



Flash Eurobarometer 503

Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Report



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Flash Eurobarometer 503 – Ipsos European Public Affairs



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(DG COMM “Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

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<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer>

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Introduction

This Flash Eurobarometer survey explores EU citizens' perceptions about the independence of the judiciary across the 27 EU Member States.

The results of these surveys feed into the EU Justice Scoreboard, which provides data on the efficiency, quality, and independence of national justice systems – essential parameter of effective justice systems. Effective justice systems are essential for implementing EU law and for upholding the rule of law and the values upon which the EU is founded. Effective justice systems are also essential for mutual trust, the investment climate and the sustainability of long-term growth.

This Flash Eurobarometer survey explores:

- EU citizens' perceptions of the independence of courts and judges in their country;
- The reasons for these perceptions, both positive and negative.

For this Flash Eurobarometer, a representative sample of EU citizens, aged 15 and over, in each of the 27 EU Member States was interviewed. Between 17 and 24 January 2022, 25 767 interviews were conducted over the telephone (landline and mobile phones) by Ipsos European Public Affairs.

Results are presented from an EU, country and socio-demographic perspective, and are compared to the results of the previous survey in this series, conducted in March and April 2021 (Flash Eurobarometer 489¹). Survey data are weighted to known population proportions. The EU27 averages are weighted according to the size of the 15+ population of each Member State. A technical note on the methods applied to conduct the survey is appended as an annex to this report.

¹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2272>

Notes:

- 1) Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between groups may be statistically significant. Thus, only differences that are statistically significant (at the 5% level) – i.e. where it can be reasonably certain that they are unlikely to have occurred by chance – are highlighted in the text.
- 2) The report looks at long-term trends at the EU27 level and the most recent year-on-year changes at national level. The term percentage point is used when comparing two different percentages (the abbreviation is pp). Year-on-year differences are calculated from percentages with one decimal and are then rounded to the nearest integer.
- 3) Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts and tables do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.
- 4) In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

BE		Belgium	LT		Lithuania
BG		Bulgaria	LU		Luxembourg
CZ		Czechia	HU		Hungary
DK		Denmark	MT		Malta
DE		Germany	NL		Netherlands
EE		Estonia	AT		Austria
IE		Ireland	PL		Poland
EL		Greece	PT		Portugal
ES		Spain	RO		Romania
FR		France	SI		Slovenia
HR		Croatia	SK		Slovakia
IT		Italy	FI		Finland
CY		Rep. of Cyprus*	SE		Sweden
LV		Latvia			

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 EU MS. However, the 'acquis communautaire' has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the 'CY' category.

Key findings

Most respondents rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good

- 53% of EU citizens rate the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as (fairly or very) good, while 35% say it is (fairly or very) bad. These results have remained stable since 2021.
- In 17 Member States, at least half of all respondents rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good. This proportion varies between 88% in Finland and 21% in Croatia.
- Compared to 2021, respondents in Denmark (+9 percentage points), Czechia (+6 pp) and Finland (+5 pp) are now more likely to rate the independence of their courts and judges as good, while those in Estonia (-7 pp), Belgium (-6 pp) and Poland (-5 pp) are now less likely to do so.
- Male respondents, those aged 15-24, those who remained longer in education and employees are the most likely to rate the independence of their justice system as good. The same applies to those who have not been involved in a court dispute.

The status and position of judges is most often given as the reason for rating the independence of courts and judges as good

- Respondents who rate the independence of their justice system as good are the most likely to say this is due to the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence (78%), while 63% mention the lack of interference of pressure from economic or other specific interests and 59% the absence of interference or pressure from government and politicians. These results have remained stable since 2021.
- Those who remained longer in education are the most likely to say each of these reasons explains their positive rating. Employees are more likely to say each reason explains their rating, compared with those who are not working.

Interference or pressure from government and politicians is the most likely reason for rating the level of independence of the national courts and judges as bad

- Seven in ten or more respondents who rate the independence of their justice system as bad do so because of interference or pressure from government and politicians (77%), or from economic or other specific interests (70%). This compared to 62% who say the fact that the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their rating.
- These results are mostly stable compared to 2021. However, compared with 2021, respondents are now less likely to say the interference or pressure from economic or other

specific interests (-3 pp) explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as poor.

- Those who remained in education for longer, employees and the self-employed are generally the most likely to say each reason explains their negative rating.

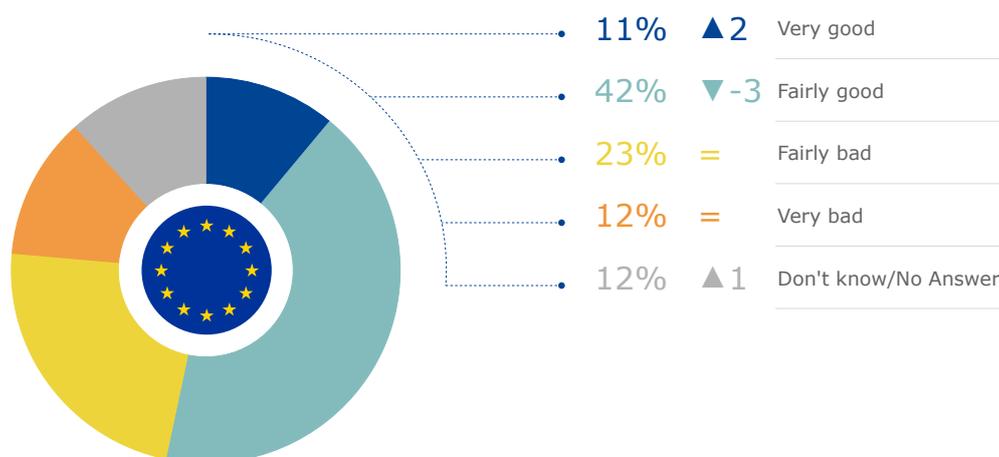
Section 1. Perceived independence of courts and judges among the general public

This section of the report discusses EU citizens' perceptions of the independence of courts and judges in their country.

A slim majority of EU citizens rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good

A majority of EU citizens rate the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good: 11% say it is 'very good' and 42% that it is 'fairly good'. About one third say the independence of courts and judges is bad, with 23% saying it is 'fairly bad' and 12% that it is 'very bad'. Finally, 12% of respondents 'do not know' how they would rate the independence of courts and judges in their country.

Q1 From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad? (% - EU27)



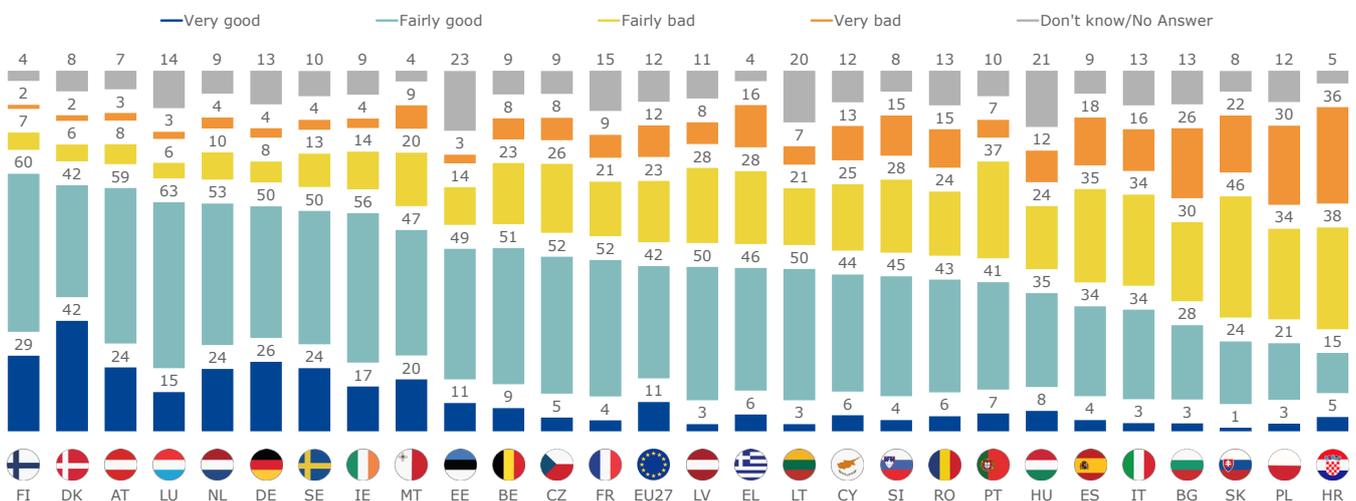
Base: all respondents (n=25 767) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

Compared to April 2021, the proportion saying the independence of the courts and judges in their country is either good or bad has remained roughly the same. The proportion who say it is 'very good' increased by two percentage points to 11%, whereas the proportion saying it is 'fairly good' decreased by three percentage points to 42%.

Opinion about the independence of courts and judges varies considerably across Member States. In 16 countries, the majority rate the justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good, with respondents in Finland (88%), Denmark (84%) and Austria (83%) being the most likely to say this. At the other end of the scale, 21% in Croatia, 24% in Poland and 25% in Slovakia rate the independence of their courts and judges as good.

Respondents in Denmark (42%) are more likely than those in other countries to rate the independence of courts and judges as 'very good', followed by those in Finland (29%), Germany (26%) and Sweden (24%). At the other end of the scale, 36% of respondents in Croatia and 30% in Poland rate the independence of their courts and judges as 'very bad'.

Q1 From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad? (%)²

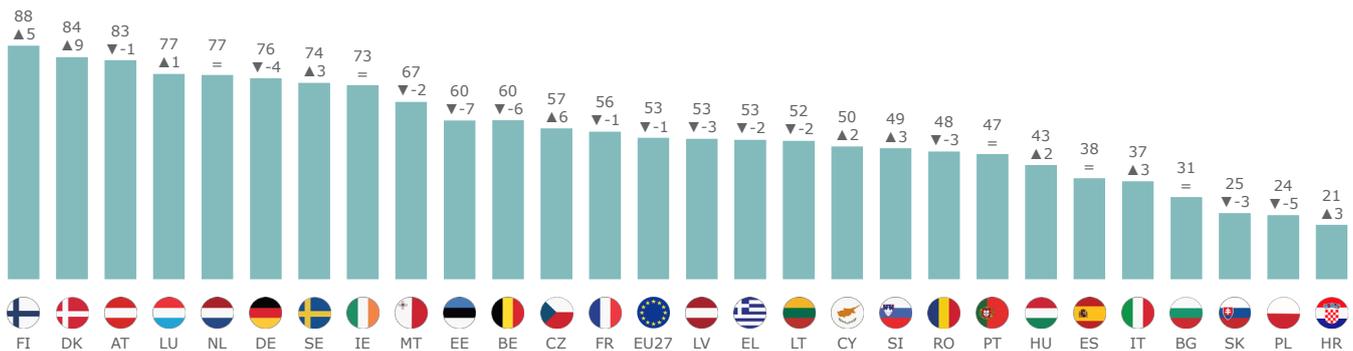


Base: all respondents (n=25 767)

² The chart shows individual categories that have been rounded (very good, good, bad, very bad and no answer). However, the chart has been ranked according to the rounded category total good (very good + good).

Compared to 2021, opinion about the independence of courts and judges has become more positive in Denmark (+9 pp), Czechia (+6 pp), and Finland (+5 pp). However, respondents in Estonia (-7 pp), Belgium (-6 pp) and Poland (-5 pp) are now less likely to rate this independence as good.

Q1 From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad? (% Total 'Good')

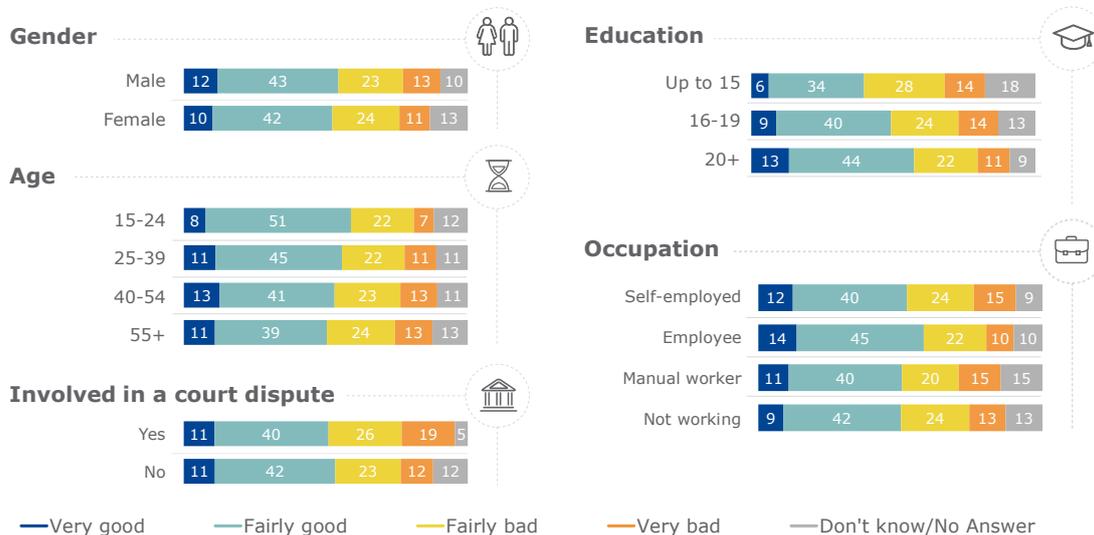


Base: all respondents (n=25 767) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

The socio-demographic analysis shows the following:

- Men are slightly more likely than women to rate the independence of courts and judges as 'very good' (12% vs 10%); in total, 54% of men, compared to 52% of women, rate this independence as good.
- Those aged 15-24 (and those still in education) are the most likely to rate the independence of courts and judges as good, particularly compared to those aged 55 or older (59% of 15-24 year-olds and 59% of those still in education vs 50% of over 55 year-olds).
- The longer respondents remained in education, the more likely they are to rate the independence of courts and judges as good: 57% of those who completed education aged 20+ say this, compared to 40% of those who completed education aged 15 or younger.
- In terms of occupation, employees are the most likely to rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, particularly compared to unemployed respondents (58% vs 50%). Unemployed respondents are also the least likely to rate the independence of courts and judges as 'very good' (9% vs 14% of employees).
- Those who in the last two years have been involved in a dispute that went to court are more likely to say the independence of courts and judges is bad, compared to those who have not been involved in such a dispute (45% vs 35%).

Q1 From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad? (% by socio-demographics)



Base: all respondents (n=25 767)

Section 2. Main reasons among the general public for the perceived independence of the national justice systems

This chapter considers the reasons for respondents making positive or negative assessments of the independence of courts and judges in their country.

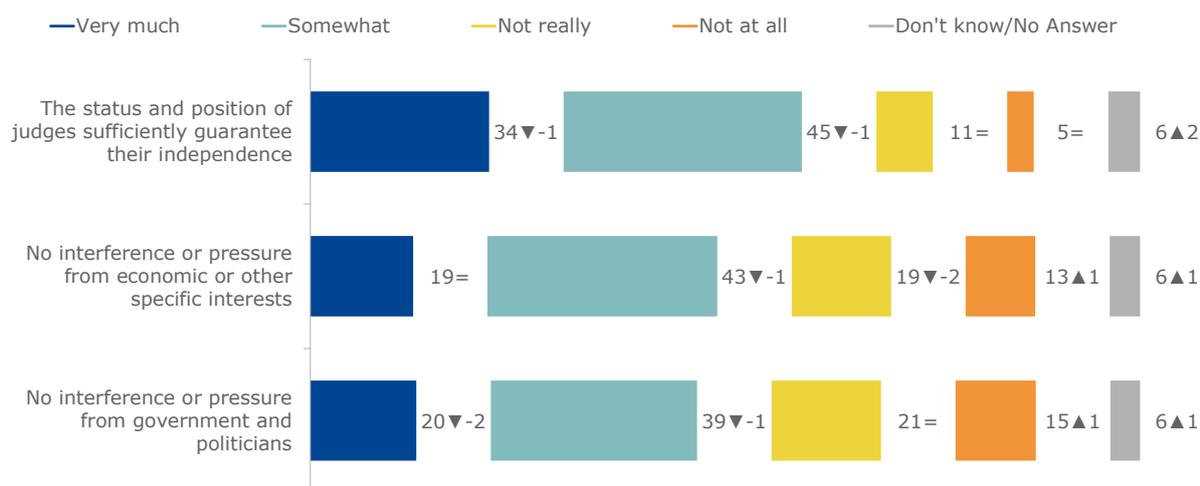
2.1. Positive assessments

Close to four in five say the status and position of judges is the reason for their positive rating of the independence of courts and judges in their country.

Respondents who rated the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good³ were asked to which extent the status of judges, a lack of interference or pressure from governments or politicians, or from economic or special interests, explained their rating.

Close to four in five of this group of respondents say that their positive rating is explained by the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence, with 34% saying this reason ‘very much’ explains their rating. 63% say a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their positive rating, with 19% saying this ‘very much’ explains it. A similar proportion (59%) say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating, with 20% saying this ‘very much’ explains it. Overall results (very much and somewhat combined) are stable compared to 2021.

Q2b Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% - EU27)



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

³ Answering ‘fairly good’ or ‘very good’.

a. Status and position of judges

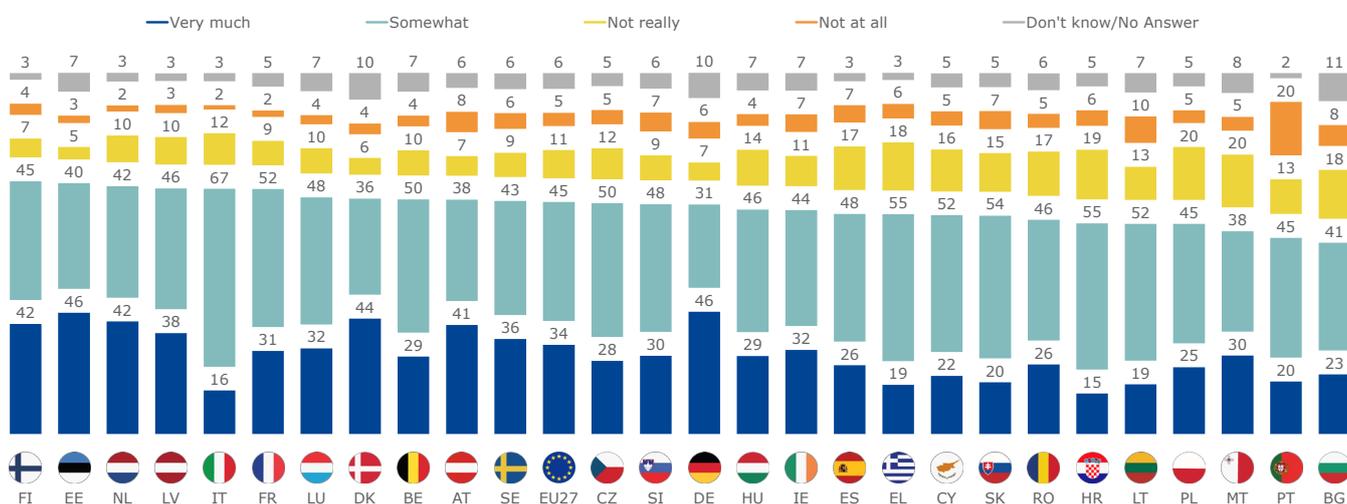
At least 70% of respondents in all but three of the Member States say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence is a reason for their positive rating. Respondents in Estonia, Finland (both 86%), the Netherlands and Latvia (both 84%) are the most likely to say this. Respondents in Bulgaria (63%), followed by those in Portugal (65%) and Malta (67%), are the least likely to say this reason explains their rating.

Respondents in Germany and Estonia (both 46%) and Denmark (44%) are the most likely to say this reason 'very much' explains their rating, while those in Croatia (15%), Italy (16%), Greece and Lithuania (both 19%) are the least likely to do so. Those in Italy (67%), Croatia and Greece (both 55%) are the most likely to say this 'somewhat' explains their rating, while respondents in Germany (31%), Denmark (36%) and Malta and Austria (both 38%) are the least likely to say this.

Around one in five respondents in Poland and Malta (both 20%) and Croatia (19%) say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence is 'not really' a reason for their rating. At the other end of the scale, those in Estonia (5%), Denmark (6%), Germany, Finland and Austria (all 7%) are the least likely to say this. In Portugal (20%) respondents are the most likely to say this does not explain their rating at all, followed by Lithuania (10%). By contrast, 2% in France, Italy and the Netherlands say the same.

Q2b.3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence (%)



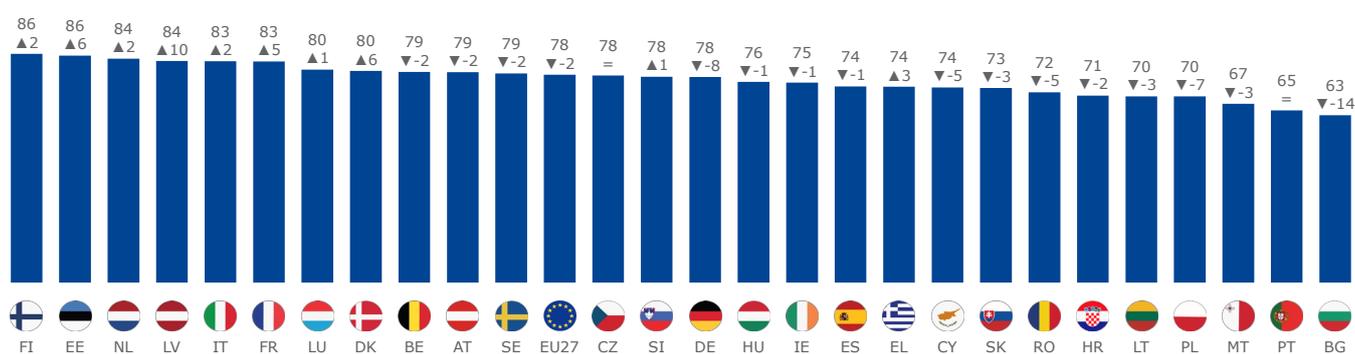
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

Compared to 2021, respondents in Latvia (+10 pp), Estonia and Denmark (both +6 pp) are now more likely to say that the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their good rating of the independence of their national justice system. By contrast, those in Bulgaria (-14 pp), Germany (-8 pp) and Poland (-7 pp) are now less likely to say this.

Q2b.3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence

(% - Total 'Explains')



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

b. Economic interests

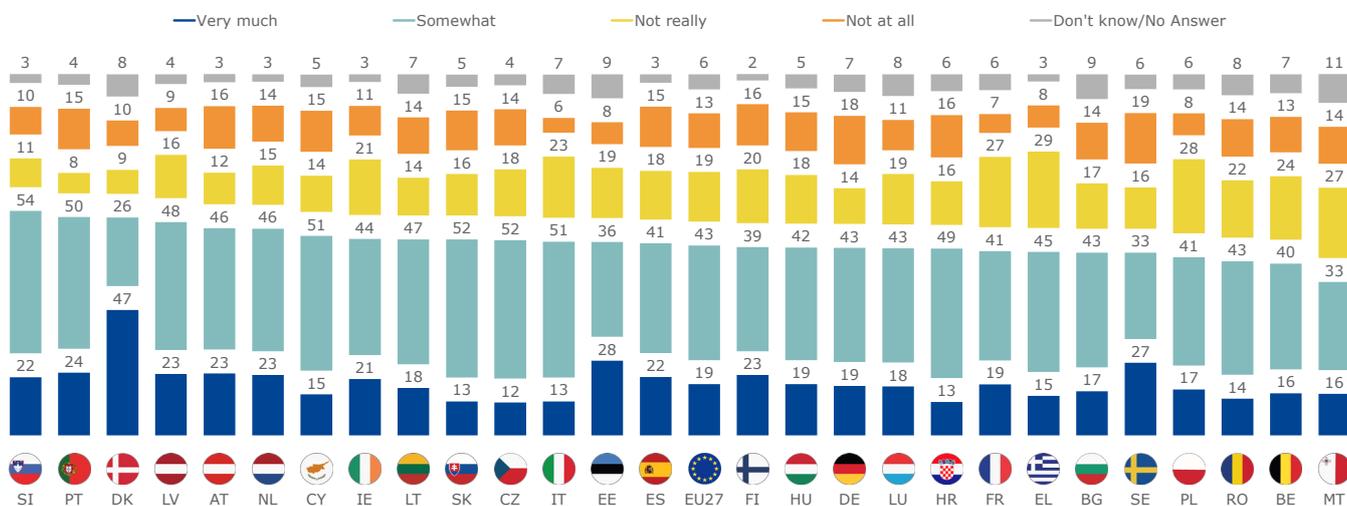
In all but one country, at least half of respondents say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests is a reason they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as good. Proportions range from 76% in Slovenia, and 73% in Portugal and Denmark to 49% in Malta.

Respondents in Denmark (47%), Estonia (28%) and Sweden (27%) are the most likely to say this 'very much' explains their rating, while those in Czechia (12%), and Croatia, Italy and Slovakia (all 13%) are the least likely to do so. Respondents in Slovenia (54%) and Slovakia and Czechia (both 52%) are the most likely to say this 'somewhat' explains their rating, while respondents in Denmark (26%) are the least likely to do so.

Respondents in Greece (29%), Poland (28%) and France and Malta (both 27%) are the most likely to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests is 'not really' a reason for their rating, compared to 8% in Portugal, 9% in Denmark and 11% in Slovenia. Finally, those in Sweden (19%), Germany (18%), Austria, Croatia, and Finland (all 16%) are the most likely to say this does not explain their rating at all, while those in Italy (6%), France (7%), Estonia, Greece and Poland (all 8%) are the least likely to say this.

Q2b.3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

No interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (%)



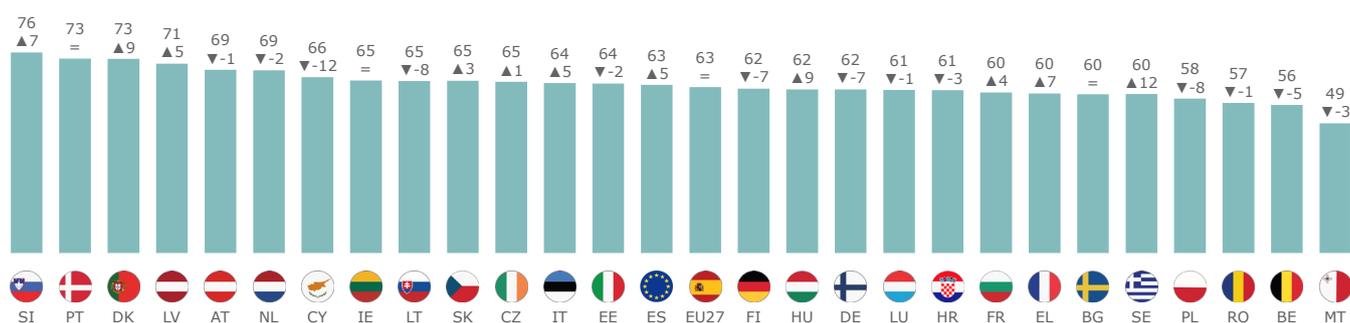
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

Compared to 2021, respondents in Sweden (+12 pp), Denmark and Hungary (both +9 pp) are now more likely to say a reason for their good rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country is the absence of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests. By contrast, respondents in Cyprus (-12 pp), Lithuania, Poland (both -8 pp), Finland and Germany (both -7 pp) are now less likely to say that this reason explains their rating.

Q2b.3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

No interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests

(% - Total 'Explains')



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

c. Political pressure

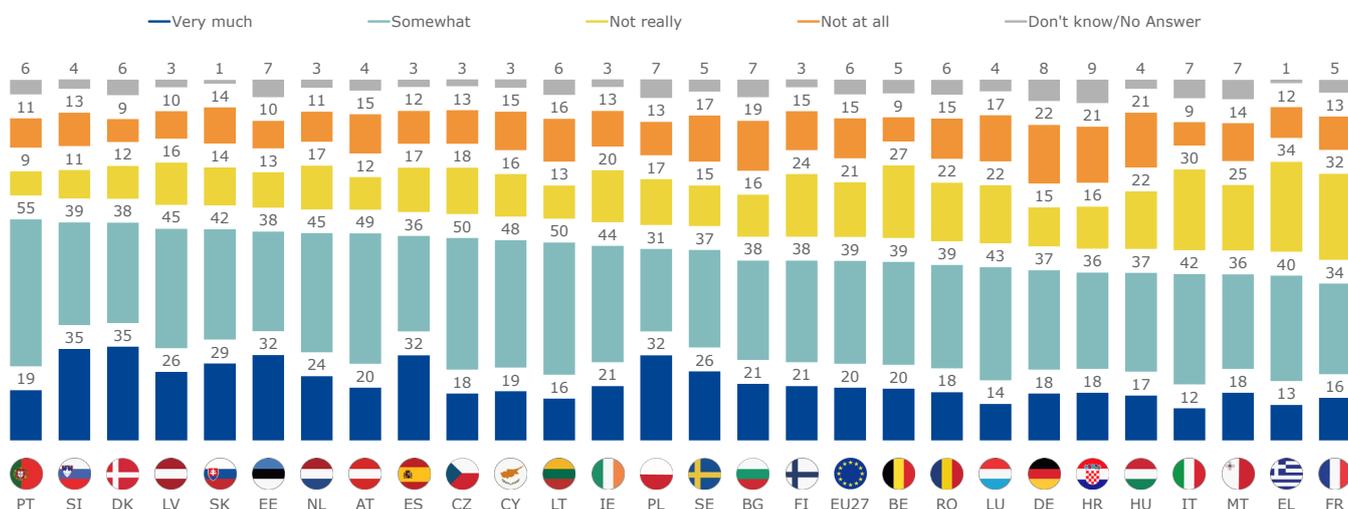
In all countries, at least half of respondents say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians is a reason for their good rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country. However, there is some variation between Member States, with proportions ranging from 50% in France and 53% Greece, to 73% in Denmark and Slovenia to 74% in Portugal.

Respondents in Slovenia and Denmark (both 35%) are the most likely to say this reason 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country, compared to 12% in Italy, 13% in Greece and 14% in Luxembourg. Respondents in Portugal (55%), Czechia and Lithuania (50%) are the most likely to say this 'somewhat' explains their rating, while those in Poland (31%), France (34%) and Croatia, Spain and Malta (all 36%) are the least likely to do so.

Respondents in Greece (34%), France (32%) and Italy (30%) are the most likely to say no interference or pressure from government and politicians is 'not really' a reason for their rating of the independence of the justice system in their country, while those in Portugal (9%), Slovenia (11%), Denmark (9%) and Austria (12%) are the least likely to do so. More than one in five respondents in Germany (22%), Croatia and Hungary (both 21%) say this does not explain their rating at all. By contrast, 9% in Belgium, Denmark and Italy say the same.

Q2b.1 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

No interference or pressure from government and politicians (%)



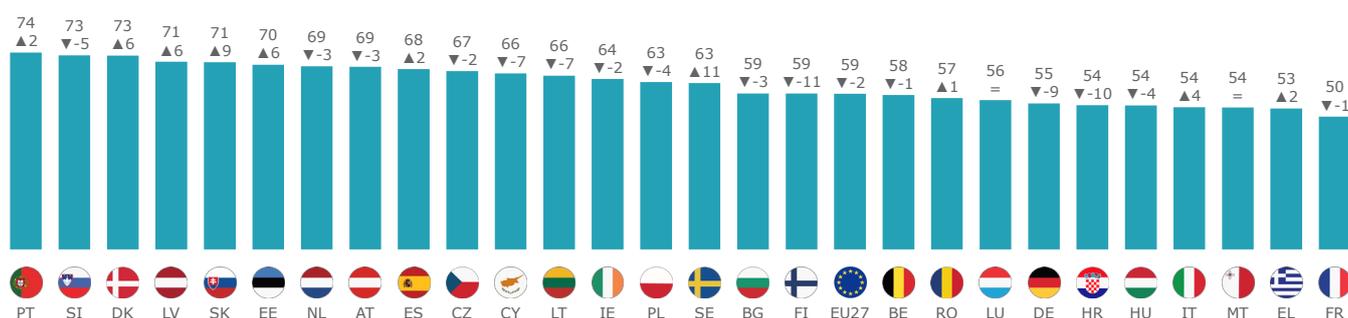
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

Compared to 2021, the proportion of respondents saying no interference or pressure from government and politicians is a reason for their good rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country has increased the most in Sweden (+11 pp), Slovakia (+9 pp), Denmark, Estonia and Latvia (all +6 pp). The largest declines are observed in Finland (-11 pp), Croatia (-10 pp) and Germany (-9 pp).

Q2b.1 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

No interference or pressure from government and politicians

(% - Total 'Explains')



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

d. Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows the following:

- There are no significant differences between men and women or age groups.
- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to say each of these reasons explains their good rating. For example, 81% of those who completed their education aged 20 or older say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their rating, compared to 70% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger.
- Employees are more likely to say each reason explains their rating, compared with those who are not working. For instance, 62% of employees say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating, compared with 56% of those not in work.
- Respondents who have not been involved in a dispute that has gone to court in the last two years are more likely to say that their positive assessment is explained by a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians.

Q2b Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% - EU27)

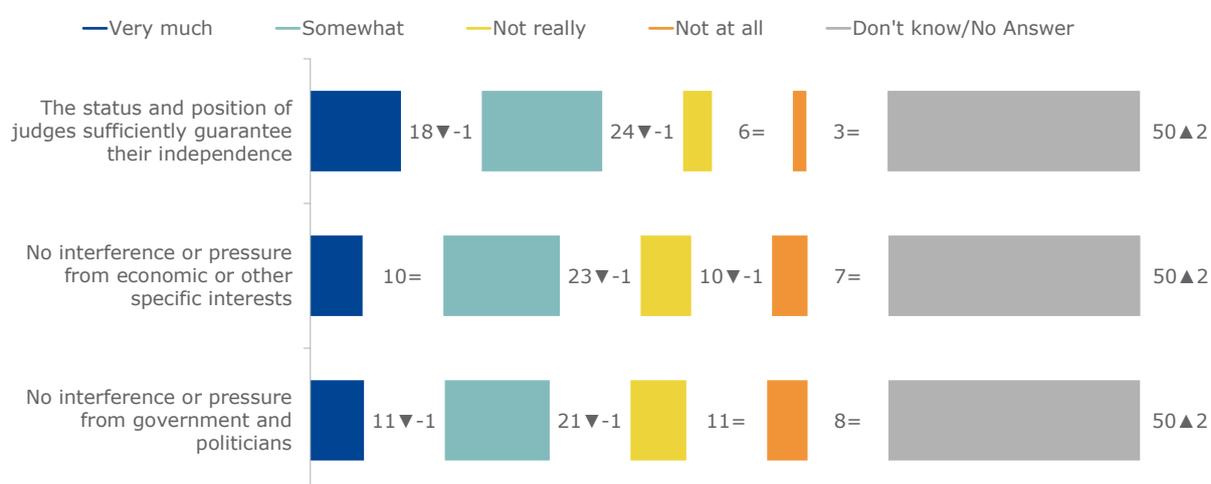
	No interference or pressure from government and politicians		No Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests		The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence	
	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)
EU27	59	36	63	32	78	16
 Gender						
Men	60	37	64	31	79	16
Women	58	35	62	32	78	15
 Age						
15-24	58	37	62	35	77	18
25-39	60	35	65	30	79	16
40-54	61	36	63	32	80	15
55+	57	36	61	32	78	15
 Education (age when completed)						
Up to 15	54	35	57	28	70	19
16-19	58	36	61	34	76	18
20+	61	35	64	31	81	14
Still studying	58	40	63	35	79	18
 Occupation						
Self-employed	60	37	63	34	78	18
Employee	62	35	66	31	82	14
Manual worker	59	34	63	31	70	19
Not working	56	37	60	32	76	17
 Involved in dispute which went to court						
Yes	53	45	62	36	82	12
No	59	35	63	32	78	16

Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

e. Analysis based on all respondents

The chart below shows the results for this question when using the answers of all respondents. Overall, 42% say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence explains why they rate the independence of their justice system, in terms of independence of courts and judges, as good. About one third say the lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (33%) or government and politicians (31%) explains why they think the independence of their justice system is good. Results have remained stable compared to 2021.

Q2b Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% - EU27)



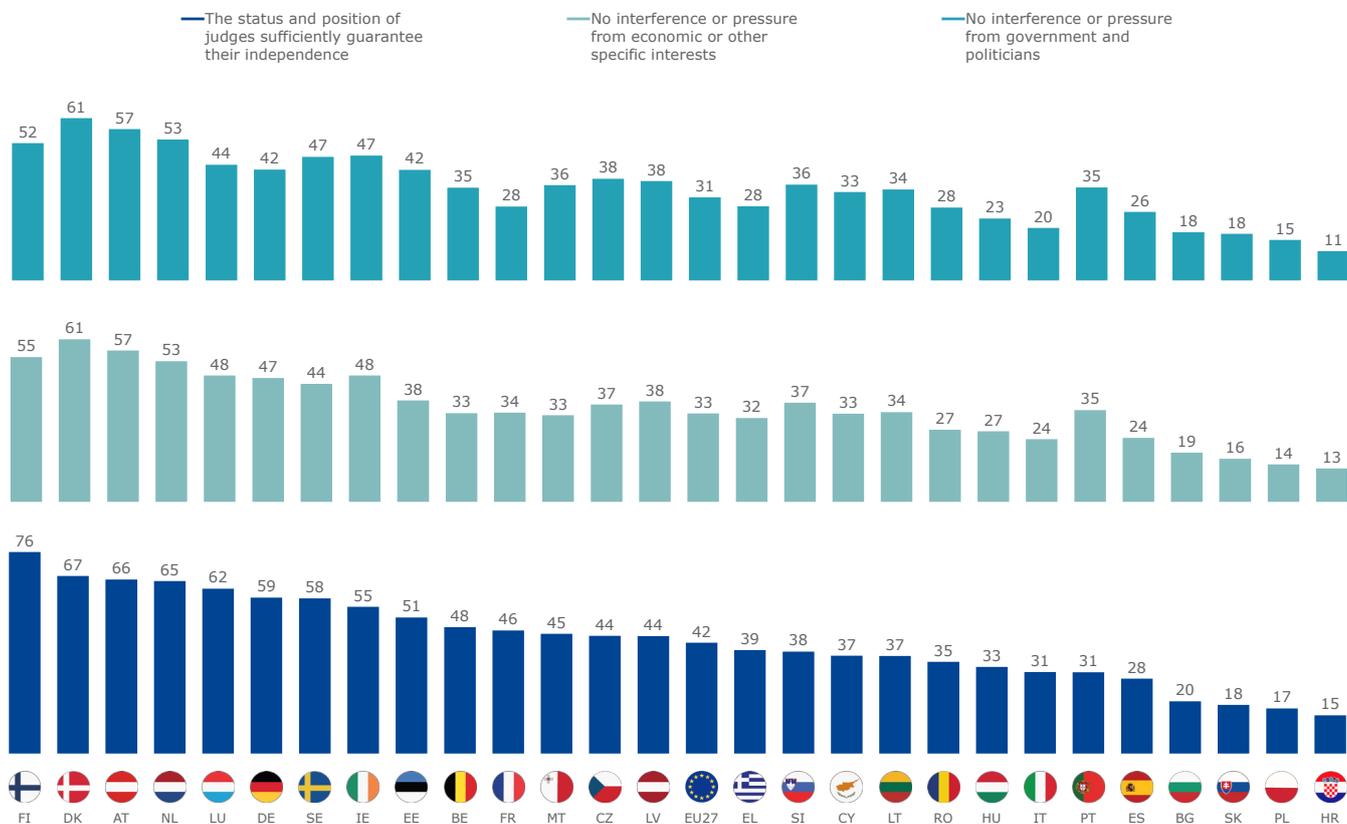
Base: all respondents (n=25 767) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

The country results, based on all respondents, show that respondents in Finland (76%), Denmark (67%) and Austria (66%) are the most likely to say the fact that the **status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence** explains why they rate independence of courts and judges as good. By contrast, 15% in Croatia, 17% in Poland, 18% in Slovakia and 20% in Bulgaria say the same.

There are four Member States where the majority say the **lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as good: Denmark (61%), Austria (57%), Finland (55%), and the Netherlands (53%). By contrast, 13% in Croatia, 14% in Poland, 16% in Slovakia and 19% in Bulgaria say the same.

There are four countries where the majority of respondents say the **absence of interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they think the level of independence of courts and judges in their country is good: Denmark (61%), Austria (57%), the Netherlands (53%) and Finland (52%). At the other end of the scale, 11% in Croatia, 15% in Poland and 18% in both Bulgaria and Slovakia say the same.

Q2b Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% Explains “very much” + “somewhat”)



Base: all respondents (n=25 767)

2.2. Negative assessments

Interference or pressure from governments and politicians is the reason most often given for rating the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad.

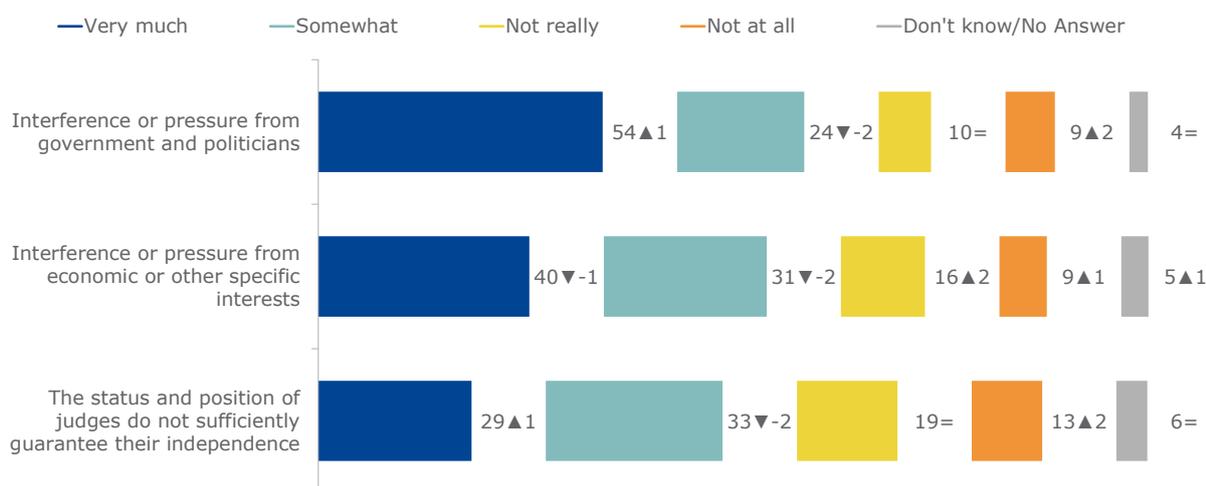
Respondents who rated the level of independence of their national justice system as bad⁴ were asked to what extent their rating could be explained by the following reasons: the lack of guarantees provided by the status and position of judges, interference or pressure from governments or politicians, or interference or pressure from economic or special interests.

About eight in ten (77%) of these respondents say interference or pressure from government and politicians (at least somewhat) explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad, while 54% say this 'very much' explains their rating. Seven in ten respondents (70%) say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their rating, with 40% saying this 'very much' explains it.

More than six in ten (62%) say the fact that the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence is the reason for their poor rating of their national justice system, with 29% saying this 'very much' explains their rating.

Compared with 2021, respondents are now less likely to say the interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (-3 pp) at least somewhat explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad.

Q2a Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% - EU27)



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

⁴ Answering 'fairly bad' or 'very bad'.

a. Political pressure

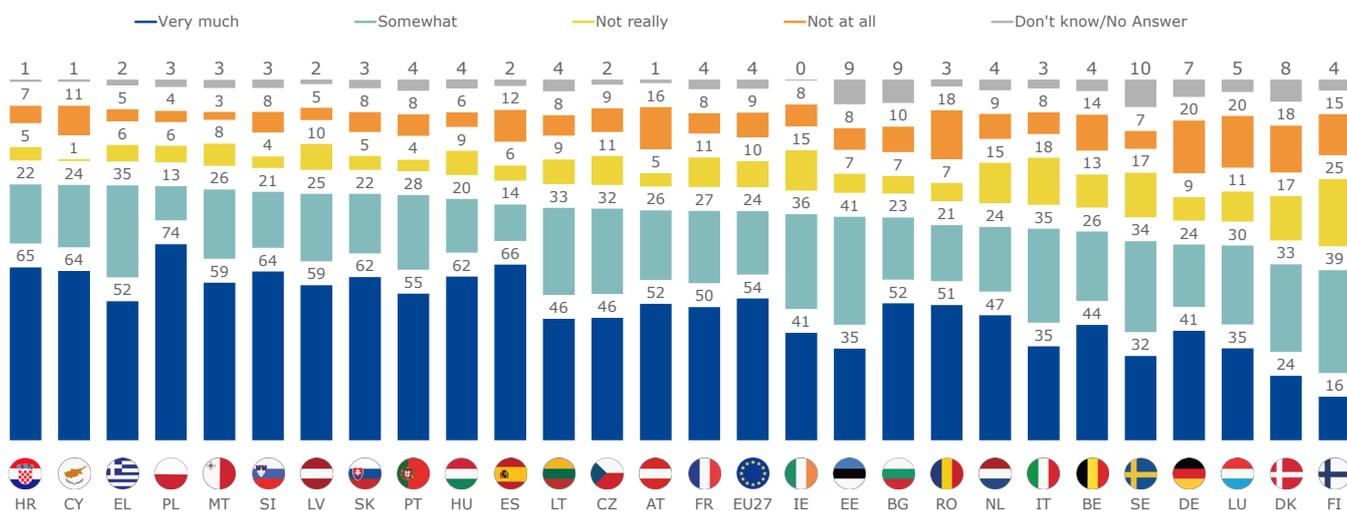
In each country, at least half of respondents with a negative perception of the independence of courts and judges in their country indicate interference or pressure from government and politicians as a reason. Those in Croatia (88%) and Cyprus, Greece and Poland (all 87%) are the most likely to say this, compared to 55% in Finland and 57% in Denmark.

In 15 countries, at least half of respondents say this reason 'very much' explains their rating, with the highest proportions observed in Poland (74%), Spain (66%) and Croatia (65%). At the other end of the scale, 16% in Finland, 24% in Denmark and 32% Sweden say the same. About four in ten respondents in Estonia (41%) and Finland (39%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, compared to 13% in Poland and 14% in Spain.

Respondents in Finland (25%) are the most likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians does 'not really' explain their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges, while those in Cyprus (1%), Portugal and Slovenia (both 4%) are the least likely to do so. Finally, respondents in Germany and Luxembourg (both 20%) and in Denmark and Romania (both 18%) are the most likely to say this reason does 'not at all' explain their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, while those in Malta (3%), Poland (4%), Greece and Latvia (both 5%) are the least likely to say this.

Q2a.1 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

Interference or pressure from government and politicians (%)



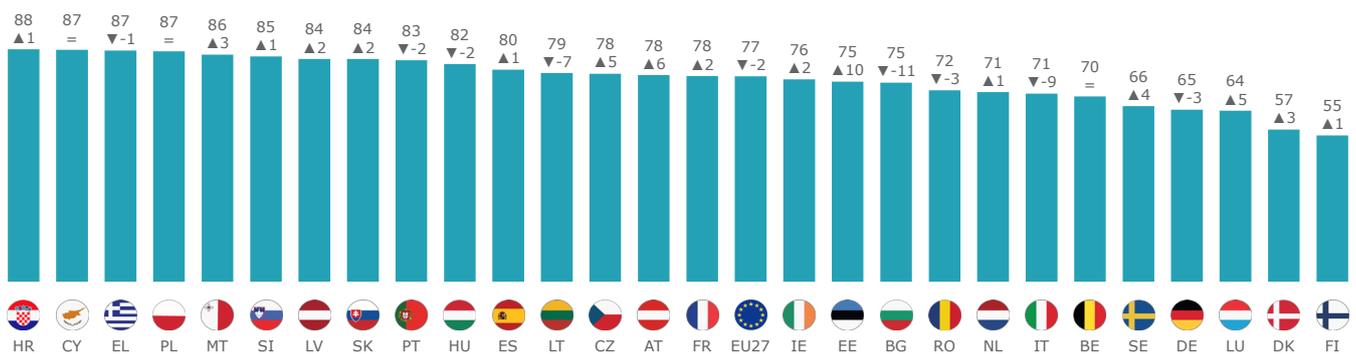
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

Compared to 2021, respondents are now more likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative perceptions of the level of independence of courts and judges in Estonia (+10 pp) and Austria (+6 pp). By contrast, the largest decreases are observed in Bulgaria (-11 pp), Italy (-9 pp) and Lithuania (-7 pp).

Q2a.1 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

Interference or pressure from government and politicians

(% - Total 'Explains')



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

b. Economic interests

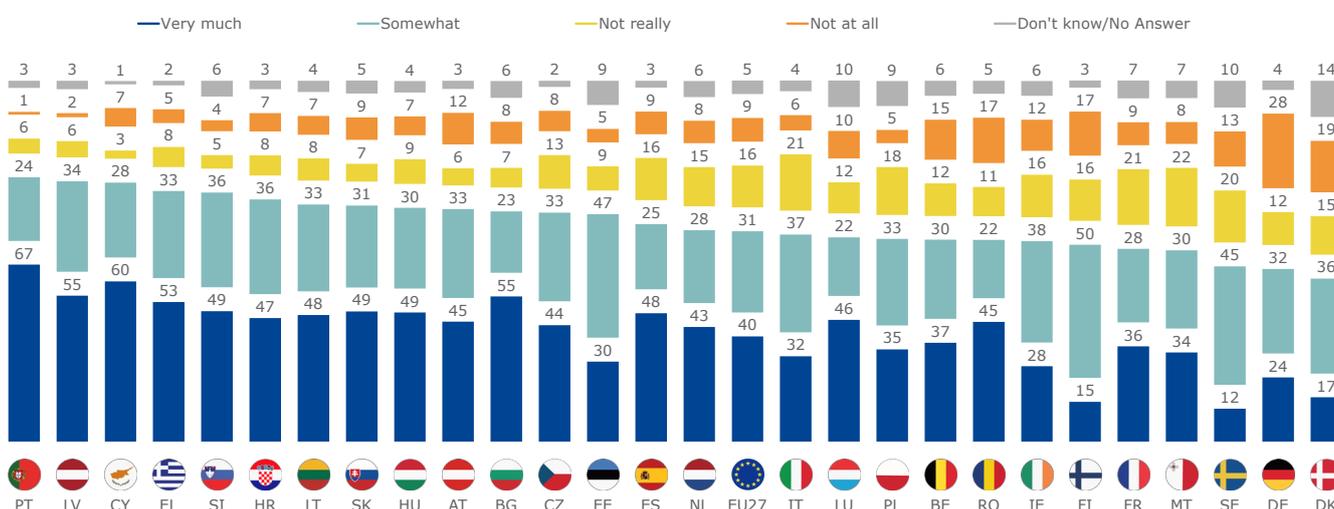
A majority of respondents in all Member States say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. The level of agreement, however, varies considerably, from 53% in Denmark to 91% in Portugal.

There are two Member States where at least six in ten say this reason 'very much' explains their rating: Portugal (67%) and Cyprus (60%). At the other end of the scale, 12% in Sweden, 15% in Finland and 17% in Denmark say the same. Respondents in Finland (50%), Estonia (47%) and Sweden (45%) are the most likely to say this reason 'somewhat' explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, compared to 22% in both Luxembourg and Romania.

About one in five respondents in Malta (22%), France and Italy (both 21%) say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests does 'not really' explain why they think the independence of their national justice system is bad, compared to 3% in Cyprus and 5% in Slovenia. Finally, those in Germany (28%) and Denmark (19%) are the most likely to say this reason does not explain their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country at all, while those in Portugal (1%), Latvia (2%), and Slovenia (4%) are the least likely to say so.

Q2a.2 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (%)



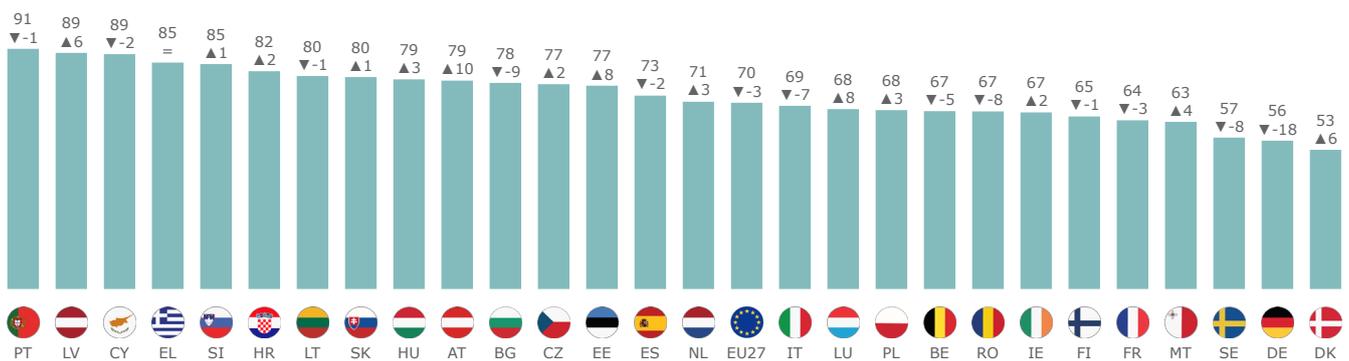
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

Compared with 2021, respondents in Austria (+10 pp), and Luxembourg and Estonia (+8 pp) are now more likely to say that the interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. By contrast, respondents in Germany (-18 pp), Bulgaria (- 9 pp), Romania and Sweden (both -8 pp) are now less likely to say this.

Q2a.2 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests

(% - Total 'Explains')



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

c. Status and position of judges

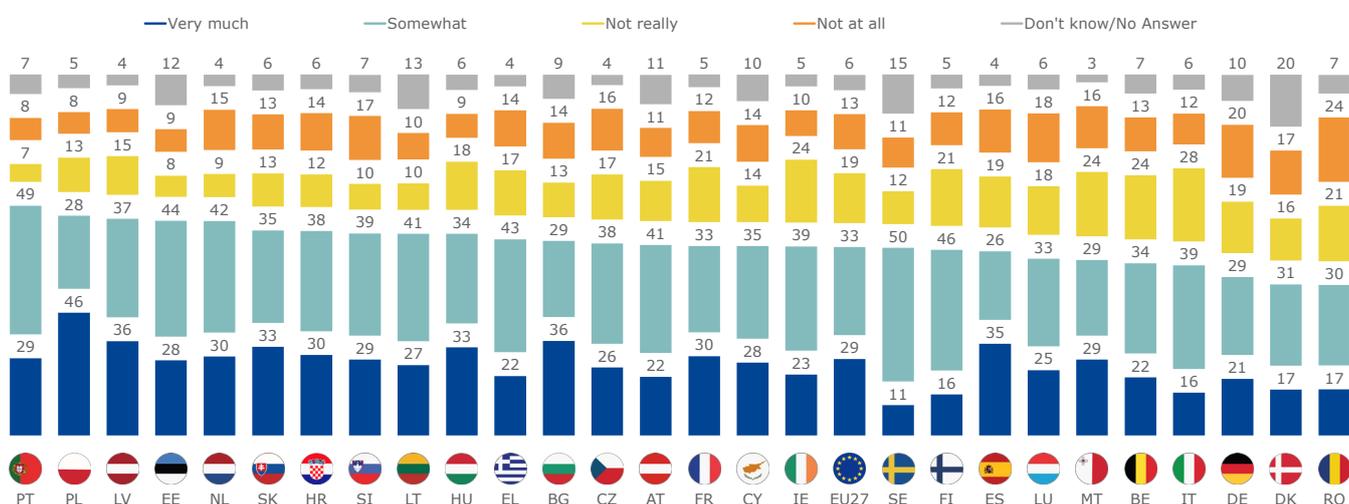
In all but two countries, a majority of respondents who rate the independence of courts and judges as bad say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence is a reason for their poor rating. Respondents in Portugal (78%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Denmark and Romania (both 48%) are the least likely to do so.

Respondents in Poland (46%), Bulgaria and Latvia (both 36%) are the most likely to say this reason 'very much' explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, while those in Sweden (11%) and Italy and Finland (16%) are the least likely to do so. About half of respondents in Sweden (50%), Portugal (49%) and Finland (46%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their bad rating, compared to 26% in Spain and 28% in Poland.

About a quarter of respondents in Italy (28%), and Belgium, Ireland and Malta (all 24%) say the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing independence does 'not really' explain their rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. At the other end of the scale, 7% of respondents in Portugal, 8% in Estonia, and 9% in the Netherlands say the same. Respondents in Romania (24%), Germany (20%), Luxembourg (18%) are the most likely to say this reason does 'not at all' explain their rating, while those in Poland and Portugal (both 8%) are the least likely to do so.

Q2a.3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence (%)

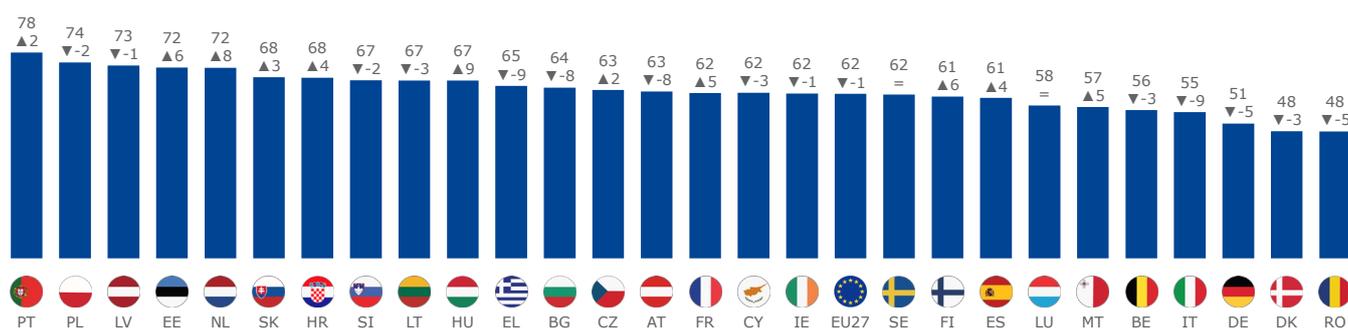


Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

Compared to 2021, respondents in Hungary (+9 pp), the Netherlands (+8 pp), and Finland and Estonia (both +6 pp) are now more likely to say that the fact that the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their bad rating. Downward shifts compared to 2021 are observed in Italy and Greece (both -9 pp), and Bulgaria (-8 pp).

Q2a.3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):

The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence (% - Total 'Explains')



Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

d. Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis illustrates the following:

- There are no significant differences between men and women.
- Compared to relatively younger respondents, those aged 55 or older are less likely to say each reason explains their rating. For example, whereas 58% of those aged 55 or older say their rating is explained by the fact that the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence, this figure 68% for those aged 25-39 and 64% for those aged 40-54.
- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to say each reason explains their rating. For example, 82% of those who completed their education aged 20 or older say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating, compared to 63% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger and 76% of those who completed their education aged 16 to 19.
- Employees and self-employed workers are more likely to say each reason explains their rating, compared with those who are not working. For instance, 84% of employees say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating, compared with 73% of those not in work.
- Respondents who have been involved in a dispute that has gone to court in the last two years are less likely to say each reason explains their rating. For instance, 72% of respondents who

have been involved in a legal dispute say that their bad rating is due to interference or pressure from government and politicians, compared to 78% for those who have not been involved in such a dispute.

Q2a Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% - EU27)

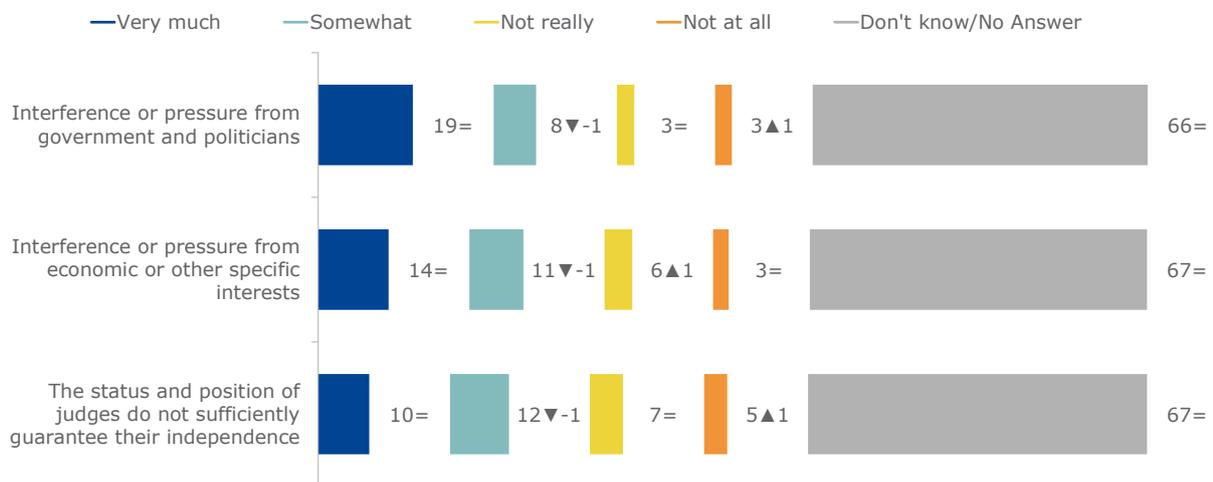
	Interference or pressure from government and politicians		Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests		The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence	
	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)
EU27	77	19	70	25	62	32
 Gender						
Men	77	21	69	27	62	34
Women	79	17	72	22	62	31
 Age						
15-24	79	19	66	31	62	31
25-39	81	17	71	25	68	28
40-54	80	17	74	22	64	30
55+	74	22	69	25	58	36
 Education (age when completed)						
Up to 15	63	31	63	33	50	42
16-19	76	20	69	25	59	34
20+	82	16	74	21	66	29
Still studying	79	19	64	32	67	27
 Occupation						
Self-employed	78	20	71	25	67	29
Employee	84	14	77	20	67	28
Manual worker	76	22	69	24	60	31
Not working	73	22	67	27	58	35
 Involved in dispute which went to court						
Yes	72	24	66	29	61	34
No	78	19	71	24	62	32

Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

e. Analysis based on all respondents

The chart below shows the results of this question taking into account all respondents in the survey. More than a quarter (27%) say the interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad, while 25% say this about interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests. Finally, 22% say the fact that the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. These results have remained stable compared to 2021.

Q2a Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% - EU27)



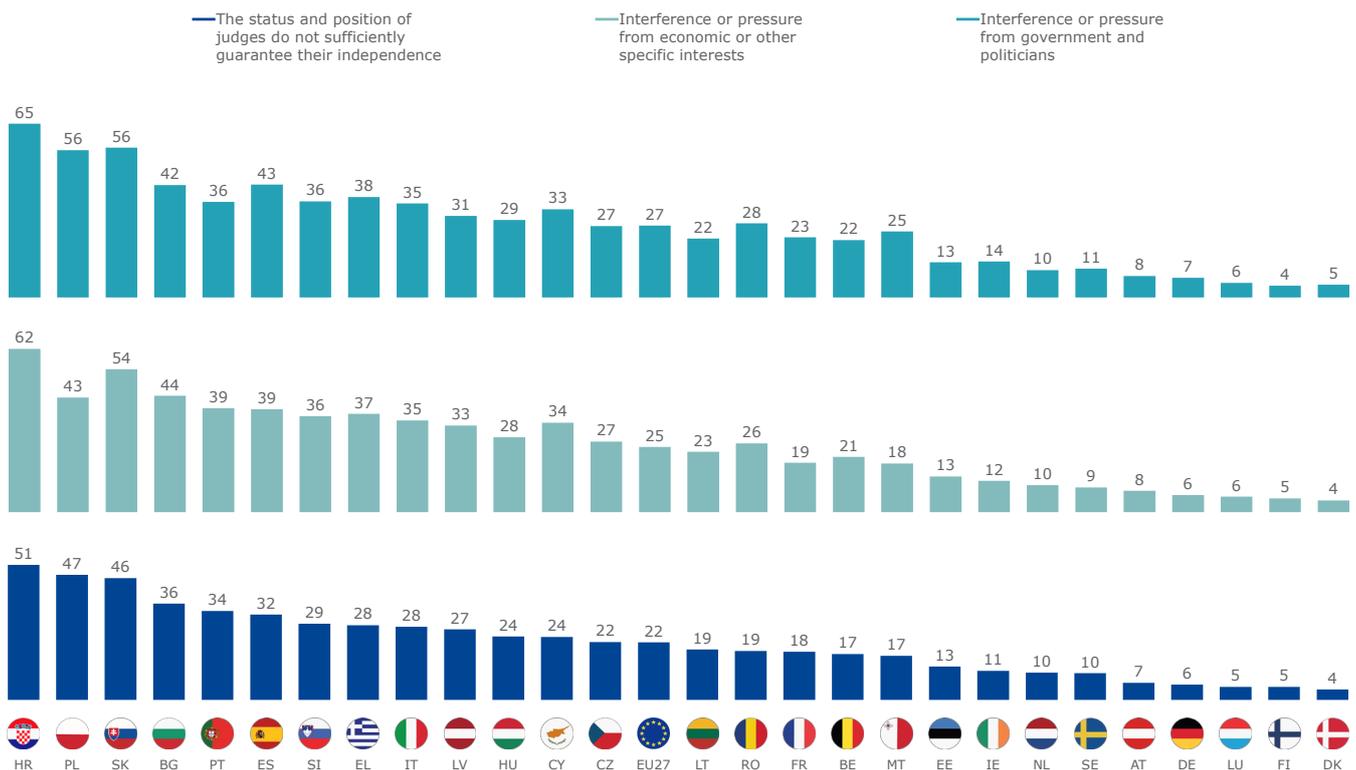
Base: all respondents (n=25 767) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 03-04/2021

The country results, based on all respondents, show that Croatia (65%), Poland and Slovakia (both 56%) are the only countries where at least half say that the **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. By contrast, 4% in Finland, 5% in Denmark and 6% in Luxembourg say the same.

Respondents in Croatia (62%) are also the most likely to say that **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains why they rate the level of independence of the courts and judges in their country as bad, followed by 54% in Slovakia and 44% in Bulgaria. This compares to 4% in Denmark, 5% in Finland and 6% in Germany and Luxembourg.

More than four in ten respondents in Croatia (51%), Poland (47%), Slovakia (46%) say the fact that the **status and position of judges** does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. At the other end of the scale, 4% in Denmark and 5% in Luxembourg and Finland say the same.

Q2a Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): (% Explains “very much” + “somewhat”)



Base: all respondents (n=25 767)

Technical specifications

Between 17 and 24 January 2022, Ipsos European Public affairs carried out Flash Eurobarometer 503 at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. It is a general public survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. Flash Eurobarometer 503 covers the population of EU citizens, residents in one of the 27 Member States of the euro area and aged 15 years and over.

All interviews were carried via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). In each country, respondents were called both on landlines and mobile phones. The telephone numbers sampled and contacted were generated via Random Digit Dialling (RDD) methods. The basic sample design applied in all countries is a random (probability) design. In households contacted via a landline phone, the respondent was drawn at random from all household members (aged 15 years and over) following the "most recent birthday rule".

	Number of interviews	Fieldwork dates	Population 15+ (absolute number)	Population 15+ (as % of EU27 population)
EU27 	25 767	17/01-24/01/2022	379 697 871	100%
BE 	1 016	17/01-21/01/2022	9 580 326	2.52%
BG 	1 068	17/01-23/01/2022	5 949 224	1.57%
CZ 	1 012	17/01-24/01/2022	8 983 737	2.37%
DK 	1 007	17/01-23/01/2022	4 869 645	1.28%
DE 	1 004	17/01-24/01/2022	71 775 452	18.90%
EE 	1 008	17/01-22/01/2022	1 110 274	0.29%
IE 	1 004	17/01-21/01/2022	3 958 375	1.04%
EL 	1 003	17/01-21/01/2022	9 191 046	2.42%
ES 	1 002	17/01-24/01/2022	40 455 461	10.65%
FR 	1 005	17/01-21/01/2022	55 281 445	14.56%
HR 	1 006	17/01-21/01/2022	3 476 694	0.92%
IT 	1 009	17/01-21/01/2022	51 913 934	13.67%
CY 	504	17/01-24/01/2022	745 621	0.20%
LV 	1 002	17/01-21/01/2022	1 602 487	0.42%
LT 	1 004	17/01-22/01/2022	2 371 346	0.62%
LU 	503	17/01-21/01/2022	526 031	0.14%
HU 	1 004	17/01-20/01/2022	8 348 190	2.20%
MT 	512	17/01-20/01/2022	445 406	0.12%
NL 	1 009	17/01-22/01/2022	14 681 486	3.87%
AT 	1 015	17/01-21/01/2022	7 618 004	2.01%
PL 	1 012	17/01-21/01/2022	32 096 067	8.45%
PT 	1 014	17/01-21/01/2022	8 898 924	2.34%
RO 	1 015	17/01-20/01/2022	16 297 460	4.29%
SI 	1 009	17/01-20/01/2022	1 780 059	0.47%
SK 	1 000	17/01-21/01/2022	4 594 153	1.21%
FI 	1 008	17/01-22/01/2022	4 654 256	1.23%
SE 	1 012	17/01-22/01/2022	8 492 768	2.24%

Margin of error

Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances. The “margin of error” quantifies uncertainty about (or confidence in) a survey result. As a general rule, the more interviews conducted (sample size), the smaller the margin of error. A sample of 500 will produce a margin of error of not more than 4.4 percentage points, and a sample of 1,000 will produce a margin of error of not more than 3.1 percentage points.

The maximum margin of sampling error when comparing individual country results between surveys is ± 8.8 percentage points for countries with a sample size of 500 and ± 6.2 percentage points for countries with a sample size of 1,000.

Statistical margins due to sampling tolerances

(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%	95%
n=50	± 6.0	± 8.3	± 12.0	± 13.9	± 12.0	± 8.3	± 6.0
n=100	± 4.3	± 5.9	± 8.5	± 9.8	± 8.5	± 5.9	± 4.3
n=200	± 3.0	± 4.2	± 6.0	± 6.9	± 6.0	± 4.2	± 3.0
n=500	± 1.9	± 2.6	± 3.8	± 4.4	± 3.8	± 2.6	± 1.9
n=1000	± 1.4	± 1.9	± 2.7	± 3.1	± 2.7	± 1.9	± 1.4
n=1500	± 1.1	± 1.5	± 2.2	± 2.5	± 2.2	± 1.5	± 1.1
n=2000	± 1.0	± 1.3	± 1.9	± 2.2	± 1.9	± 1.3	± 1.0

Questionnaire

	ASK ALL	
D4	In the last two years, have you been involved in any dispute which has gone to court?	
	(DO NOT READ OUT, ONE ANSWER ONLY)	
	Yes	1
	No	2
	Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	3
	<i>FL489 D4</i>	
	ASK ALL	
Q1	From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?	
	(READ OUT, ONE ANSWER ONLY)	
	Very good	1
	Fairly good	2
	Fairly bad	3
	Very bad	4
	Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	5
	<i>FL489 Q1</i>	
	ASK q2a IF Q1=3 OR 4	
Q2a	Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):	
	(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER PER LINE) (RANDOMISE ITEMS 1 TO 3)	
Q2a_1	Interference or pressure from government and politicians	
Q2a_2	Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests	
Q2a_3	The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence	
	(RESPONSE SCALE)	
	Very much	1
	Somewhat	2
	Not really	3
	Not at all	4
	Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	5
	<i>FL489 Q2a</i>	

ASK q2b IF Q1=1 OR 2

Q2b **Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY):**

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER PER LINE) (RANDOMISE ITEMS 1 TO 3)

Q2b_1 **No interference or pressure from government and politicians**

Q2b_2 **No interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests**

Q2b_3 **The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence**

(RESPONSE SCALE)

Very much 1

Somewhat 2

Not really 3

Not at all 4

Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT) 5

FL489 Q2b

Data annex

Q1 From what you know, how would you rate the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY) in terms of the independence of courts and judges? Would you say it is very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

		Very good	Fairly good	Fairly bad	Very bad	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		11▲2	42▼-3	23=	12=	12▲1
BE		9▼-1	51▼-5	23▲5	8▲2	9▼-1
BG		3▲1	28▼-1	30▼-3	26▲3	13=
CZ		5▼-1	52▲7	26▼-1	8=	9▼-5
DK		42▲7	42▲2	6▼-2	2=	8▼-7
DE		26▲6	50▼-10	8▼-3	4=	13▲7
EE		11▲2	49▼-9	14▲6	3▲1	23▼-1
IE		17▲3	56▼-3	14▼-1	4=	9=
EL		6▼-2	46=	28▲4	16▲2	4▼-4
ES		4▲1	34▼-1	35▲3	18=	9▼-3
FR		4▼-1	52=	21▼-1	9▲1	15▲1
HR		5▲1	15▲2	38▲3	36▼-7	5=
IT		3▲1	34▲2	34▼-3	16▼-1	13▲1
CY		6▼-1	44▲4	25▲4	13▼-3	12▼-4
LV		3=	50▼-3	28▼-2	8▲3	11▲2
LT		3=	50▼-2	21▼-3	7▼-1	20▲6
LU		15▼-3	63▲4	6=	3▲1	14▼-1
HU		8▲2	35=	24=	12▼-1	21▼-1
MT		20▼-1	47▼-1	20▲3	9=	4=
NL		24▼-1	53▲1	10▲2	4▲1	9▼-3
AT		24▲3	59▼-4	8=	3▲1	7=
PL		3▲1	21▼-6	34▲1	30▲4	12=
PT		7▲5	41▼-6	37▲3	7▼-3	10=
RO		6=	43▼-3	24=	15▲1	13▲2
SI		4▲1	45▲2	28▲2	15▼-2	8▼-3
SK		1=	24▼-3	46▲5	22▼-2	8=
FI		29▲3	60▲3	7▼-5	2▼-1	4=
SE		24▲2	50▲1	13=	4=	10▼-3

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=25 767 - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)

Q2a_1 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): Interference or pressure from government and politicians

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		54▲1	24▼-2	10=	9▲2	4=
BE		44▲2	26▼-2	13▼-6	14▲5	4▲1
BG		52▼-9	23▼-1	7▲1	10▲3	9▲7
CZ		46▲1	32▲4	11▼-1	9=	2▼-4
DK		24▼-5	33▲8	17▲3	18▲3	8▼-8
DE		41▲4	24▼-7	9▼-5	20▲8	7=
EE		35▲3	41▲7	7=	8▼-11	9▲1
IE		41▼-1	36▲2	15▼-3	8▲1	0=
EL		52▼-4	35▲2	6▼-1	5▲3	2=
ES		66▲1	14=	6▼-2	12=	2▲1
FR		50▼-1	27▲3	11▼-2	8=	4=
HR		65▼-2	22▲2	5▲1	7=	1▼-2
IT		35▼-3	35▼-6	18▲5	8▲4	3▲1
CY		64▲4	24▼-4	1▼-1	11▲4	1▼-3
LV		59▲4	25▼-2	10=	5▼-2	2=
LT		46▼-4	33▼-3	9▲4	8▲3	4=
LU		35▲1	30▲4	11▲1	20▲1	5▼-6
HU		62▼-3	20▲2	9▲1	6=	4▲1
MT		59▼-4	26▲7	8=	3▼-1	3▼-2
NL		47▲7	24▼-6	15▲4	9▼-2	4▼-2
AT		52▲1	26▲5	5▼-4	16▲1	1▼-3
PL		74▲4	13▼-4	6▼-1	4=	3▲1
PT		55▼-5	28▲3	4▲1	8▲1	4▲1
RO		51▼-5	21▲2	7▼-2	18▲7	3▼-2
SI		64▼-5	21▲6	4▼-1	8▲1	3=
SK		62▲9	22▼-7	5▼-4	8▲1	3▲1
FI		16▼-6	39▲7	25▼-1	15▲5	4▼-5
SE		32▲10	34▼-6	17▲2	7▼-6	10▼-1

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=8 888 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)

Q2a_2 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		40▼-1	31▼-2	16▲2	9▲1	5▲1
BE		37▲9	30▼-14	12▼-4	15▲7	6▲2
BG		55▲2	23▼-10	7▲3	8▲2	6▲4
CZ		44▲5	33▼-3	13▼-2	8▲3	2▼-3
DK		17▼-3	36▲9	15▲1	19▲4	14▼-11
DE		24▼-19	32▲1	12▲3	28▲17	4▼-2
EE		30▲4	47▲5	9▲1	5▼-5	9▼-4
IE		28▲2	38=	16▼-1	12▼-1	6▼-1
EL		53▼-2	33▲2	8▼-1	5▲1	2=
ES		48▼-4	25▲2	16▲2	9=	3=
FR		36▲4	28▼-7	21▲3	9▼-3	7▲3
HR		47▼-5	36▲7	8▼-1	7=	3▼-2
IT		32▼-5	37▼-2	21▲6	6▲2	4=
CY		60▼-4	28▲2	3=	7▲4	1▼-2
LV		55▲3	34▲4	6▼-4	2▼-3	3▲1
LT		48▲3	33▼-4	8▲1	7▲2	4▼-3
LU		46▲14	22▼-7	12▼-4	10▼-8	10▲5
HU		49▲2	30▲1	9▲2	7▼-3	4▼-2
MT		34▲5	30▼-1	22▲1	8=	7▼-4
NL		43▲14	28▼-11	15▲1	8▼-6	6▲2
AT		45=	33▲11	6▼-5	12▲2	3▼-8
PL		35▲3	33=	18▼-3	5▼-3	9▲3
PT		67▲4	24▼-5	6▲4	1▼-3	3=
RO		45▼-1	22▼-7	11▼-2	17▲8	5▲2
SI		49=	36▲1	5▼-2	4▲1	6▲1
SK		49▼-1	31▲1	7▼-2	9▲1	5▲1
FI		15▼-8	50▲7	16▼-2	17▲8	3▼-6
SE		12▼-10	45▲2	20▲7	13▼-1	10▲2

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=8 888 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)

Q2a_3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		29▲1	33▼-2	19=	13▲2	6=
BE		22▲3	34▼-6	24=	13=	7▲3
BG		36▼-6	29▼-2	13▲3	14▲2	9▲4
CZ		26=	38▲1	17=	16▲2	4▼-4
DK		17=	31▼-2	16=	17▲9	20▼-6
DE		21▲1	29▼-6	19▼-3	20▲8	10▼-1
EE		28▲7	44▼-1	8▼-4	9▼-4	12▲2
IE		23▼-3	39▲3	24▲1	10=	5=
EL		22▼-8	43▼-1	17▲1	14▲9	4=
ES		35▲1	26▲3	19▼-2	16▼-3	4=
FR		30▲8	33▼-4	21▼-1	12▲2	5▼-5
HR		30▼-4	38▲8	12▼-1	14▼-2	6▼-1
IT		16▼-5	39▼-5	28▲4	12▲5	6▲1
CY		28▼-2	35▼-1	14▼-1	14▼-2	10▲5
LV		36▲4	37▼-5	15▼-3	9▲2	4▲1
LT		27▼-3	41▼-1	10▼-3	10▲1	13▲6
LU		25▼-6	33▲6	18▼-4	18▲4	6=
HU		33▲3	34▲6	18▼-3	9▼-7	6▲1
MT		29▲7	29▼-2	24▼-2	16▲4	3▼-7
NL		30▼-1	42▲9	9▼-6	15▼-2	4▲1
AT		22▼-4	41▼-4	15▲2	11▲8	11▼-2
PL		46▲6	28▼-8	13▲1	8=	5▲1
PT		29▼-3	49▲4	7▼-4	8▲1	7▲1
RO		17▼-2	30▼-3	21▼-1	24▲5	7=
SI		29▼-10	39▲7	10▼-2	17▲2	7▲2
SK		33▲4	35▼-1	13▼-4	13=	6▲1
FI		16▲1	46▲5	21▲2	12=	5▼-8
SE		11▼-2	50▲3	12▼-3	11=	15▲2

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=8 888 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)

Q2a_1f Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): Interference or pressure from government and politicians

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		19=	8▼-1	3=	3▲1	66=
BE		14▲4	8▲1	4▼-1	4▲2	70▼-6
BG		29▼-5	13▼-1	4▲1	5▲2	49▲4
CZ		16=	11▲1	4=	3=	66=
DK		2▼-1	3=	1=	2=	92▲1
DE		5▼-1	3▼-2	1▼-1	2▲1	89▲3
EE		6▲3	7▲4	1▲1	1▼-1	84▼-7
IE		7=	6=	3▼-1	2=	82▲1
EL		23▲2	15▲3	3=	2▲1	58▼-6
ES		35▲2	7=	3▼-1	6=	48▼-2
FR		15=	8▲1	3▼-1	2=	72=
HR		49▼-4	17▲1	4=	5=	26▲2
IT		18▼-3	18▼-5	9▲2	4▲2	52▲4
CY		24▲2	9▼-1	0=	4▲2	62▼-2
LV		21▲2	9=	4=	2▼-1	64▼-1
LT		13▼-3	9▼-2	3▲1	2▲1	73▲4
LU		3=	3=	1=	2=	92▼-1
HU		22▼-2	7=	3=	2=	66▲2
MT		17▲1	8▲3	2=	1=	72▼-3
NL		7▲2	4=	2▲1	1=	86▼-3
AT		5▲1	3▲1	1=	2=	90▼-1
PL		47▲6	8▼-2	4=	3▲1	38▼-5
PT		24▼-2	12▲2	2=	3=	59=
RO		20▼-2	8▲1	3▼-1	7▲3	62▼-1
SI		27▼-2	9▲3	2▼-1	3▲1	59=
SK		41▲8	15▼-4	4▼-2	5▲1	35▼-2
FI		1▼-2	3▼-1	2▼-2	1=	92▲4
SE		5▲2	6▼-1	3=	1▼-1	85=

Q2a_2f Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		14=	11▼-1	6▲1	3=	67=
BE		12▲5	9▼-2	4=	5▲3	71▼-6
BG		31▲1	13▼-6	4▲2	5▲1	47▲2
CZ		15▲1	12▼-2	4▼-1	3▲1	66▲1
DK		1▼-1	3=	1=	2=	93▲1
DE		3▼-3	4▼-1	1=	3▲2	89▲2
EE		5▲3	8▲4	2▲1	1=	84▼-7
IE		5=	7=	3=	2=	83▲1
EL		23▲3	14▲3	3=	2▲1	57▼-6
ES		26▼-1	13▲2	9▲2	5=	48▼-3
FR		11▲1	8▼-2	6▲1	3▼-1	73▲1
HR		35▼-5	27▲4	6▼-1	5=	28▲2
IT		16▼-4	18▼-3	11▲2	3▲1	52▲4
CY		23▼-1	11▲1	1=	3▲2	63▼-2
LV		20▲2	13▲2	2▼-1	1▼-1	65▼-1
LT		14▼-1	9▼-3	2=	2▲1	73▲3
LU		4▲1	2=	1=	1▼-1	92=
HU		17=	11=	3▲1	3▼-1	66▲1
MT		10▲2	9▲1	6▲1	2=	73▼-3
NL		6▲3	4▼-1	2▲1	1=	87▼-2
AT		5=	4▲1	1=	1=	90▼-2
PL		22▲4	21▲2	12▼-1	3▼-2	42▼-3
PT		29▲2	10▼-2	2▲2	1▼-1	58▼-1
RO		17=	9▼-2	4▼-1	7▲3	63=
SI		21=	15=	2▼-1	2=	60=
SK		33▲1	21▲2	5▼-1	6▲1	36▼-2
FI		1▼-2	4▼-2	1▼-1	1=	92▲4
SE		2▼-2	7=	3▲1	2=	85▲1

Q2a_3f Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		10=	12▼-1	7=	5▲1	67=
BE		7▲2	11▲1	8▲2	4▲1	71▼-5
BG		20▼-3	16▼-1	7▲1	8▲1	49▲2
CZ		9=	13=	6=	5▲1	67=
DK		2=	3▼-1	1=	1▲1	93▲1
DE		2▼-1	3▼-2	2▼-1	2▲1	90▲3
EE		5▲3	8▲3	1=	2=	85▼-7
IE		4▼-1	7=	4=	2=	83▲1
EL		10▼-1	18▲2	7▲1	6▲4	59▼-7
ES		18▲1	14▲2	10=	9▼-1	49▼-3
FR		9▲2	10▼-1	6=	4▲1	72▼-2
HR		23▼-4	28▲5	9▼-2	11▼-2	29▲3
IT		8▼-3	20▼-4	14▲1	6▲2	53▲4
CY		11▼-1	13=	5=	5▼-1	66▲1
LV		13▲2	14▼-1	5▼-1	3▲1	65▼-1
LT		8▼-2	12▼-2	3▼-2	3=	75▲5
LU		2=	3▲1	2=	2=	92▼-1
HU		12▲1	12▲2	7▼-2	3▼-3	66▲2
MT		8▲3	8=	7=	5▲1	72▼-4
NL		4▲1	6▲2	1▼-1	2=	86▼-3
AT		2=	4=	2=	1▲1	91▼-1
PL		30▲6	18▼-3	8▲1	5=	39▼-4
PT		13▼-1	21▲2	3▼-2	4=	60=
RO		7▼-1	12▼-1	8=	9▲2	64▼-1
SI		12▼-4	17▲3	4▼-1	7▲1	60▲1
SK		23▲3	23=	8▼-2	9=	37▼-2
FI		1▼-1	4▼-2	2▼-1	1▼-1	92▲4
SE		2=	8=	2▼-1	2=	86▲1

Q2b_1 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): No interference or pressure from government and politicians

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		20▼-2	39▼-1	21=	15▲1	6▲1
BE		20▲1	39▼-2	27▲3	9▼-4	5▲2
BG		21=	38▼-4	16▼-5	19▲6	7▲2
CZ		18▼-3	50=	18▲2	13▲1	3▼-1
DK		35▲5	38▲1	12▼-1	9▼-2	6▼-3
DE		18▼-8	37▼-1	15=	22▲5	8▲4
EE		32▲5	38=	13▼-5	10▲1	7▼-2
IE		21▼-1	44▼-1	20▲1	13▲1	3=
EL		13▼-2	40▲4	34▲1	12▼-1	1▼-2
ES		32▲5	36▼-3	17▼-2	12▼-1	3▲1
FR		16▲2	34▼-3	32▲2	13=	5▼-1
HR		18▲4	36▼-14	16▲1	21=	9▲9
IT		12▲2	42▲2	30▼-8	9▲1	7▲3
CY		19▼-5	48▼-3	16▲5	15▲2	3=
LV		26▲5	45▲2	16▼-4	10▼-2	3=
LT		16▼-3	50▼-4	13▼-1	16▲7	6▲1
LU		14▼-2	43▲2	22=	17▲1	4▼-1
HU		17=	37▼-4	22▲5	21▲5	4▼-5
MT		18▼-4	36▲3	25▲1	14▼-2	7▲1
NL		24▼-6	45▲3	17▲3	11=	3▼-1
AT		20▼-3	49▲1	12=	15▲1	4▲1
PL		32=	31▼-4	17▼-1	13▲4	7▲1
PT		19▼-6	55▲9	9=	11▼-4	6▲1
RO		18▼-1	39▲2	22▲2	15▼-4	6▲1
SI		35▼-1	39▼-3	11▲1	13▲3	4▲1
SK		29▲10	42▼-1	14=	14▼-4	1▼-5
FI		21▼-5	38▼-6	24▲5	15▲6	3▼-1
SE		26▲8	37▲4	15▼-3	17▼-8	5=

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=14 244 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)

Q2b_2 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): No interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		19=	43▼-1	19▼-2	13▲1	6▲1
BE		16▲1	40▼-6	24▲1	13▲1	7▲4
BG		17▼-2	43▲2	17▼-5	14▲2	9▲4
CZ		12=	52▲2	18=	14=	4▼-1
DK		47▲8	26▲1	9▼-4	10▼-4	8▼-2
DE		19▼-3	43▼-4	14▼-1	18▲6	7▲3
EE		28▲2	36▼-4	19▲2	8▼-1	9▲1
IE		21▼-1	44▲1	21▼-2	11▲2	3=
EL		15▲1	45▲6	29▼-1	8▼-7	3▲1
ES		22▲4	41▲2	18▼-10	15▲4	3▲1
FR		19▲5	41▼-1	27▼-1	7▼-3	6=
HR		13=	49▼-3	16▼-5	16▲2	6▲5
IT		13=	51▲5	23▼-7	6▼-1	7▲3
CY		15▼-9	51▼-3	14▲1	15▲8	5▲3
LV		23▲6	48▼-1	16▼-4	9▼-1	4▲1
LT		18▼-1	47▼-7	14▼-1	14▲5	7▲4
LU		18▲3	43▼-5	19▲1	11▼-1	8▲1
HU		19▲8	42▲2	18▼-2	15▼-7	5=
MT		16▼-4	33=	27▲3	14▲1	11=
NL		23▼-8	46▲6	15▲1	14▲2	3▼-2
AT		23▼-1	46=	12▼-2	16▲3	3=
PL		17▼-1	41▼-6	28▲7	8▲1	6=
PT		24▼-2	50▲2	8▼-2	15▲2	4=
RO		14▼-1	43=	22=	14▼-5	8▲6
SI		22▲1	54▲6	11▼-3	10▲1	3▼-4
SK		13▲3	52=	16▲1	15▼-1	5▼-3
FI		23▼-3	39▼-4	20▲4	16▲4	2▼-1
SE		27▲8	33▲4	16=	19▼-12	6▲1

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=14 244 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)

Q2b_3 Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		34▼-1	45▼-1	11=	5=	6▲2
BE		29▲1	50▼-3	10▼-2	4▲1	7▲3
BG		23▼-5	41▼-9	18▲5	8▲2	11▲7
CZ		28▼-5	50▲5	12▲1	5=	5▼-2
DK		44▲3	36▲3	6=	4▼-1	10▼-4
DE		46▼-2	31▼-6	7=	6▲3	10▲6
EE		46▲3	40▲4	5▼-5	3▼-2	7▲1
IE		32▲1	44▼-2	11▼-1	7=	7▲1
EL		19=	55▲3	18▼-3	6▲2	3▼-2
ES		26▼-7	48▲6	17▼-1	7▲1	3▲1
FR		31▲4	52▲1	9▼-2	2▼-2	5▼-1
HR		15▼-1	55▼-1	19▲5	6▼-5	5▲2
IT		16▲1	67▲1	12▲2	2▼-3	3▼-1
CY		22▼-6	52▲1	16▲5	5▲1	5▼-1
LV		38▲9	46▲2	10▼-5	3▼-3	3▼-2
LT		19▼-4	52▲1	13▼-1	10▲3	7=
LU		32▲1	48=	10▼-2	4=	7▲1
HU		29▲4	46▼-5	14▲4	4▼-1	7▼-2
MT		30▼-5	38▲2	20▲2	5▲2	8▼-1
NL		42▲1	42▲1	10▲2	2▼-3	3▼-1
AT		41▼-2	38=	7=	8▲1	6▲1
PL		25▼-4	45▼-3	20▲2	5▲2	5▲3
PT		20▲1	45=	13=	20▲3	2▼-4
RO		26▲1	46▼-6	17▲3	5▼-2	6▲3
SI		30▲7	48▼-6	9▼-2	7▲1	6=
SK		20▼-2	54▼-1	15▼-2	7▲3	5▲2
FI		42▲1	45▲1	7▼-2	4▲2	3▼-1
SE		36▼-4	43▲3	9▲2	6▲1	6▼-1

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=14 244 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)

Q2b_1f Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): No interference or pressure from government and politicians

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		11▼-1	21▼-1	11=	8=	50▲2
BE		12=	23▼-4	17=	6▼-3	43▲7
BG		7=	12▼-1	5▼-2	6▲2	71▲1
CZ		10=	28▲3	10▲2	7▲1	45▼-6
DK		30▲7	32▲4	10=	7▼-1	21▼-11
DE		13▼-7	28▼-2	11▼-1	17▲3	30▲7
EE		19▲2	23▼-2	8▼-4	6=	44▲5
IE		15▼-1	32=	14▲1	10▲1	29▼-1
EL		7▼-2	21▲1	18=	6▼-1	48▲1
ES		12▲2	14▼-1	6▼-1	5=	63=
FR		9▲1	19▼-2	18▲1	7=	47=
HR		4▲1	8▼-1	3▲1	4▲1	81▼-2
IT		5▲1	15▲2	11▼-2	3▲1	66▼-2
CY		9▼-2	24=	8▲3	7▲1	52▼-2
LV		14▲2	24▼-1	8▼-3	6▼-1	49▲3
LT		8▼-2	26▼-3	7▼-1	8▲4	51▲3
LU		11▼-2	33▲2	17=	14▲1	26▼-2
HU		7▲1	16▼-1	9▲2	9▲2	58▼-4
MT		12▼-3	24▲2	17=	10▼-2	38▲3
NL		19▼-4	35▲2	13▲3	9=	26▼-1
AT		16▼-3	41=	10=	12▲1	21▲2
PL		8▼-2	8▼-3	4▼-1	3=	78▲5
PT		9▼-3	26▲4	4=	5▼-2	55▲1
RO		9▼-1	19=	11=	7▼-2	55▲3
SI		17=	19=	5▲1	6▲2	52▼-3
SK		7▲2	10▼-2	4▼-1	3▼-2	75▲2
FI		18▼-3	34▼-3	21▲6	13▲6	15▼-6
SE		19▲6	27▲4	11▼-2	13▼-5	29▼-3

Q2b_2f Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): No interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		10=	23▼-1	10▼-1	7=	50▲2
BE		10=	24▼-6	14▼-1	8=	44▲8
BG		5▼-1	13▲1	5▼-2	4▲1	72▲1
CZ		7▲1	30▲4	10▲1	8▲1	46▼-6
DK		40▲10	22▲3	8▼-2	8▼-2	23▼-10
DE		14▼-3	33▼-5	10▼-2	14▲4	29▲6
EE		17=	21▼-5	11=	5▼-1	46▲6
IE		16▼-1	32▲1	15▼-2	8▲2	29▼-1
EL		8=	24▲2	15▼-1	4▼-4	49▲3
ES		8▲1	16▲1	7▼-4	6▲1	63=
FR		11▲3	23▼-1	15▼-1	4▼-2	48▲1
HR		3=	10▲1	3=	3▲1	81▼-2
IT		5=	19▲3	9▼-2	2=	66▼-2
CY		8▼-4	25=	7▲1	8▲4	52▼-1
LV		12▲3	26▼-2	9▼-3	5▼-1	49▲4
LT		9▼-1	25▼-5	7▼-1	7▲2	52▲5
LU		14▲3	33▼-3	15▲1	9▼-1	29▲1
HU		8▲4	18▲2	8▼-1	6▼-3	59▼-2
MT		10▼-3	22=	18▲1	9=	40▲2
NL		18▼-6	36▲5	11▲1	10▲2	25▼-2
AT		19▼-1	38=	10▼-1	13▲2	20▲1
PL		4▼-1	10▼-4	7▲1	2=	77▲5
PT		11▼-1	23▲1	4▼-1	7▲1	55▲1
RO		7▼-1	21▼-1	10=	7▼-3	56▲6
SI		11▲1	27▲4	5▼-1	5▲1	52▼-5
SK		3▲1	13▼-2	4=	4▼-1	76▲2
FI		20▼-1	35▼-1	18▲4	14▲4	14▼-6
SE		20▲7	24▲4	12=	14▼-8	30▼-3

Q2b_3f Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY): The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		18▼-1	24▼-1	6=	3=	50▲2
BE		18▼-1	30▼-5	6▼-2	2=	44▲8
BG		7▼-2	13▼-3	6▲2	2▲1	72▲2
CZ		16▼-1	29▲6	7▲1	3▲1	46▼-6
DK		37▲6	30▲5	5=	3▼-1	25▼-11
DE		35▼-3	24▼-6	5▼-1	5▲2	31▲8
EE		27▼-1	24=	3▼-4	2▼-1	44▲6
IE		23▲1	32▼-1	8▼-1	5=	32▲1
EL		10=	29=	10▼-2	3▲1	49▲1
ES		10▼-3	18▲3	6=	3=	63=
FR		17▲2	29=	5▼-1	1▼-1	47▲1
HR		3=	11▲2	4▲1	1▼-1	81▼-3
IT		6▲1	25▲2	4▲1	1▼-1	64▼-3
CY		11▼-3	26▲2	8▲3	3▲1	53▼-3
LV		20▲4	24▼-1	6▼-3	2▼-2	49▲2
LT		10▼-3	27▼-1	7▼-1	5▲2	52▲2
LU		25▲1	37=	7▼-1	3=	28▲1
HU		13▲3	20▼-1	6▲2	2=	60▼-3
MT		20▼-4	25▲1	13▲1	4▲2	38▲1
NL		33▲1	32▲1	8▲1	2▼-2	26▼-1
AT		34▼-2	32=	6=	6▲1	22▲2
PL		6▼-2	11▼-3	5▼-1	1=	77▲6
PT		9=	21=	6=	10▲1	54▼-1
RO		13=	22▼-4	8▲1	3▼-1	55▲4
SI		15▲4	24▼-1	5▼-1	4▲1	54▼-3
SK		5▼-1	13▼-2	4▼-1	2▲1	76▲3
FI		37▲3	39▲4	6▼-2	4▲2	14▼-6
SE		27▼-2	32▲3	7▲2	4▲1	30▼-4

D4 In the last two years, have you been involved in any dispute which has gone to court?

	Yes	No	Don't know/No Answer
EU27 	6=	94=	0=
BE 	9=	91=	0=
BG 	8▲1	92▼-1	0=
CZ 	5▼-1	95▲1	0=
DK 	6▲1	94▼-1	0=
DE 	5▲1	95▼-1	1=
EE 	6▼-1	94▲1	0=
IE 	2=	98=	0=
EL 	7▼-5	94▲5	0=
ES 	6▼-2	94▲2	0=
FR 	6=	94=	0=
HR 	13▲3	87▼-3	0=
IT 	6=	94▲1	0▼-1
CY 	9▲2	90▼-2	1=
LV 	4▼-1	96▲1	0=
LT 	5▼-3	95▲3	0=
LU 	5=	95=	0=
HU 	4▼-1	96▲1	0=
MT 	8▲2	92▼-2	0=
NL 	7▲2	93▼-1	0▼-1
AT 	3=	97=	0=
PL 	9=	91=	0=
PT 	7▲2	93▼-2	0=
RO 	7=	93=	0=
SI 	5▼-4	95▲4	0=
SK 	6=	94=	0=
FI 	5▼-1	95▲1	0=
SE 	3=	96▼-1	1=

Flash Eurobarometer 503 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 17/01 - 24/01/2022 / (%) Base: n=25 767 - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2022-2021 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 489, March-April 2021)



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