a) The Commission opened 65 new infringement cases in 2019. These, and other major ongoing infringement cases, include the following:

- *Germany: national rules on VAT for distance sales of goods sold through digital marketplaces*⁵²¹;
- *Germany: Impossibility to fulfil formal requirements for qualifying as a group company for German tax consolidation purposes*⁵²²;
- *Greece: Payment of a fee by importers of medical devices, which has an equivalent effect to a customs duty pursuant to Article 30 TFEU*;
- *Spain: Obligation to appoint a fiscal representative in Spain*⁵²³;
- *Spain: Incorrect application of the Merger Directive*⁵²⁴;
- *Italy: Preferential taxation on property for Italians abroad*⁵²⁵;
- *Hungary: Discriminatory tax treatment of foreign foundations*⁵²⁶;
- *Portugal: heavier taxation on used cars imported from other Member States than on used cars purchased on the national market in breach of Article 110 TFEU*⁵²⁷;
- *Romania: time limit for the notification of customs debts*;
- *Finland: legislation on tax deductibility of group contributions between affiliated domestic companies in breach of freedom of establishment*⁵²⁸.

b) The Commission referred six cases to the Court under Article 258 TFEU, namely the following:

- *Spain: failure to fulfil obligations under Articles 21, 45, 56 and 63 TFEU, and Articles 28, 31, 36 and 40 of the EEA Agreement as regards certain features of the obligation to provide information on assets located abroad (Modelo 720)*⁵²⁹;
- *Germany: rejecting certain applications for VAT refunds for businesses in other Member States*⁵³⁰.

⁵²¹ [IP/19/5950](#).

⁵²² [IP/19/4251](#).

⁵²³ [IP/19/4251](#).

⁵²⁴ [IP/19/462](#).

⁵²⁵ [IP/19/462](#).

⁵²⁶ [IP/19/1472](#).

⁵²⁷ [INF/19/6304](#).

⁵²⁸ [IP/19/1472](#).

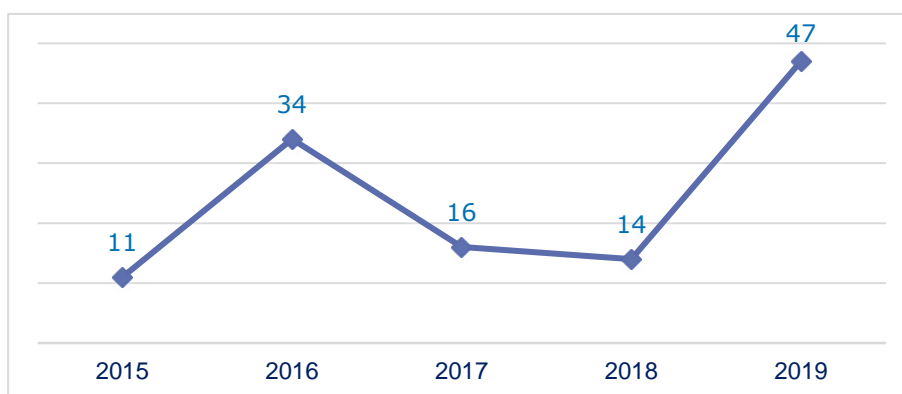
⁵²⁹ Case [C-788/19](#) *Commission v Spain*, [IP/19/2774](#).

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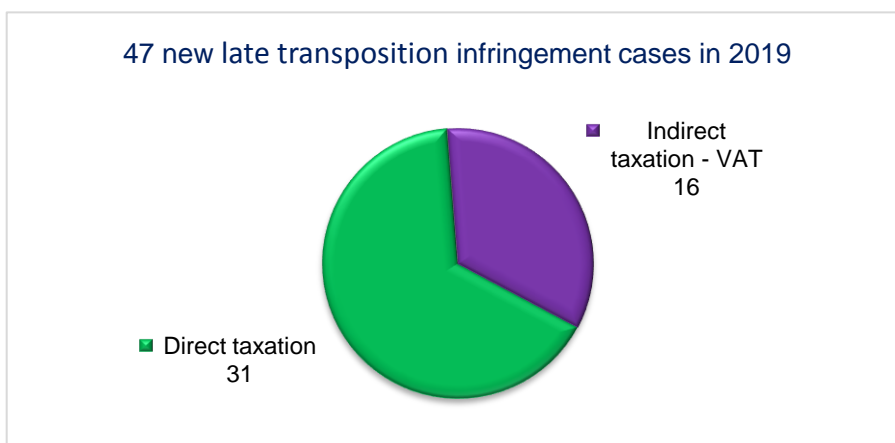
- *Italy: failure to comply with the rules on the taxation of energy products and electricity by applying in regional legislation a reduction to excise duty for petrol and gas oil used as motor fuel*⁵³¹.
 - *Hungary: failure to apply an excise duty on cigarettes below the minimum EU threshold of 60% of the applicable weighted average retail price, despite the end of the transitional period allowed for the gradual increase of that duty*⁵³²;
 - *Austria: failure to correctly apply the special VAT scheme for travel agents*⁵³³;
 - *United Kingdom: extending the scope of a VAT derogation for certain commodity markets*⁵³⁴;
- c) The Commission referred one case to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU.
- *Belgium: failure to comply with a judgment of the Court of Justice in which the Court had found that Belgian provisions for rental income are in breach of EU law*⁵³⁵.

V. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

1. New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)



2. New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors



⁵³⁰ Case [C-371/19](#) *Commission v Germany*.

⁵³¹ Case [C-63/19](#) *Commission v Italy*.

⁵³² Case [C-856/19](#) *Commission v Hungary*.

⁵³³ Case [C-787/19](#) *Commission v Austria*.

⁵³⁴ Case [C-276/19](#) *Commission v United Kingdom*.

⁵³⁵ Case [C-842/19](#) *Commission v Belgium*.

3. Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

The Commission opened 47 cases for late transposition in 2019. They included the:

- Directive on value-added tax obligations for supplies of services and distance sales of goods⁵³⁶;
- Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD1)⁵³⁷;
- Directive on tax dispute resolution mechanisms in the European Union⁵³⁸;
- Directive on the treatment of vouchers⁵³⁹.

The Commission did not refer any cases to the Court under Articles 258 and 260(3) TFEU. |

VI. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

These concerned the following:

- *Belgium, Czechia, Greece, France, Cyprus, Latvia, Portugal and the United Kingdom*: Non-communication of national measures transposing the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD1)⁵⁴⁰;
- *Czechia, Greece, Poland and Romania*: Non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive as regards access to anti-money laundering information (DAC5)⁵⁴¹;
- *Belgium*: Taxation of redistributed income in the form of dividends;
- *Bulgaria*: Customs duty relief for certain US goods in breach of the Community system of reliefs from customs duty⁵⁴²;
- *Bulgaria*: Proportionality of sanctions for not declaring the movement of cash in breach of controls of cash entering or leaving the Community⁵⁴³;
- *Czechia*: Non-conform implementation of the Directive as regards mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation (DAC2)⁵⁴⁴;
- *Estonia*: Non-conform implementation of the Directive on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation (DAC1)⁵⁴⁵;
- *Italy*: Fast Customs Corridors regarding compliance with Articles 139, 144 and 148(5) of the Union Customs Code⁵⁴⁶;
- *Latvia*: Discriminatory taxation of real estate in Riga City;
- *Lithuania*: Non-communication of national measures transposing the Directive on tax dispute resolution mechanisms in the European Union⁵⁴⁷;
- *Hungary*: Discriminatory taxation of spirit drinks in violation of Article 110 TFEU by exempting from the public health tax fruit distillates and herbal drinks produced predominantly on its territory; |

⁵³⁶ Directive (EU) [2017/2455](#).

⁵³⁷ Directive (EU) [2016/1164](#).

⁵³⁸ Directive (EU) [2017/1852](#).

⁵³⁹ Directive (EU) [2016/1065](#).

⁵⁴⁰ Directive (EU) [2016/1164](#).

⁵⁴¹ Directive [2016/2258/EU](#).

⁵⁴² Regulation (EC) [1186/2009](#).

⁵⁴³ Regulation (EC) [1889/2005](#).

⁵⁴⁴ Directive [2011/16/EU](#).

⁵⁴⁵ Directive [2014/107/EU](#).

⁵⁴⁶ Regulation (EU) [952/2013](#).

⁵⁴⁷ Directive [2017/1852/EU](#).

VII. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

1. Court rulings

The Court gave the following ruling:

- *Greece*: The Court of Justice ruled that Greece's application of a reduced excise duty rate on the spirit drinks, Tsipouro and Tsikoudia, produced by systematic distilleries, as well as the application of a super-reduced rate to those spirits produced by small occasional distillers, are both incompatible with EU law⁵⁴⁸.

2. Preliminary rulings

The Court gave the following preliminary rulings:

- *Denmark*: The Court of Justice clarified that EU law cannot be relied on for abusive or fraudulent objectives. In such cases, national authorities and courts must refuse a taxpayer the exemption from withholding tax on profits distributed by a subsidiary to its parent company, even if there are no domestic or agreement-based provisions providing for such a refusal⁵⁴⁹.
- *Germany*: the Court of Justice clarified that the VAT exemption for school and university education does not cover driving school tuition provided by a driving school for the purpose of acquiring driving licences for vehicles in categories B and C1, even if the objective of such tuition is not purely recreational, since possession of such licences is liable to meet, among other things, professional needs⁵⁵⁰.
- *Germany*: The Court of Justice clarified that customs authorities may require that an applicant for the status of an 'authorised economic operator' provide them with the tax identification numbers concerning solely the natural persons who are in charge of the applicant or who exercise control over its management and those who are in charge of the applicant's customs matters, and the details of the tax offices responsible for the taxation of all those persons⁵⁵¹.
- *Germany*: The Court of Justice clarified that legislation of a Member State which effectively taxes dividends paid to foreign pension funds at a higher rate than dividends paid to domestic pension funds is contrary to the free movement of capital as established by Article 63 TFEU⁵⁵².
- *Germany*: Where EU customs regulations require providing a specific indication of the country of origin for a product (in this case, cultivated mushrooms that had been relocated during the growing process), the country of origin is that where the product was harvested and that indication as such cannot be regarded as misleading consumers. In such circumstances, no obligations may be imposed on the food business operators to provide information additional to the indication of the country of origin in order to prevent any alleged risk of misleading consumers⁵⁵³.
- *Latvia*: The Court of Justice clarified that where the customs value of goods, such as the medicinal products at issue in the dispute in the main proceedings, is calculated by applying the deductive method (this is one of the methods used for calculating the customs value), the competent national customs administration must, in order to identify 'similar goods', take into account any relevant element.⁵⁵⁴

⁵⁴⁸ Case [C-91/18](#) *Commission v Greece*, EU:C:2019:600.

⁵⁴⁹ Joined cases [C-116/16 and C-117/16](#) *Skatteministeriet v T Danmark and Y Danmark Aps*, EU:C:2019:135

⁵⁵⁰ Case [C-449/17](#) *A & G Fahrschul-Akademie*, EU:C:2019:202.

⁵⁵¹ Case [C-496/17](#) *Deutsche Post AG v Hauptzollamt Köln*, EU:C:2019:26.

⁵⁵² Case [C-641/17](#) *College Pension Plan of British Columbia*, EU:C:2019:960.

⁵⁵³ Case [C-686/17](#) *Zentrale zur Bekämpfung unlauteren Wettbewerbs Frankfurt am Main*, EU:C:2019:659.

⁵⁵⁴ Case [C-1/18](#) *SIA Oribalt Rīga v Valsts ieņēmumu dienests*, EU:C:2019:519.

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- *Lithuania*: The Court of Justice clarified that the exemption from excise duty applies to denatured ethyl alcohol contained in cosmetics or mouthwashes which are nevertheless consumed as alcoholic beverages, although not intended for human consumption, even if the importer of products from another Member State labelled them with a view to increasing the sales⁵⁵⁵.
- *Lithuania*: The Court of Justice held that Member States should tax as cigars or cigarillos tobacco products with an outer wrapper of natural tobacco partially covered, at the filter, by an additional paper layer, which may make them visually similar to cigarettes⁵⁵⁶.]

VIII. OUTLOOK

Important implementation work in 2020 includes:

Indirect taxation:

- focus on infringements with a strong impact on ensuring fair and effective taxation and the climate and health objectives of the EU;
- monitoring cases affecting the economic situation of businesses or aiming at removing distortions of competition in the internal market.

Direct taxation:

- assess the conformity of national measures with EU rules on exchange of information on taxation. This will concern in particular the Directives on:
 - the automatic exchange within the EU of information relative to financial income, including dividends and capital gains, and account balances⁵⁵⁷;
 - the mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation⁵⁵⁸;
 - country-by-country reporting of information by multinationals to tax authorities⁵⁵⁹;
 - access to anti-money laundering information⁵⁶⁰;
 - mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation in relation to reportable cross-border arrangements⁵⁶¹.
- assess the conformity of national rules against tax avoidance and practices that directly affect the functioning of the internal market⁵⁶²;
- assess the conformity of national rules on tax dispute resolution mechanisms in the EU⁵⁶³.

Customs:

- carry out a series of monitoring activities in cooperation with the Member States to help them implement the Union Customs Code, which now has been applicable for more than 3 years;
- focus on cases and subject matters where there is a significant financial impact and where it is considered that our exclusive competence in the area of customs needs to be defended.]

⁵⁵⁵ Case [C-567/17](#) Bene Factum, EU:C:2019:158.

⁵⁵⁶ Case [C-638/17](#) Skonis ir kvapas, EU:C:2019:316.

⁵⁵⁷ Directive [2014/107/EU](#).

⁵⁵⁸ Directive [2015/2376/EU](#).

⁵⁵⁹ Directive [2016/881/EU](#).

⁵⁶⁰ Directive [2016/2258/EU](#).

⁵⁶¹ Directive [2018/0822/EU](#).

⁵⁶² Directive [2016/1164/EU](#).

⁵⁶³ Directive [2017/1852/EU](#).

I. METHODOLOGY AND EXPLANATIONS

ANNEX I — POLICY AREAS

1. Complaints

First chart: New complaints received from members of the public (2015-2019)

This shows the number of public complaints the Commission registered in the given policy field in 2015-2019.

Second chart: Public complaints open at year-end

This starts with the number of open complaints at the end of 2018 (first line)⁵⁶⁴. The second line shows the number of new complaints registered in 2019. The third line shows the number of complaints on which the Commission took a decision in 2019. The fourth line shows the number of complaints open at the end of 2019 (calculated by taking the first figure, adding the second and subtracting the third).

Third chart: New complaints registered in 2019: main policy sectors

The number of registered complaints for the current reporting year is broken down by policy sector. In general, this breakdown shows the three policy sectors in which the most complaints were received in 2019. Four (or more) policy sectors are mentioned if two (or more) policy sectors attracted the third highest number of complaints. The number of sectors covered varies according to the breadth of each policy area.

2. EU PILOT

First chart: New EU Pilot files (2015-2019)

This shows the number of EU Pilot files the Commission opened in the given policy area in 2015-2019.

Second chart: New EU Pilot files opened in 2019: main policy sectors

The number of new EU Pilot files opened in the current reporting year is broken down by policy sector. This breakdown shows the three policy sectors in which the most EU Pilot files were opened in 2019.

Third chart: EU Pilot files: resolution rate for policies in 2015-2019

The resolution rate in the given policy field is the percentage of EU Pilot files handled in that field for which the Commission accepted the Member States' responses. The chart shows the resolution rate for the last 5 years.

⁵⁶⁴ In some instances a difference between the figures from the preceding annual report may be due to delayed, double or erroneous registration at the moment of extracting statistical data.

3. OWN-INITIATIVE CASES

New own-initiative cases

This section contains a list of the most important infringement cases the Commission launched in the given policy area in 2019. The list is not exhaustive.

4. INFRINGEMENT CASES

First chart: Infringement cases opened on 31 December (2015-2019)

These figures include all procedures the Commission initiated in the policy area by sending a letter of formal notice under Article 258 TFEU. It covers letters sent in 2019 or before, irrespective of the stages the cases have reached. Only cases which have not yet been closed by a formal decision are shown.

Accordingly, this number includes all cases that, on 31 December of the years 2014 to 2019:

- *were in the pre-litigation phase (letter of formal notice, reasoned opinion or decision on referral to the Court under Article 258 TFEU);*
- *were pending before the Court under Article 258 TFEU and Article 260(3) TFEU;*
- *the Court had ruled on but where the Commission could not yet confirm that the Member State had implemented the judgment correctly;*
- *were in the second pre-litigation procedure (letter of formal notice or referral decision under Article 260(2) TFEU);*
- *were pending before the Court due to a second referral; and*
- *the Court had ruled on for the second time but where the Commission could not yet confirm that the Member State had implemented the second judgment correctly.*

This figure does *not* include, for example, open EU Pilot files in the policy area. It also does not include EU Pilot files for which the Commission had already rejected a Member State's response but had not yet sent a letter of formal notice under Article 258 TFEU.

Second chart: Infringement cases open on 31 December 2019: main policy sectors

This shows, for the given policy area, the sectors in which the most infringement cases were still open on 31 December 2019. The number of sectors shown varies according to the breadth of each policy area.

Third chart: New infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors

This shows, for the given policy area, the sectors in which the most infringement cases were launched in 2019.

Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

This section has three parts:

Part a) shows the number of new infringement cases launched in the policy area in 2019 and lists the most important new cases under Article 258 TFEU.

Part b) lists the cases which the Commission referred to the Court *solely* under Article 258 TFEU by 31 December 2019. The cases submitted to the Court under Article 258 *and* 260(3) TFEU are discussed in the 'transposition of directives' section (see below).

Part c) contains the cases which the Commission referred to the Court under Article 260(2) TFEU by 31 December 2019.

5. TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES

First chart: New late transposition infringement cases (2015-2019)

This shows the number of letters of formal notice sent to Member States under Article 258 TFEU for missing or partial notification of national measures transposing directives in the given policy area. This figure is already included in the total number of new infringement cases initiated in the policy area in 2019, so it should *not* be added to the figure shown in the first chart of the general statistics section.

Please note that not all of these new infringement cases for late transposition were necessarily still open on 31 December 2019. For example, if the Commission opened a late transposition infringement procedure in March 2019 by sending a letter of formal notice, this would be added to the new infringement cases even if the Commission closed the case in October 2019 as a result of the Member State notifying complete transposition.

Second chart: New late transposition infringement cases opened in 2019: main policy sectors

This shows the policy sectors in which the most late transposition procedures were launched in 2019.

Key infringement cases and referrals to the Court

This section has two parts:

Part a) lists, for the given policy area, the most important directive(s) over which the Commission had to launch infringement procedures against a relatively high number of Member States.

Part b) lists the cases which the Commission referred to the Court under Article 258 TFEU and Article 260(3) by 31 December 2019.

6. EARLY RESOLUTION OF INFRINGEMENT CASES

Major cases closed without a Court judgment in 2019

This section contains a list of the most important infringement cases the Commission closed in the given policy area in 2019 without a Court judgment. The list is not exhaustive.

7. IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS

This section contains two lists:

- *The first list contains the Court's most important judgments in the given policy area in 2019. These judgments are almost exclusively handed down under Article 258 or Articles 260(2) TFEU.*
- *The second list contains the most important preliminary rulings that the Court issued to the Member State's judiciary in the given policy area.*

These lists are not necessarily exhaustive.