



European  
Commission

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 540

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

EUROBAROMETER REPORT  
FEBRUARY 2024



Survey conducted by Ipsos European Public Affairs at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

Survey coordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM “Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

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## Introduction

This Flash Eurobarometer survey explores EU citizens' perceptions about the independence of the judiciary. The survey was commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and follows previous surveys on this topic conducted yearly since 2016.

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 parameters 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, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia was interviewed. Between 14 and 27 February 2024, 29 484 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 January 2023 (Flash Eurobarometer 519).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2667>

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

### Notes

- Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between countries and socio-demographic 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.
- The report looks at the most recent year-on-year changes at EU27 and 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.
- Survey data are weighted to marginal population distributions for age by gender, employment status and geographic region using post-stratification weighting. The EU27 are weighted according to the size of the 15+ population of each country.
- Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent. Due to rounding, it may also happen that the percentages for separate response options do not exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text. Response percentages exceed 100% if the question allowed respondents to select multiple responses.
- In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report are indicated below.

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

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 EU Member States. For practical reasons, interviews are only carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

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

### Main findings

A majority 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 41% that it is ‘fairly good’, while 37% say it is (fairly or very) bad. These EU average results have remained stable compared to January 2023.
- In 16 EU Member States, a majority rate their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good, with respondents in Austria (82%), Denmark (83%) and Finland (83%) being the most likely to give a positive rating.
- Across the four western Balkan countries surveyed (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), the share rating their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good is lower than the EU average.
- Compared to January 2023, the opinion about the independence of courts and judges has become more negative in Czechia (-11 pp, 54%), Bulgaria (-6 pp, 24%), Greece (-6 pp, 40%), Slovenia (-8 pp, 45%), Germany (-5 pp, 72%) and Belgium (-5 pp, 61%). In Hungary, on the other hand, respondents are now more likely than in 2023 to rate the independence of courts and judges as good (+6 pp, 41%).

The status and position of judges is most often given as a 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 (77% out of those who perceive the independence of their justice system as good). By comparison, 59% of those refer to no interference or pressure from government and politicians and 60% to no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests as a reason to explain their rating.

- Compared to January 2023, there is a slight decrease in the share of respondents saying that their positive rating of the justice system's independence is explained by no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (-3 pp, 60%) and no interference or pressure from government and politicians (-2 pp, 59%).

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

- Three-quarters (75%) of respondents, who rate the independence of their justice system as bad, say that interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating. This compares to 70% who say the same about interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests and 60% about the status and position of judges, which does not sufficiently guarantee their independence.
- Compared with January 2023, respondents are now somewhat more likely to say that interference or pressure from government and politicians (+2 pp, 22%) *does not* explain why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad. In contrast, respondents are somewhat less likely to state that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (-3 pp, 26%) explains their negative rating of the independence of the justice system.

A majority would prefer to attend a courting hearing in person

- If they were a party to a court hearing (e.g. a dispute about a purchase made), 73% of respondents would prefer to attend the court hearing in person and 17% via videoconferencing. The share of respondents with a preference for attending in person varies between 45% in Austria and Poland and 89% in Slovenia. Conversely, between 6% of respondents in Slovenia and 37% in Austria and Ireland have a preference to attend via videoconferencing.

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

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

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

**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 41% that it is 'fairly good'. Over one in three say the independence of courts and judges is bad in their country, with 24% saying it is 'fairly bad' and 13% that it is 'very bad'. Finally, 11% of respondents 'do not know' how they would rate the independence of courts and judges in their country.

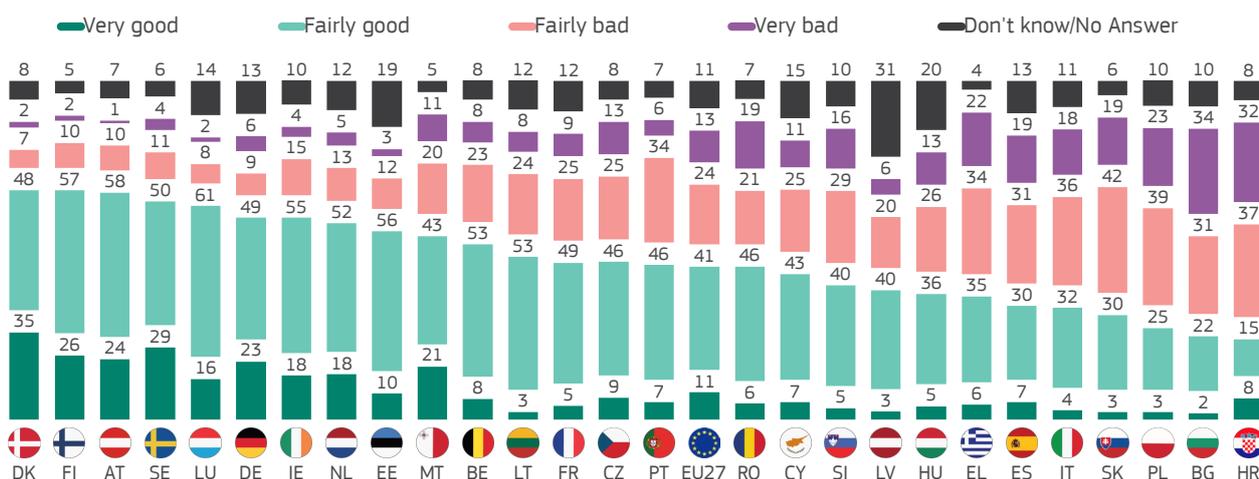
**Compared to the results from January 2023,** the total proportions saying that the independence of the courts and judges in their country is good or bad have remained roughly the same.

## Individual country results

Opinion about the independence of courts and judges varies considerably across the EU Member States. In 16 Member States, a majority of respondents rate their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good, with respondents in Austria (82%), Denmark (83%) and Finland (83%) being the most likely to say this. At the other end of the country ranking, 23% of respondents in Croatia, 24% in Bulgaria and 28% in Poland rate the independence of their courts and judges as good.

Respondents in Denmark (35%) are more likely than those in most other countries to rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as 'very good'; they are followed by respondents in Sweden (29%) and Finland (26%). In contrast, 34% of respondents in Bulgaria and 32% in Croatia 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?



(%) Base: n=25 835 – All respondents

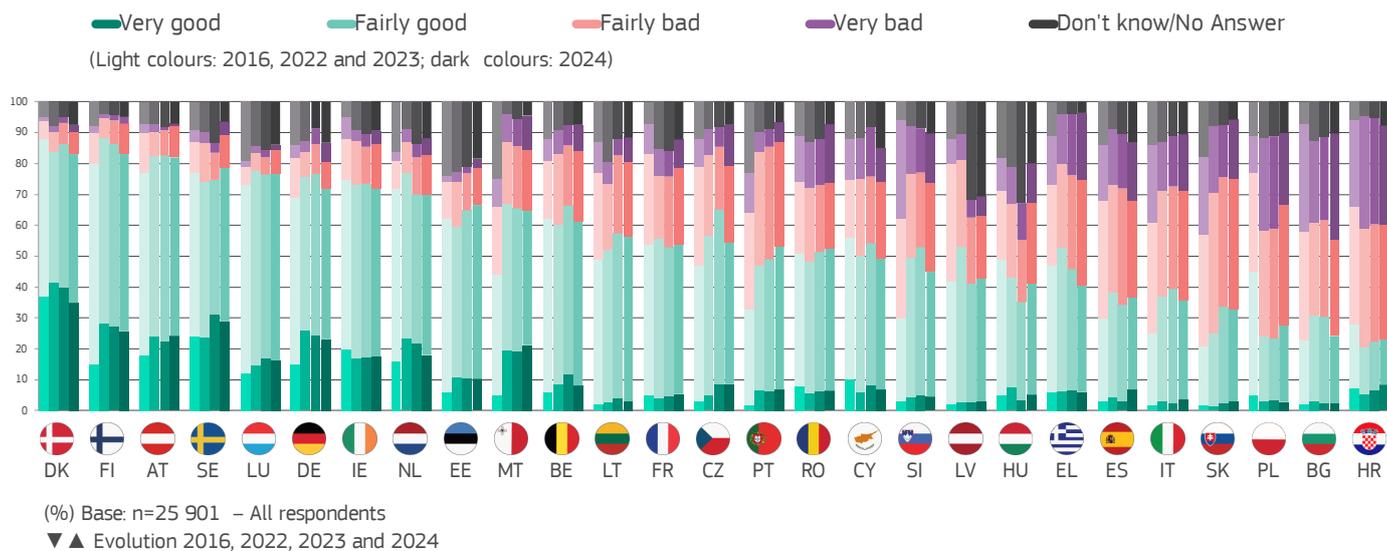
## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

### Trend compared to 2023

There are some (statistically significant) changes compared to January 2023 in opinions about the independence of courts and judges across the EU Member States.<sup>2</sup> The opinion about the independence of courts and judges has become less positive (i.e. there is a decrease in the total

proportion of 'good' responses) in Czechia (-11 pp), Bulgaria (-6 pp), Greece (-6 pp), Slovenia (-8 pp), Germany (-5 pp) and Belgium (-5 pp). In Hungary, on the other hand, respondents are now more likely than in 2023 to rate the independence of courts and judges as good (+6 pp).

### How the general public perceives the independence of courts and judges



<sup>2</sup> Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between years may be statistically significant. Thus, only statistically significant differences (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.

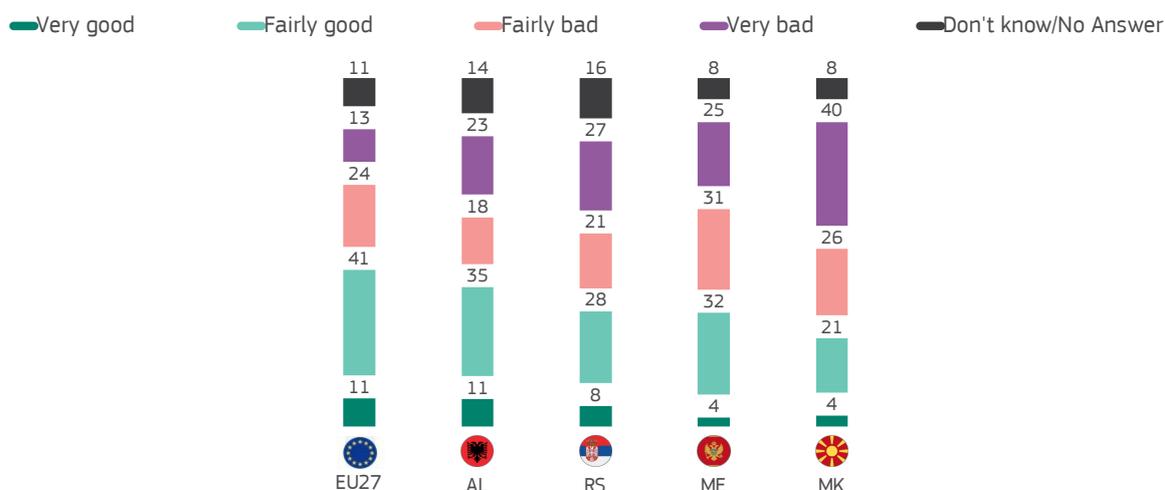
## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

Across the four western Balkan countries surveyed, the share of respondents rating their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good is lower than the EU average. In **Albania**, 46% of respondents rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good. This share is

36% in **Serbia** and 35% in **Montenegro**.<sup>3</sup> Finally, in **North Macedonia**, 25% of respondents rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good. In contrast, 40% of respondents in North Macedonia rate the independence of courts and judges in their country 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?



(%) Base: n=25 901 ( EU27) & n=3 583 ( ME+MK+AL+RS ) – All respondents

<sup>3</sup> Due to rounding, percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

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

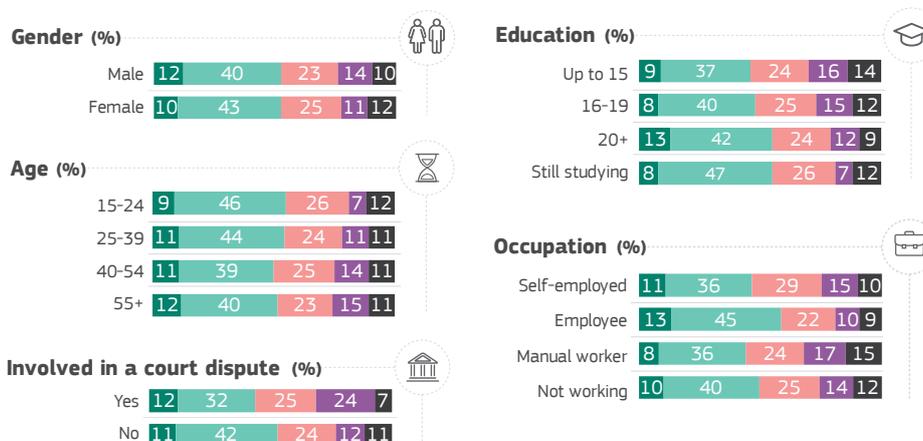
### Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis reveals the following:

- Men (14%) are slightly more likely than women (11%) to rate the independence of courts and judges as 'very bad'.
- Young respondents are more likely to rate the independence of courts and judges as good: 56% of those aged 15-24 share this view, compared to 50% of those aged 40-54 and 51% of those aged 55 or above.
- The longer respondents remained in education, the more likely they are to rate the independence of courts and judges as good: 55% of those who completed their education aged 20 and above share this view, compared to 46% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger. Along with highly educated respondents, those who are still studying are the most likely to rate the independence of court and judges positively (55%).
- In terms of occupation, employees (58%) are the most likely to rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, in particular when compared to manual workers (44%).
- Those who in the last two years have been involved in a dispute that went to court (44%) are less likely to say the independence of courts and judges is good, compared to those who have not been involved in such a dispute (53%).

**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) Base: n=25 901 – All respondents

## 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

Respondents who rated the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as ‘fairly good’ or ‘very good’ were asked to what extent the status of judges, a lack of interference or pressure from government or politicians or from economic or special interests explains their rating.

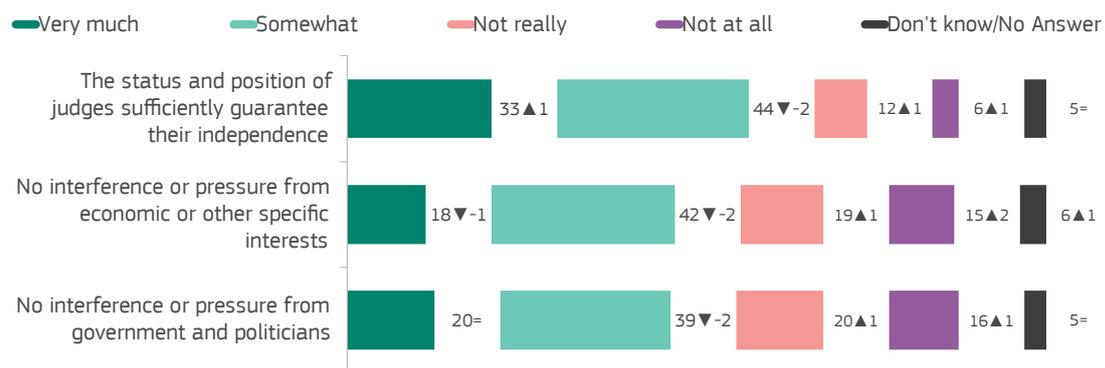
More than three-quarters of respondents who rate the justice system in their country as good say that their positive rating of the justice system's independence is explained by the fact that **the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence**, with 33% saying this reason ‘very much’ explains their rating and 44% that it ‘somewhat’ explains their rating.

About six in ten respondents say that **no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains their positive rating, with 18% saying this ‘very much’ explains their rating and 42% that this ‘somewhat’ does.

A similar proportion say **no interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains their positive rating, with 20% saying this ‘very much’ explains their rating and 39% that it ‘somewhat’ explains does.

**Compared to January 2023**, there is a slight decrease in the overall share of respondents saying that their positive rating of the justice system's independence is explained by the fact that there is no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (-3 pp) and no interference or pressure from government and politicians (-2 pp).

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: n=14 259 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good  
▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

### Status and position of judges

In 22 Member States, more than 70% of respondents who rate the justice system in their country as good say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence is a reason for their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country. Respondents in Estonia and Finland (both 84%), as well as in Cyprus (82%), are the most likely to say this.<sup>4</sup> Respondents in Bulgaria (55%), followed by those in Portugal (63%) are the least likely to say this reason explains their rating.

Respondents in Germany (48%) and Estonia (46%) are the most likely to say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system, while those in Greece (14%), Italy (15%) and Croatia (18%) are the least likely to say so. Respondents in Italy (63%) and Cyprus (59%) are the most likely to say this 'somewhat' explains their positive rating, while respondents in

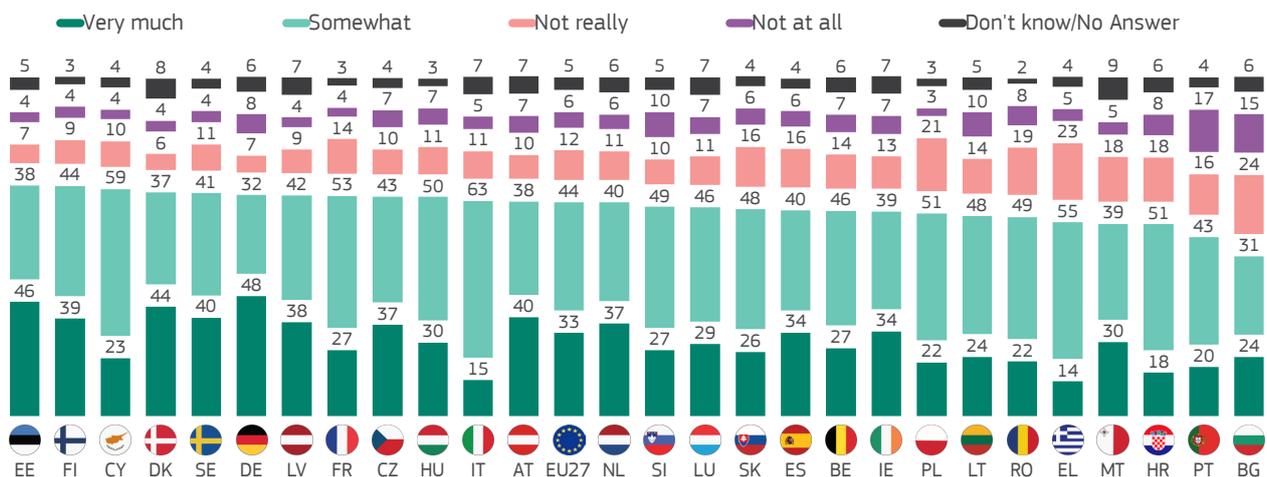
Bulgaria (31%) and Germany (32%) are the least likely to say this.

About five respondents in Bulgaria (24%), Greece (23%) and Poland (21%) say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence is 'not really' a reason for their rating. Less than one in ten share this view in Denmark (6%), closely followed by Germany and Estonia (both 7%), as well as Latvia and Finland (both 9%). In Portugal (17%) and Bulgaria (15%) respondents are the most likely to say this does not explain their rating 'at all'. By contrast, this response is selected by 3% of respondents in Poland.

**Since January 2023**, the share of respondents saying that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their positive rating of the independence of their national justice system has significantly decreased in two Member States: the Netherlands (-8 pp) and Austria (-5 pp).<sup>5</sup>

**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: n=14 259 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

<sup>4</sup> Due to rounding, percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

<sup>5</sup> Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

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

## Economic interests

In all but two Member States, at least half of respondents who rate the justice system in their country as good say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests is a reason they rate the justice system's independence in their country positively. The highest proportion sharing this view is observed in Cyprus (76%), followed by Slovenia (72%), while the lowest ones are found in Bulgaria (47%) and Sweden (46%).

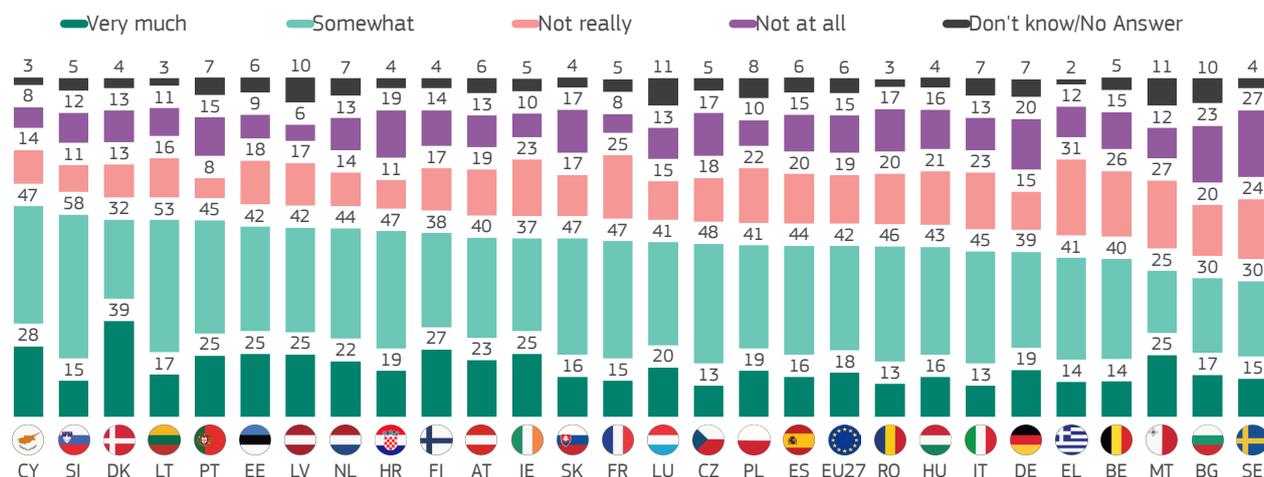
Respondents in Denmark (39%) are more likely to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country. In comparison, those in Czechia, Italy and Romania (all 13%) are less likely to share this view. More than half of respondents in Lithuania (53%) and Slovenia (58%) say this reason 'somewhat' explain their positive rating, while a quarter (25%) say so in Malta.

Respondents in Greece (31%) are the most likely to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests is 'not really' a reason for their positive rating, compared to 8% saying so in Portugal and 11% in Croatia and Slovenia. Finally, respondents in Sweden (27%), Bulgaria (23%) and Germany (20%) are more likely to say this factor does not explain their positive rating 'at all'. Less than one in ten share this view in Greece (9%), Cyprus (8%), France (8%) and Latvia (6%).

**Compared to January 2023**, the share of respondents saying that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their positive rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country has significantly decreased in Germany (-9 pp), Austria (-6 pp) and Denmark (-7 pp). By contrast, the share of respondents sharing this view has significantly increased in Lithuania (+10 pp) and Slovenia (+8 pp).

**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*



(%) Base: n=14 259 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

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

## Political pressure

In all Member States, more than half of respondents who rate the justice system in their country as good say no interference or pressure from government and politicians is a reason for their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country. The proportion sharing this view ranges from 52% in Sweden and France to 77% in Slovenia.

Respondents in Spain (35%) are more likely to say that no interference or pressure from government and politicians 'very much' explains their positive rating of the justice system's independence in their country. The lowest proportions sharing this view are observed in Greece (14%), France and Luxembourg (both 15%). Respondents in Portugal (53%), Lithuania (52%), as well as Cyprus and Slovenia (both 50%) are the most likely to say this 'somewhat' explains their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system, while those in Spain (31%) are the least likely to say so.

The highest shares of respondents saying that no interference or pressure from government

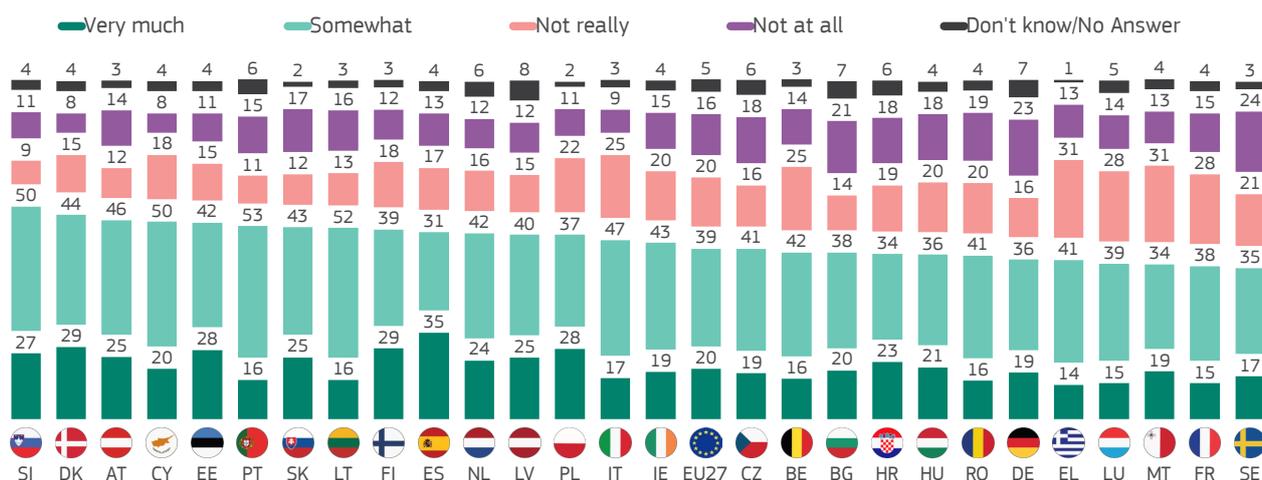
and politicians is 'not really' a reason for their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country are found in Greece and Malta (both 31%). In the remaining countries, the proportion of respondents reporting this ranges from 9% in Slovenia to 28% in both France and Luxembourg.

Finally, close to one in four respondents in Sweden (24%) and Germany (23%) say that no interference or pressure from government and politicians does 'not at all' explain their positive rating. By contrast, 8% in Cyprus and Denmark report the same.

**Compared to January 2023**, the proportion of respondents saying that no interference or pressure from government and politicians is a reason for their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country has significantly increased in Spain (+10 pp), while it has significantly decreased in Germany (-11 pp), Czechia (-10 pp), the Netherlands (-7 pp) and Portugal (-6 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*



(%) Base: n=14 259 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

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

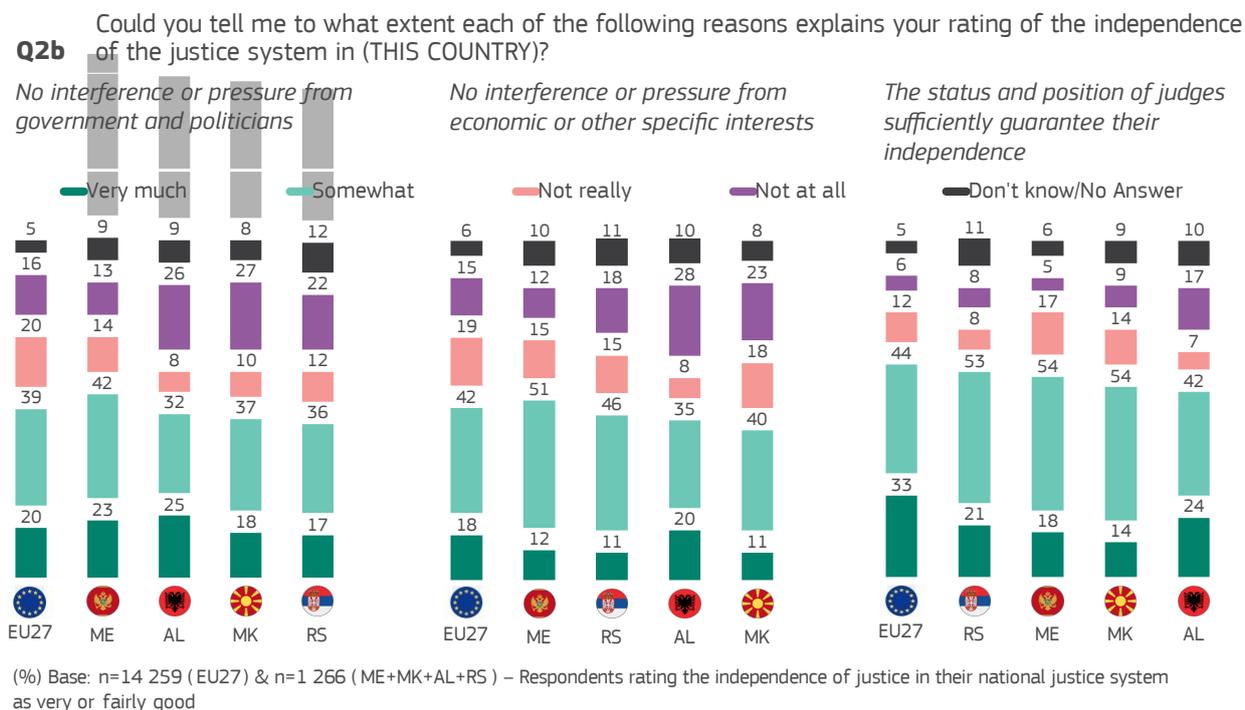
## Candidate countries (western Balkans)

Between 54% of respondents in North Macedonia and Serbia and 64% in Montenegro who rate the justice system in their country as good reply that **no interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country. About one in four respondents in Albania (25%) and Montenegro (23%) say that no interference or pressure from government and politicians 'very much' explains their positive rating; this share is lower in North Macedonia (18%) and Serbia (17%).

Across the four western Balkan countries, a majority of respondents state that **no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains their positive rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. The highest proportion of respondents sharing this view is seen in

Montenegro (63%) and the lowest in North Macedonia (51%). Respondents in Albania (20%) are more likely to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country (compared to 11%-12% in the other three countries).

More than seven in ten respondents in Serbia (74%) and Montenegro (72%) indicate that **the status and position of judges** influences their positive rating of the justice system's independence. This share is somewhat lower in North Macedonia (68%) and Albania (66%). Across the four western Balkan countries, between 14% and 24% of respondents say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system.



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

### Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows the following:

- Men (79%) are a little more inclined than women (75%) to say that the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their positive rating. Men (61%) are also slightly more likely than women (58%) to say that no interference or pressure from government and politicians does explain their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country.
- Respondents aged 15-24 (40%) are more likely than those aged 40 and above (33%) to say that their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country is *not* explained by there being no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests. Similarly, those aged 15-24 (24%) are more likely than those aged 55 and above (15%) to say that independence of the justice system is *not* explained by the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence.
- The longer respondents remained in education, the more likely they are to say that each of the three reasons contributes to explaining their positive rating. For example, 80% of those who completed their education aged 20 or older say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their rating, compared to 70% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger.
- The self-employed (62%) and employees (60%) are more likely to say that no interference or pressure from the government and politicians explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country, compared to 59% of those not working and 53% of manual workers.

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

**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):

	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	60	34	77	18
 <b>Gender</b>						
Men	61	36	60	35	79	17
Women	58	36	60	34	75	19
 <b>Age</b>						
15-24	59	37	58	40	73	24
25-39	59	37	58	36	77	20
40-54	60	35	62	33	77	18
55+	59	36	60	33	79	15
 <b>Education</b> (age when completed)						
Up to 15	59	36	56	35	70	21
16-19	57	38	57	35	75	21
20+	62	35	62	33	80	16
Still studying	59	38	61	38	75	22
 <b>Occupation</b>						
Self-employed	62	33	63	30	76	19
Employee	60	35	60	35	79	17
Manual worker	53	43	57	36	76	18
Not working	59	37	59	34	76	19
 <b>Involved in a court dispute</b>						
Yes	59	35	64	31	81	14
No	60	36	60	35	77	18

(%, EU27) Base: n=14 259 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

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

### Analysis based on all respondents

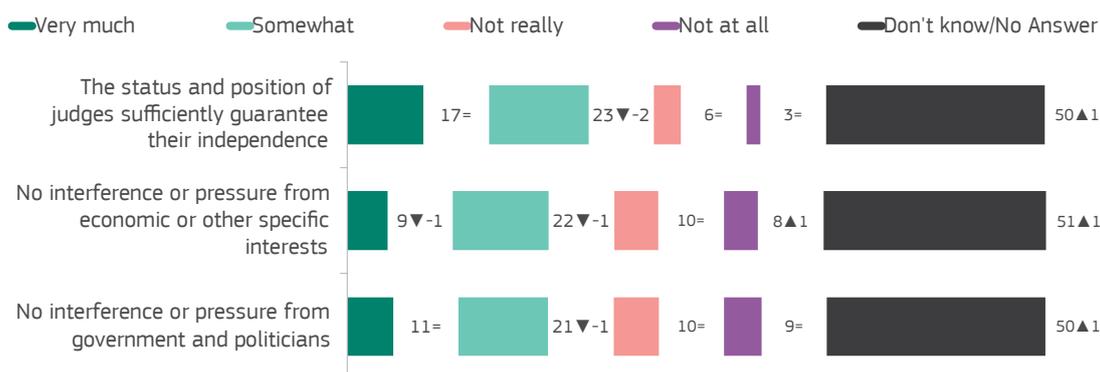
The chart below shows the results when analysing all respondents' answers to the question asking to which extent the status of judges, no interference or pressure from government or politicians, or from economic or special interests explained their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country.

Overall, 40% of respondents say that the **status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence** explains why they rate the independence of their justice system in their country as good. About three in

ten respondents (31%) say that **no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains why they think the independence of their justice system is good; the same proportion (31%) say this about **no interference or pressure from government and politicians**.

Since January 2023, there has been a two percentage points decrease in the share of respondents saying that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests, or from government and politicians, explains their positive view of independence of the justice system in their country.

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



(%, EU27) Base: n=25 901 – All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

The country results, based on all respondents, show that respondents in Finland (69%), Denmark (67%), as well as Austria and Sweden (both 63%) 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, 13% in Bulgaria and 16% in Croatia, in say the same.

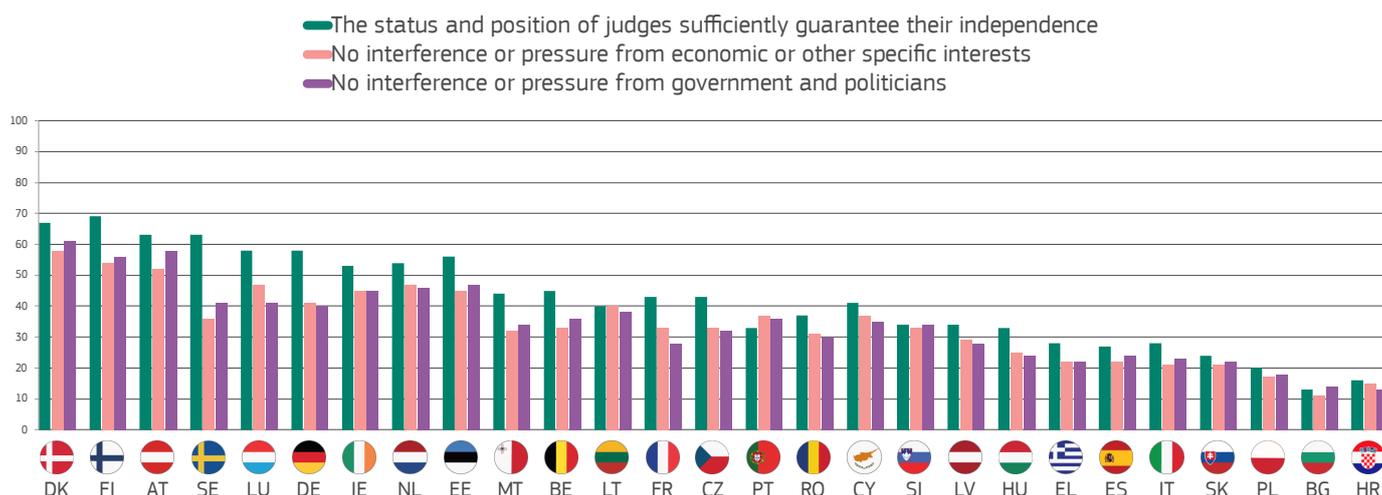
In three Member States, a majority of respondents say that the **absence of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges

in their country as good. This applies to Denmark (61%), Austria (58%) and Finland (56%). By contrast, not more than one in six respondents share this view in Bulgaria (11%), Croatia (15%) and Poland (17%).

Close to six in ten – or more – of respondents in Denmark (61%), Austria (58%) and Finland (56%) say that 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. Croatia (13%) and Bulgaria (14%) are again found at the other end of the country ranking.

### Main reasons among the general public for the perceived independence

(share of all respondents - higher value means more influence)



Note: the Member States are listed in the same order as in the chart for Q1.

(%) Base: n=25 835 - All respondents

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

### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

The results for the western Balkan countries, based on all respondents, show that 30% of respondents in Albania say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence is what explains their positive rating. This proportion is lowest in North Macedonia, where 17% of respondents share

this view. Similar patterns are observed for the other two reasons: absence of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (from 13% in North Macedonia to 25% in Albania) and absence of interference or pressure from government and politicians (from 14% in North Macedonia to 26% in Albania).

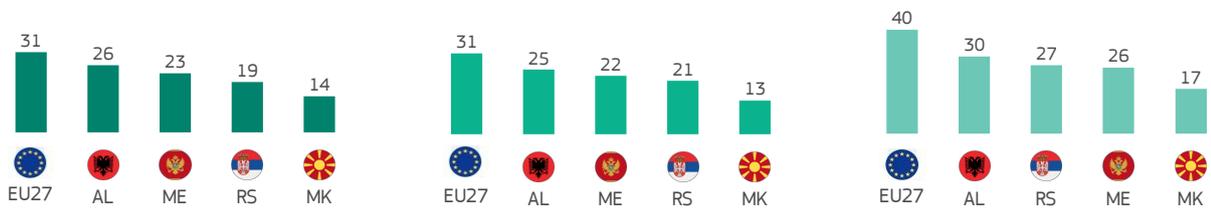
Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY)?

### Total 'Explains'

*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*



(%) Base: n=25 901 ( EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All respondents

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

### 2.2. Negative assessments

Respondents who rated the level of independence of their national justice system as 'fairly bad' or 'very bad' 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 government or politicians, or interference or pressure from economic or special interests.

Three-quarters of respondents who rate the justice system in their country as bad say **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad: 51% say this 'very much' explains their negative rating and 24% that this 'somewhat' explains their rating.

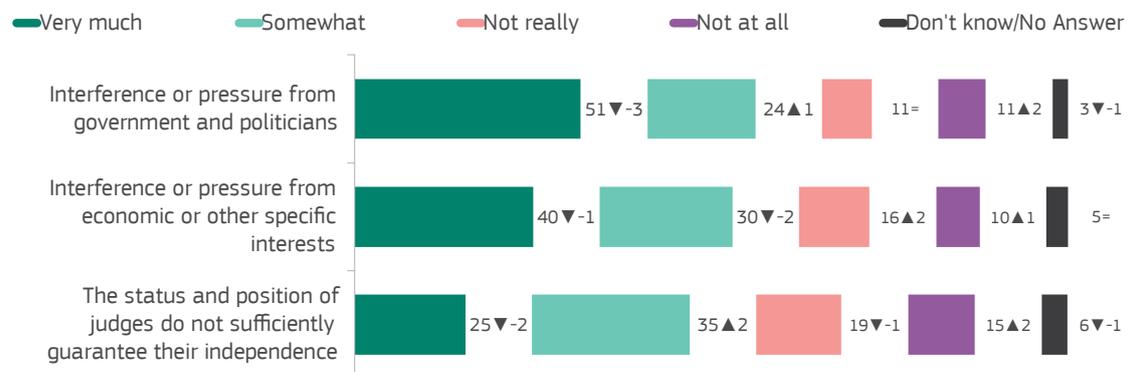
Seven in ten respondents say that **interference or pressure from economic or other specific**

**interests** explains their negative rating, with 40% saying this 'very much' explains it and 30% that this only 'somewhat' applies.

Six in ten say the fact that the **status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence** is a reason for their poor rating of their national justice system, with 25% saying this 'very much' explains their rating and 35% that this 'somewhat' explains it.

**Compared with January 2023**, respondents are now somewhat more likely to say that interference or pressure from government and politicians (+2 pp) *does not* explain why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad. In contrast, respondents are less likely to state that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (-3 pp) explains their negative rating of the independence of the justice system.

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: n=9 095 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad  
▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

## Status and position of judges

In all Member States, at least half 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 negative rating of the justice system's independence in their country. Respondents in Cyprus (77%), Lithuania and Poland (both 76%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Romania (50%) are the least likely to say so.

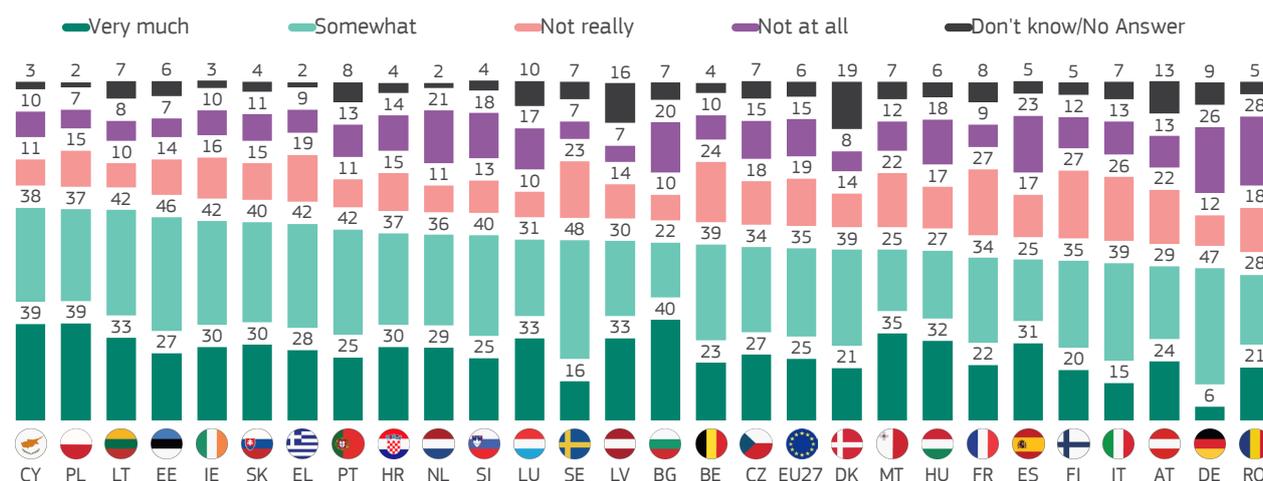
Respondents in Bulgaria (40%), Cyprus and Poland (both 39%) are the most likely to say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence 'very much' explains their bad rating of the independence of the justice system in their country, while those in Germany (6%) are the least likely to say so. Nearly half of the respondents in Sweden (48%), Germany (47%) and Estonia (46%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their negative rating, compared to 22% in Bulgaria and 25% in both Spain and Malta.

About a quarter of respondents in Finland and France (both 27%), as well as in Italy (26%) and Belgium (24%) say the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their 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 country ranking, 10% of respondents in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Luxembourg say the same. Respondents in Romania (28%) and Germany (26%) are the most likely to say this reason does 'not at all' explain their negative rating, while those in Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Sweden (all 7%) are the least likely to say so.

**Compared to January 2023**, respondents in Cyprus (+17 pp), Greece (+8 pp) and Poland (+6 pp) are now more likely to say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their bad rating of the justice system. The proportion of respondents sharing this view, however, has significantly decreased in Portugal (-7 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*



(%) Base: Base: n=9 095 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

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

## Economic interests

In all Member States, a majority of respondents who rate the justice system in their country as bad 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 proportion of respondents sharing this view ranges from 56% in Germany to 92% in Cyprus.

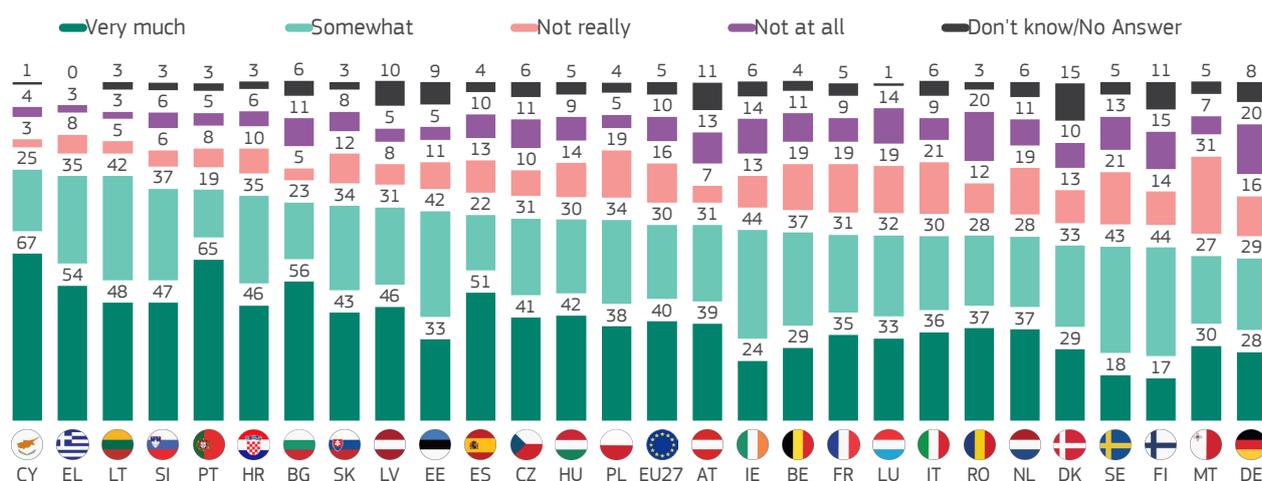
In five Member States, a majority of respondents say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their negative rating of the judicial system in their country. This applies to Cyprus (67%), Portugal (65%), Bulgaria (56%), Greece (54%) and Spain (51%). At the other end of the scale, 17% of respondents in Finland and 18% in Sweden say the same. Respondents in Ireland (44%), Finland (44%), Sweden (43%), Estonia (42%) and Lithuania (42%) 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. In contrast, about one in five respondents (19%) share this view in Portugal.

About three in ten respondents in Malta (31%) 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 both Bulgaria and Lithuania. Finally, respondents in Germany and Romania (both 20%) 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 Greece and Lithuania (both 3%), as well as in Cyprus (4%) are the least likely to say so.

**Compared with January 2023**, respondents in Lithuania (+11 pp) are now more likely to 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. By contrast, respondents in Romania (-10 pp), Slovakia (-8 pp), Italy (-7 pp) and Portugal (-6 pp) are now less likely to share this view.

**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: n=9 095 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

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

## Political pressure

In all Member States, 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 for this perception. Respondents in Greece (92%), Lithuania (91%), Cyprus, Poland and Slovakia (all 88%), as well as Slovenia (88%) and Croatia (87%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Sweden are the least likely (61%).

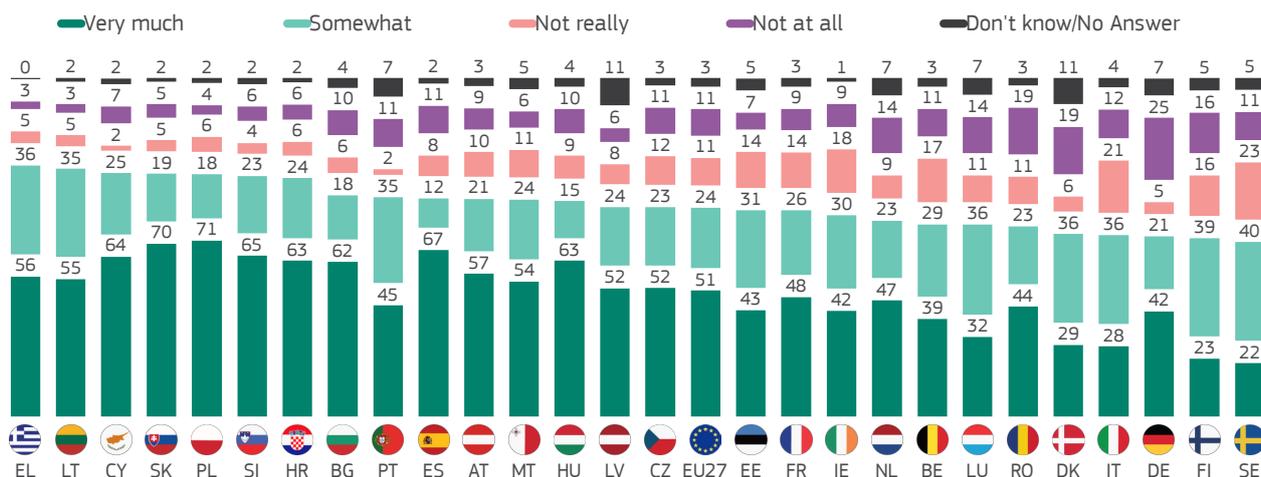
In 14 Member States, a majority of respondents say that interference or pressure from government and politicians 'very much' explains their rating of the justice system, with the highest proportions observed in Poland (71%) and Slovakia (70%). At the other end of the country ranking, 22% of respondents in Sweden and 23% in Finland say the same. About four in ten respondents in Sweden (40%) 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 12% in Spain and 15% in Hungary.

Respondents in Sweden (23%) and Italy (21%) are the most likely to say that 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 (2%), Portugal (2%) and Slovenia (4%) are the least likely to say so. Finally, respondents in Germany (25%), followed by those in Denmark and Romania (both 19%), 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 Greece and Lithuania (both 3%) are the least likely to say this.

**Compared to January 2023**, respondents in Portugal (-7 pp) are now less likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative perceptions of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. On the other hand, the proportion identifying this reason has increased in Greece (+7 pp) and Poland (+5 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*



(%) Base: n=9 095 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

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

### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

In each of the four western Balkan countries, a vast majority of respondents with a negative perception of the independence of courts and judges in their country attribute this to **interference or pressure from government and politicians**, ranging from 77% in Albania to 87% in North Macedonia. In North Macedonia, 72% of respondent state that this 'very much' explains their negative rating; in the other three countries, the share selecting this response varies between 54% and 61%.

Similarly, more than eight in ten respondents across the four western Balkan countries (between 81% and 84%) say that their negative assessment of the independence of the justice system in their country is explained by

**interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests**. The proportion saying this 'very much' explains their rating varies between 42% in Montenegro and 64% in Albania.

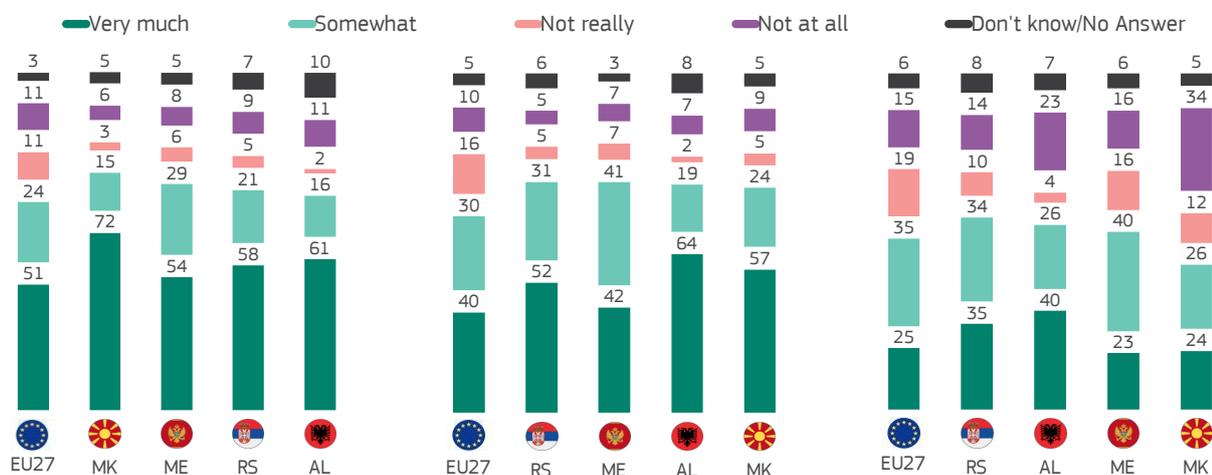
In Serbia (69%), Albania (66%) and Montenegro (63%), more than six in ten respondents with a negative perception of the independence of courts and judges say that this is explained by **the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence**. By comparison, this view is shared by 50% of respondents in North Macedonia. Additionally, 40% of respondents in Albania and 35% in Serbia say that the status and position of judges 'very much' explain their rating, compared to 23% in Montenegro and 24% in North Macedonia.

**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)?

*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*



(%) Base: n=9 095 ( EU27 ) & n=1 920 ( ME+MK+AL+RS ) – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public****Socio-demographic considerations**

The socio-demographic analysis shows the following:

- Women (72%) are slightly more likely than men (67%) to say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their negative rating of the independence of the national justice system. Women (62%) are also somewhat more likely than men (58%) to state that their negative rating is explained by the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence.
- Those aged 25-39 and 40-54 are more likely than those in other age categories to say their negative rating of the justice system is explained by interference or pressure from government and politicians (77% vs 73%-74%). Those aged 55 or above are less likely than those in other age categories to give a negative rating because the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence (57% vs 60%-64%).
- The longer respondents remained in education, the more likely they are to say each reason explains their rating. For example, 80% of those who completed their education aged 20 or older say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative rating of the justice system, compared to 58% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger and 72% of those who completed their education aged 16 to 19.
- Employees and self-employed respondents are also more likely to say each reason explains their negative rating, compared to manual workers and those not working. For instance, 80% of employees and 79% of self-employed say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative rating, compared to 72% of those not working and 61% of manual workers.

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

**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):

	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	75	22	70	26	60	34
 <b>Gender</b>						
Men	74	23	67	28	58	36
Women	76	21	72	23	62	32
 <b>Age</b>						
15-24	74	23	66	28	63	32
25-39	77	20	68	28	60	34
40-54	77	21	69	26	64	31
55+	73	23	72	23	57	37
 <b>Education</b> (age when completed)						
Up to 15	58	40	56	33	45	44
16-19	72	24	67	29	59	35
20+	80	17	74	23	63	32
Still studying	76	22	72	23	61	35
 <b>Occupation</b>						
Self-employed	79	18	74	22	63	33
Employee	80	17	72	24	65	30
Manual worker	61	36	60	36	57	33
Not working	72	24	68	27	57	37
 <b>Involved in a court dispute</b>						
Yes	71	24	69	25	60	33
No	75	21	70	26	60	34

(%, EU27) Base: n=9 095 – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

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

### Analysis based on all respondents

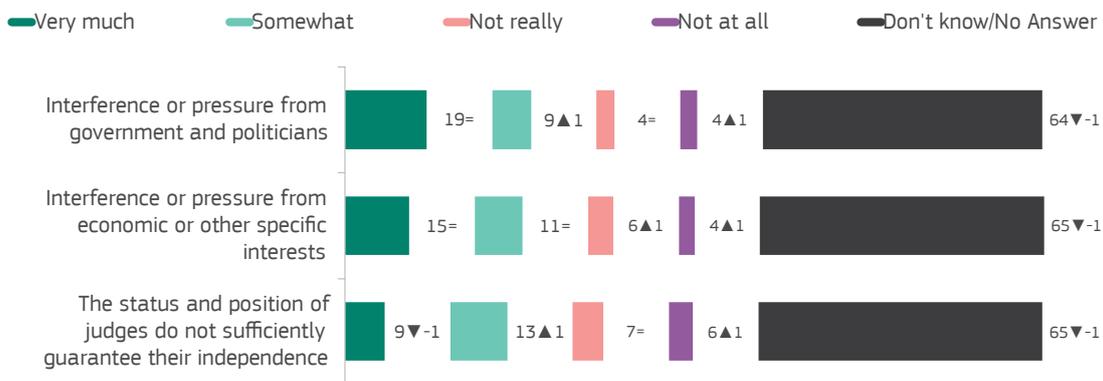
The chart below shows the results when analysing all respondents' answers to the question asking to which extent the status of judges, interference or pressure from government or politicians, or from economic or special interests explains their negative rating of the independence of the national justice system.

More than a quarter (28%) of respondents say **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 26% say this about **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests**. Somewhat more than one in five respondents (22%) say the fact that the **status and position of judges do 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 **January 2023**.

**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: n=25 901 – All respondents

▼ ▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

The country results, based on all respondents, show that in five Member States, at least half of respondents say that **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. This applies to Croatia (60%), Poland (55%), Slovakia (54%), Bulgaria (52%) and Greece (51%). By contrast, 6% in Denmark and Luxembourg say the same.

Respondents in Croatia (56%) 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.

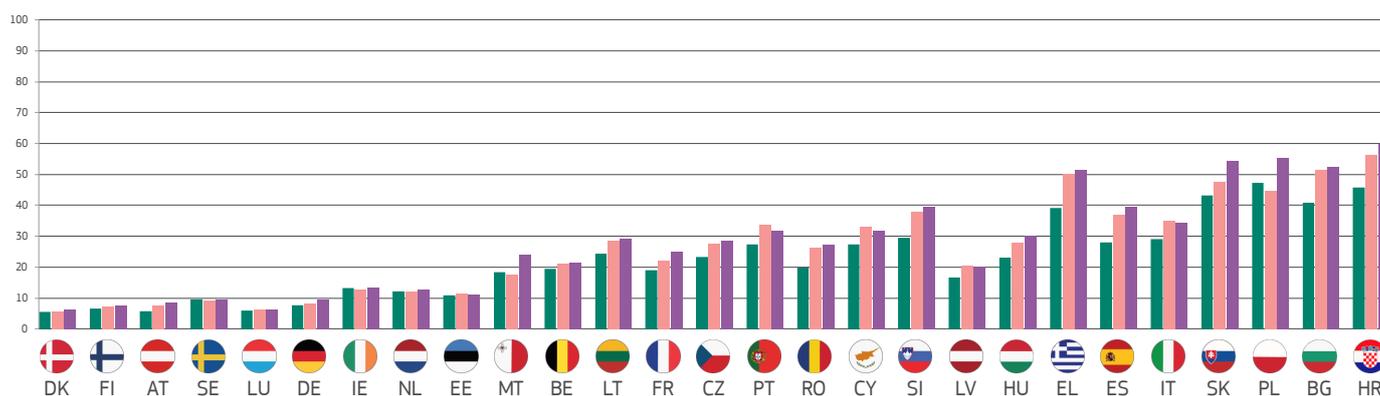
Croatia is followed by Bulgaria (51%) and Greece (50%). In comparison, less than one in ten hold this view in Denmark and Luxembourg (both 6%), as well as in Finland (7%), Austria (8%), Germany (both 8%) and Sweden (9%).

About four in ten – or more – respondents in Poland (47%), Croatia (46%), Slovakia (43%), Bulgaria (41%) and Greece (39%) reply that their negative rating is explained by **the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence**. Less than one in ten respondents say this in Austria, Denmark and Luxembourg (all 6%), as well as in Finland (7%) and Germany (8%).

### Main reasons among the general public for the perceived lack of independence

(share of all respondents - higher value means more influence)

- The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence
- Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests
- Interference or pressure from government and politicians



Note: the Member States are listed in the same order as in the chart for Q1.  
(%) Base: n=25 835 – All respondents

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

**Candidate countries (western Balkans)**

The analysis based on all respondents in the four western Balkan countries shows that a majority of respondents in North Macedonia (57%) say that interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. In contrast, this applies to 32% of respondents in Albania.

A majority of respondents in North Macedonia (54%) state that interference or pressure from

economic or other specific interests explains their rating of the independence of courts and judges in their country, followed by 47% in Montenegro, 40% in Serbia and 34% in Albania.

Between 27% of respondents in Albania and 36% in in Montenegro 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.

**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)?

**Total 'Explains'**

*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*



(%) Base: n=25 901 ( EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All respondents

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

### 3. Court hearings and disputes: preferred channel

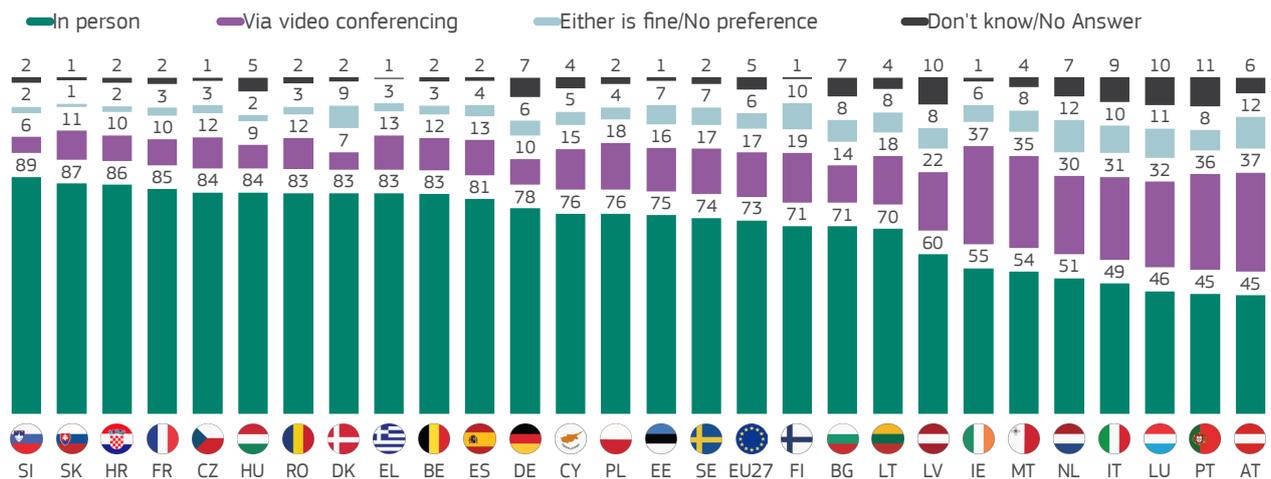
If they were a party to a court hearing (e.g. a dispute about a purchase made), **73% of respondents would prefer to attend the court hearing in person and 17% via videoconferencing**. A small share (6%) have no preference (either is fine) and 5% say they 'don't know'.

In 19 EU Member States, at least seven in ten respondents report that, if they were a party to a court hearing, they would prefer to attend the court hearing in person (from 70% in Lithuania to 89% in Slovenia). In Austria (45%), Portugal

(45%), Luxembourg (46%) and Italy (49%), on the other hand, less than half of respondents express their preference to attend the court hearing in person.

The largest shares of respondent saying that, if they were a party to a court hearing, they would prefer to attend via videoconferencing are seen in Malta (35%), Portugal (36%) and Ireland (37%). In contrast, in Slovenia, 6% of respondents would prefer to attend via video conferencing.

**Q3** If you were a party to a court hearing (e.g., a dispute about a purchase you made), would you prefer to attend the hearing in person or via videoconferencing?



(%) Base: n=25 835 – All respondents

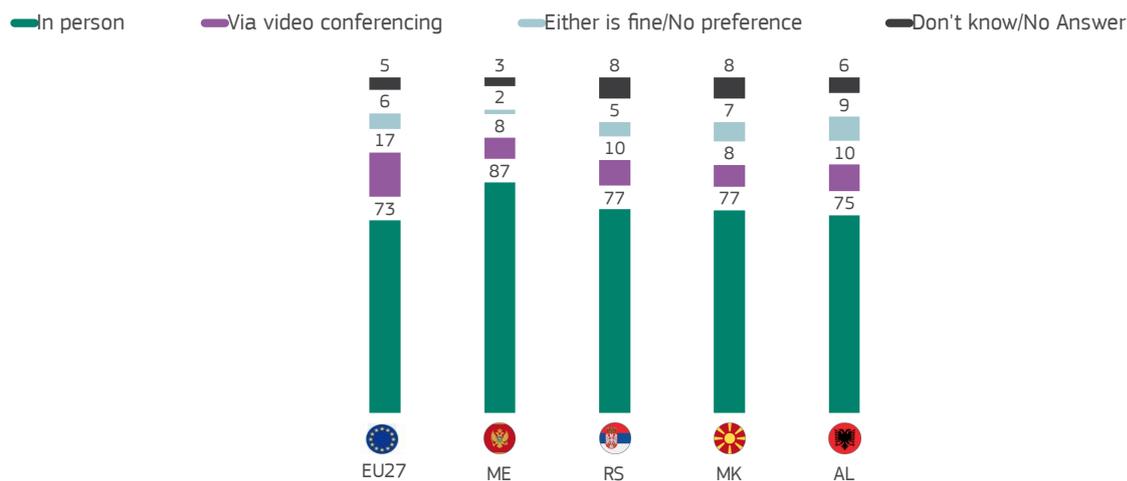
## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

In Montenegro, 87% of respondents report that, if they were a party to a court hearing, they would prefer to attend the court hearing in person. In the other three western Balkan

countries surveyed, this share varies between 75% and 77%. Across each of the four western Balkan countries, not more than one in ten respondents (8%-10%) say they would prefer to attend the hearing via videoconferencing.

**Q3** If you were a party to a court hearing (e.g., a dispute about a purchase you made), would you prefer to attend the hearing in person or via videoconferencing?



(%) Base: n=25 901 ( EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All respondents

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

### Socio-demographic considerations

Respondents aged 25-39 (20%) or 40-54 (18%) are somewhat more likely than respondents aged 55 and over (14%) to say that they would prefer to attend a court hearing via videoconferencing.

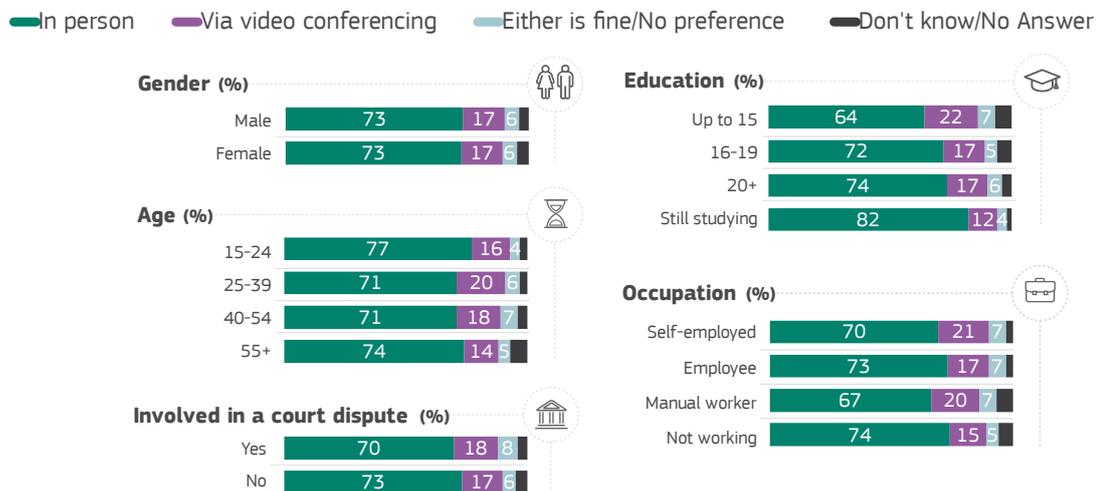
The proportion of respondents with a preference to attend a court hearing in person increase with level of education (from 64% of respondents who completed their education aged 15 or younger to 74% for those who completed their

education aged 20 or older; the corresponding figure for those still in education is 82%).

Employees (73%) and those not working (74%) are somewhat more likely than the self-employed (70%) and manual workers (67%) to prefer to attend a court hearing in person.

No significant difference in preferences is observed between respondents who were involved in a court dispute in the past two years and those who were not.

**Q3** If you were a party to a court hearing (e.g., a dispute about a purchase you made), would you prefer to attend the hearing in person or via videoconferencing?



(%, EU27) Base: n=25 901 – All respondents

## Technical specifications

Between 14 and 27 February 2024, Ipsos European Public affairs carried out Flash Eurobarometer 540 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 540 covers the population of EU citizens, aged 15 years and over, resident in one of the 27 Member States. In addition, the survey covers nationals, aged 15 years and over, of four western Balkan countries: Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

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".

### 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.

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

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

	Number of interviews	Fieldwork dates	Population 15+ (absolute number)	Population 15+ (as % of EU27 population)
EU27 	<b>25 901</b>	<b>14.02.2024-27.02.2024</b>	<b>381 995 912</b>	<b>100%</b>
BE 	1 009	19.02-23.02.2024	9 804 276	2.57%
BG 	1 002	19.02-27.02.2024	5 534 291	1.45%
CZ 	1 044	16.02-23.02.2024	9 076 721	2.38%
DK 	1 073	19.02-25.02.2024	4 985 196	1.31%
DE 	1 007	19.02-26.02.2024	72 429 868	18.96%
EE 	1 015	15.02-23.02.2024	1 141 965	0.30%
IE 	1 008	19.02-24.02.2024	4 251 954	1.11%
EL 	1 002	19.02-24.02.2024	9 022 623	2.36%
ES 	1 003	19.02-23.02.2024	41 548 146	10.88%
FR 	1 004	16.02-23.02.2024	56 395 315	14.76%
HR 	1 008	19.02-22.02.2024	3 302 096	0.86%
IT 	1 012	19.02-24.02.2024	51 653 102	13.52%
CY 	505	19.02-23.02.2024	772 474	0.20%
LV 	1 012	19.02-23.02.2024	1 582 531	0.41%
LT 	1 029	19.02-23.02.2024	2 430 152	0.64%
LU 	504	19.02-24.02.2024	555 994	0.15%
HU 	1 009	19.02-25.02.2024	8 206 689	2.15%
MT 	504	19.02-24.02.2024	473 069	0.12%
NL 	1 009	19.02-24.02.2024	15 083 914	3.95%
AT 	1 007	19.02-24.02.2024	7 789 728	2.04%
PL 	1 068	19.02-24.02.2024	31 085 397	8.14%
PT 	1 007	19.02-24.02.2024	9 116 355	2.39%
RO 	1 011	19.02-25.02.2024	15 983 170	4.18%
SI 	1 008	19.02-23.02.2024	1 799 441	0.47%
SK 	1 000	15.02-23.02.2024	4 555 340	1.19%
FI 	1 035	19.02-22.02.2024	4 723 642	1.24%
SE 	1 006	14.02-21.02.2024	8 692 463	2.28%
ME 	503	19.02-24.02.2024	506 880	
MK 	1 012	19.02-25.02.2024	1 524 238	
AL 	1 044	19.02-25.02.2024	2 318 558	
RS 	1 024	20.02-25.02.2024	5 682 811	

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

## 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 |

FL519 D4

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 |

FL519 Q1

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 |

FL519 Q2a

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

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

*FL519 Q2b*

**Q3 If you were a party to a court hearing (e.g., a dispute about a purchase you made), would you prefer to attend the hearing in person or via videoconferencing?**

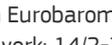
(READ OUT, ONE ANSWER ONLY)

In person	1
Via video conferencing	2
Either is fine/No preference (DO NOT READ OUT)	3
Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	4

*NEW*

## Data annex

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		7▲1	93▼-1	0=
BE		8=	92=	0=
BG		8▲1	92▼-1	0=
CZ		8▲1	92▼-1	0=
DK		6▼-1	93=	0=
DE		5▲1	95▼-1	0=
EE		5▼-2	95▲2	0=
IE		2=	96▼-1	2▲1
EL		7▼-1	94▲1	0=
ES		9▲2	90▼-2	0=
FR		8▲3	92▼-3	0=
HR		11▼-1	89▲2	0=
IT		6=	93▼-1	1▲1
CY		9=	91▼-1	0=
LV		5▲1	95▼-1	1▲1
LT		5=	95=	0=
LU		7=	93▼-1	1▲1
HU		4▼-1	96▲1	0=
MT		6▼-1	93▼-1	1▲1
NL		7▼-2	93▲1	1▲1
AT		6=	94▼-1	1▲1
PL		10▲2	89▼-2	1▲1
PT		6▼-2	93▲1	1▲1
RO		7▲1	93▼-1	0=
SI		7=	93=	0=
SK		8▲1	92▼-1	0=
FI		6=	94=	0=
SE		3▼-1	97▲1	0=
ME		14	86	0
MK		12	88	0
AL		8	92	0
RS		9	91	1

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) &amp; n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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=	41▼-1	24▲1	13▲1	11=
BE		8▼-4	53▼-2	23▲3	8▲2	8=
BG		2=	22▼-6	31=	34▲7	10▼-1
CZ		9=	46▼-11	25▲5	13▲7	8▼-1
DK		35▼-5	48▲2	7=	2=	8▲3
DE		23▼-1	49▼-3	9▼-1	6▲1	13▲5
EE		10=	56▲2	12=	3▲1	19▼-3
IE		18=	55▼-2	15▲2	4=	10▼-1
EL		6▼-1	35▼-5	34▲4	22▲2	4=
ES		7▲4	30▼-1	31▼-6	19▲1	13▲3
FR		5▲1	49▲1	25▲2	9▲1	12▼-4
HR		8▲2	15▼-1	37▼-1	32▼-3	8▲3
IT		4▲1	32▼-5	36▲2	18▲2	11=
CY		7▼-1	43▼-4	25▲3	11▼-5	15▲7
LV		3=	40▲1	20▼-1	6=	31▼-1
LT		3▼-1	53=	24▼-1	8▲3	12▼-1
LU		16▼-1	61▲1	8▲2	2▼-1	14▼-2
HU		5▲2	36▲4	26▲6	13▲1	20▼-13
MT		21▲2	43▼-3	20=	11▲2	5▼-1
NL		18▼-4	52▲4	13▲1	5▲1	12▼-2
AT		24▲2	58▼-2	10▲2	1=	7▼-1
PL		3▼-1	25▲5	39▲4	23▼-7	10▼-1
PT		7▲1	46▲3	34▼-2	6▲1	7▼-2
RO		6=	46▲1	21=	19▲4	7▼-5
SI		5=	40▼-8	29▲5	16▲2	10▲2
SK		3▲1	30▼-1	42▲1	19▲2	6▼-2
FI		26▼-2	57▼-2	10▲2	2=	5▲1
SE		29▼-3	50▲6	11▲2	4▲1	6▼-7
ME		4	32	31	25	8
MK		4	21	26	40	8
AL		11	35	18	23	14
RS		8	28	21	27	16

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		51▼-3	24▲1	11=	11▲2	3▼-1
BE		39▼-1	29▼-5	17▲5	11▼-1	3▲2
BG		62▲9	18▼-3	6▼-1	10▼-2	4▼-2
CZ		52▲5	23▼-8	12▲1	11=	3▲2
DK		29▼-14	36▲14	6▼-8	19▲3	11▲4
DE		42▼-3	21▼-1	5▼-10	25▲16	7▼-2
EE		43▼-2	31▼-3	14▲7	7▲1	5▼-2
IE		42▼-2	30▼-2	18▲1	9▲2	1▲1
EL		56▲8	36▼-1	5▼-4	3▼-3	0▼-1
ES		67▼-4	12▼-1	8▲2	11▲3	2=
FR		48=	26▲1	14▲1	9▼-2	3=
HR		63▼-4	24▲1	6▲3	6=	2=
IT		28▼-6	36▲3	21▲2	12▲4	4▼-2
CY		64▼-4	25▲5	2▼-1	7▼-1	2▲2
LV		52▲2	24▼-8	8▲1	6▲1	11▲5
LT		55▲11	35▼-4	5▼-2	3▼-4	2▼-2
LU		32▲4	36▲3	11=	14▼-6	7▼-1
HU		63▲8	15▼-5	9▲1	10▲1	4▼-5
MT		54▼-5	24▲2	11▲1	6▲1	5▲2
NL		47=	23▼-4	9▼-3	14▲3	7▲3
AT		57▲4	21▼-3	10▲3	9▼-4	3=
PL		71▲1	18▲4	6▼-1	4▼-4	2▼-1
PT		45▼-10	35▲3	2=	11▲3	7▲4
RO		44▼-11	23▲5	11▲1	19▲5	3=
SI		65▼-5	23▲4	4▲2	6=	2▼-1
SK		70▲6	19▼-4	5=	5=	2▼-3
FI		23▲6	39▲7	16▼-9	16▲2	5▼-6
SE		22▼-5	40▲4	23▲12	11▼-3	5▼-9
ME		54	29	6	8	5
MK		72	15	3	6	5
AL		61	16	2	11	10
RS		58	21	5	9	7

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=9 095 (EU27) & n=1 920 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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	30▼-2	16▲2	10▲1	5=
BE		29▼-9	37▲2	19▲5	11▲2	4▲1
BG		56▼-1	23▼-2	5▼-2	11▲4	6▲1
CZ		41▲3	31▼-4	10▼-6	11▲4	6▲3
DK		29▲7	33▲3	13▼-7	10▼-8	15▲5
DE		28▼-12	29▼-1	16▲4	20▲9	8=
EE		33▼-3	42▲2	11▼-2	5▲1	9▲2
IE		24▼-4	44▲2	13▼-3	14▲3	6▲2
EL		54▲9	35▼-6	8=	3▼-2	0▼-1
ES		51▲2	22▼-3	13▲2	10▼-2	4=
FR		35▼-4	31▲2	19▲3	9▼-3	5▲1
HR		46▲2	35▼-1	10▲2	6▼-2	3▼-1
IT		36▲1	30▼-7	21▲2	9▲3	6▲2
CY		67▲8	25▼-1	3▼-3	4▼-3	1=
LV		46▼-9	31▲7	8=	5▲1	10▲2
LT		48▲8	42▲3	5▼-2	3▼-6	3▼-3
LU		33▼-18	32▲15	19▲7	14=	1▼-5
HU		42▲5	30▼-4	14▼-1	9▲3	5▼-3
MT		30▲2	27▼-5	31▲5	7▲3	5▼-5
NL		37▲2	28▲1	19▲4	11▼-3	6▼-5
AT		39▼-2	31▲2	7▼-3	13=	11▲3
PL		38▲3	34▼-1	19▲1	5▼-2	4▼-1
PT		65▼-3	19▼-3	8=	5▲5	3▲1
RO		37▼-9	28=	12=	20▲8	3▲1
SI		47▼-1	37▲3	6▲3	6▼-1	3▼-4
SK		43▼-4	34▼-4	12▲5	8▲3	3=
FI		17▼-1	44▲5	14▼-5	15▲2	11=
SE		18▼-3	43▲12	21▲2	13▼-1	5▼-11
ME		42	41	7	7	3
MK		57	24	5	9	5
AL		64	19	2	7	8
RS		52	31	5	5	6

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=9 095 (EU27) & n=1 920 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		25▼-2	35▲2	19▼-1	15▲2	6▼-1
BE		23▲6	39▲2	24=	10▼-5	4▼-3
BG		40▲7	22▼-4	10▼-2	20▲4	7▼-5
CZ		27▼-1	34▲1	18=	15▼-1	7▲1
DK		21▼-3	39=	14▼-8	8▲1	19▲10
DE		6▼-9	47▲10	12▼-11	26▲11	9▼-1
EE		27▼-6	46▲8	14▲2	7▲4	6▼-7
IE		30▲5	42▼-3	16▼-4	10▲2	3▲1
EL		28▲3	42▲5	19▼-4	9▼-3	2▼-1
ES		31▼-4	25▼-2	17▼-1	23▲6	5▲1
FR		22▼-3	34▲7	27▲1	9▼-5	8=
HR		30▼-4	37▲4	15=	14=	4=
IT		15▼-1	39▼-3	26=	13▲2	7▲2
CY		39▲11	38▲6	11▼-10	10▼-8	3▲2
LV		33▲1	30▲3	14▼-5	7▼-8	16▲9
LT		33▲2	42▼-4	10▲2	8▲1	7▼-1
LU		33▲13	31▼-15	10▼-8	17▲6	10▲4
HU		32▼-2	27▼-2	17▼-1	18▲7	6▼-2
MT		35▲14	25▼-11	22▼-3	12▲2	7▼-3
NL		29=	36▼-1	11▲2	21▲4	2▼-4
AT		24=	29▼-14	22▲9	13▲1	13▲5
PL		39▼-1	37▲7	15=	7▼-1	2▼-4
PT		25▼-2	42▼-4	11▲2	13▲3	8▲1
RO		21▲2	28▼-5	18=	28▲5	5▼-1
SI		25▼-4	40▲6	13▲3	18▼-1	4▼-4
SK		30▼-5	40▲6	15▲1	11▼-1	4▼-1
FI		20▲10	35▼-13	27▲7	12▼-2	5▼-1
SE		16▼-5	48▲9	23▲9	7=	7▼-13
ME		23	40	16	16	6
MK		24	26	12	34	5
AL		40	26	4	23	7
RS		35	34	10	14	8

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=9 095 (EU27) & n=1 920 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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=	9▲1	4=	4▲1	64▼-1
BE		12▲2	9=	6▲2	3=	70▼-4
BG		41▲9	12▼-1	4=	7=	37▼-8
CZ		20▲7	9▲1	4▲2	4▲1	63▼-11
DK		3▼-1	3▲1	1▼-1	2=	92=
DE		6▼-1	3=	1▼-1	4▲2	86=
EE		6=	5=	2▲1	1=	86▼-1
IE		8▲1	6▲1	3▲1	2▲1	82▼-2
EL		32▲7	20▲2	3▼-2	2▼-2	44▼-6
ES		34▼-6	6▼-1	4▲1	6▲1	51▲5
FR		16▲1	9▲1	5▲1	3▼-1	67▼-2
HR		43▼-5	17=	4▲2	4=	32▲3
IT		15▼-2	19▲3	11▲2	6▲3	48▼-5
CY		23▼-3	9▲1	1=	2▼-1	65▲2
LV		14=	6▼-2	2=	2=	76▲2
LT		18▲4	11▼-1	1=	1▼-1	68▼-2
LU		3▲1	3▲1	1=	1=	91▼-1
HU		24▲7	6▼-1	4▲1	4▲1	63▼-8
MT		17▼-1	7▲1	3▲1	2=	71▼-1
NL		9▲1	4=	2=	3▲1	83▼-1
AT		6▲1	2=	1▲1	1=	90▼-2
PL		44▼-2	11▲2	4▼-1	2▼-2	39▲3
PT		18▼-5	14▲1	1=	5▲1	63▲3
RO		18▼-3	9▲3	4▲1	8▲3	61▼-3
SI		29▲2	10▲3	2▲1	3=	56▼-7
SK		43▲6	12▼-2	3=	3=	40▼-4
FI		3▲1	5▲2	2=	2▲1	89▼-3
SE		3=	6▲2	4▲2	2=	86▼-4
ME		30	16	3	4	30
MK		47	10	2	4	47
AL		25	7	1	4	25
RS		28	10	2	4	28

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		15=	11=	6▲1	4▲1	65▼-1
BE		9▼-1	12▲2	6▲2	4▲1	70▼-5
BG		37▲3	15▲1	3▼-1	7▲3	38▼-6
CZ		16▲5	12▲3	4=	4▲3	64▼-10
DK		3▲1	3=	1▼-1	1▼-1	92=
DE		4▼-2	4=	2▲1	3▲1	86=
EE		5=	6▲1	2=	1=	87=
IE		5=	8▲1	2=	3▲1	83▼-2
EL		30▲8	20▼-1	4▲1	2▼-1	44▼-6
ES		26▼-2	11▼-3	7▲1	5▼-2	52▲5
FR		12=	11▲2	7▲2	3▼-1	68▼-2
HR		32=	24▼-2	7▲1	4▼-2	33▲3
IT		19▲2	16▼-3	11▲2	5▲2	49▼-3
CY		24▲2	9▼-1	1▼-1	1▼-1	65▲2
LV		12▼-3	8▲2	2=	1=	76▲1
LT		15▲3	14▲2	2▼-1	1▼-2	69▼-2
LU		3▼-1	3▲2	2▲1	1=	91▼-2
HU		16▲4	12▲1	5▲1	4▲2	63▼-7
MT		9▲1	8▼-1	10▲2	2▲1	71▼-3
NL		7▲1	5▲1	3▲1	2=	83▼-3
AT		4▲1	3▲1	1=	1=	90▼-1
PL		24▲1	21▼-2	12=	3▼-2	40▲3
PT		26▼-3	8▼-2	3=	2▲2	61▲2
RO		15▼-2	11▲1	5▲1	8▲4	61▼-3
SI		21▲3	17▲4	3▲1	3=	57▼-8
SK		27▼-1	21▼-2	7▲4	5▲2	40▼-3
FI		2=	5▲2	2=	2▲1	89▼-2
SE		3=	7▲3	3▲1	2=	86▼-4
ME		24	23	4	4	45
MK		38	16	3	6	37
AL		26	8	1	3	62
RS		25	15	2	3	55

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		9▼-1	13▲1	7=	6▲1	65▼-1
BE		7▲3	12▲3	8▲1	3▼-1	70▼-6
BG		26▲7	15▼-1	7=	13▲4	39▼-9
CZ		10▲3	13▲4	7▲2	6▲1	64▼-10
DK		2=	4=	1▼-1	1=	92▲1
DE		1▼-1	7▲2	2▼-2	4▲2	87=
EE		4▼-1	7▲2	2=	1▲1	86▼-2
IE		6▲1	8▲1	3=	2▲1	82▼-2
EL		16▲3	23▲5	11▼-1	5▼-1	45▼-6
ES		16▼-4	12▼-2	9▼-2	11▲2	52▲6
FR		8=	12▲3	9▲1	3▼-1	69▼-2
HR		20▼-4	25▲2	11▼-1	10▼-1	34▲3
IT		8=	21=	14▲1	7▲2	50▼-3
CY		14▲3	14▲1	4▼-4	4▼-3	65▲2
LV		9=	8▲1	4▼-1	2▼-2	78▲3
LT		11▲1	14▼-1	3▲1	3=	70▼-2
LU		3▲2	3▼-1	1▼-1	2▲1	92▼-1
HU		12▲2	11▲1	6▲1	7▲3	64▼-7
MT		11▲5	8▼-3	7=	4▲1	71▼-3
NL		5▲1	7▲1	2▲1	4▲1	82▼-3
AT		3=	3▼-1	2▲1	1=	91▼-1
PL		24▼-2	23▲3	9▼-1	5▼-1	39▲1
PT		10▼-1	17▼-3	5▲1	5▲1	63▲2
RO		9▲1	11▼-1	7▲1	11▲3	62▼-4
SI		11=	18▲5	6▲2	8▲1	57▼-8
SK		19▼-2	25▲5	9▲1	7=	41▼-3
FI		3▲2	4=	3▲1	2=	89▼-3
SE		2=	7▲3	3▲2	1=	86▼-4
ME		13	23	9	9	47
MK		16	17	8	22	37
AL		16	11	2	10	62
RS		17	16	5	7	55

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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=	39▼-2	20▲1	16▲1	5=
BE		16=	42▲1	25▲2	14=	3▼-2
BG		20=	38▲7	14▼-3	21▲2	7▼-6
CZ		19▲3	41▼-13	16▲2	18▲7	6▲1
DK		29▼-8	44▲6	15▲2	8▼-1	4▲1
DE		19▼-1	36▼-9	16▲4	23▲5	7▲2
EE		28▼-6	42▲6	15▼-1	11▲4	4▼-3
IE		19▼-4	43=	20▲1	15=	4▲2
EL		14▼-3	41▲6	31▼-2	13=	1▼-2
ES		35▲8	31▲3	17▼-2	13▼-11	4▲3
FR		15▼-2	38▲1	28=	15▲1	4=
HR		23▲3	34▼-7	19=	18▲1	6▲3
IT		17=	47▲3	25▼-5	9▲3	3=
CY		20▲1	50▲3	18▼-2	8▼-5	4▲3
LV		25=	40▼-4	15▼-2	12▲5	8▲1
LT		16▼-2	52▲7	13▼-6	16▲1	3=
LU		15=	39▲3	28▲5	14▼-8	5=
HU		21▲2	36▲3	20=	18▼-1	4▼-4
MT		19=	34▼-3	31▲11	13▼-7	4▼-1
NL		24▼-5	42▼-2	16▲4	12▲1	6▲2
AT		25▲4	46▼-4	12▲1	14▼-1	3=
PL		28▲3	37▲2	22▲2	11▼-3	2▼-3
PT		16▼-5	53▼-1	11▲3	15▲2	6▲1
RO		16▼-1	41▲2	20▼-1	19▼-1	4▲1
SI		27▲6	50=	9▼-1	11▼-6	4▲1
SK		25▲3	43▲1	12▼-2	17▲2	2▼-3
FI		29▲2	39▼-1	18▼-2	12▲1	3▼-1
SE		17▼-3	35▲6	21▲2	24=	3▼-4
ME		23	42	14	13	9
MK		18	37	10	27	8
AL		25	32	8	26	9
RS		17	36	12	22	12

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=14 259 (EU27) & n=1 266 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		18▼-1	42▼-2	19▲1	15▲2	6▲1
BE		14▼-3	40▼-1	26▲5	15=	5▼-1
BG		17▼-4	30▼-2	20=	23▲6	10▲1
CZ		13▼-2	48▼-1	18▼-1	17▲4	5▲1
DK		39▼-7	32▲1	13▲2	13▲5	4=
DE		19▼-3	39▼-7	15▲4	20▲5	7▲1
EE		25▼-3	42=	18▲4	9▲1	6▼-2
IE		25▲2	37▼-6	23▲1	10▲1	5▲3
EL		14▼-1	41▲4	31▼-6	12▲2	2=
ES		16▼-2	44▲5	20▼-2	15▼-4	6▲2
FR		15▼-2	47▲2	25▲1	8▼-1	5▲1
HR		19▲7	47▼-1	11▼-6	19=	4▼-1
IT		13▼-1	45▼-4	23▼-5	13▲6	7▲4
CY		28▲10	47▼-4	14▼-2	8▼-3	3=
LV		25▲5	42▼-4	17▼-2	6▼-1	10▲3
LT		17▲2	53▲8	16▼-5	11▼-3	3▼-1
LU		20=	41▼-3	15▼-3	13=	11▲6
HU		16▲2	43▲5	21=	16▼-1	4▼-5
MT		25▲10	25▼-9	27▲1	12▼-1	11=
NL		22▼-1	44▼-1	14▼-1	13▲1	7▲2
AT		23▼-1	40▼-4	19▲4	13▼-1	6▲2
PL		19▲3	41▲2	22▼-1	10▼-2	8▼-1
PT		25=	45▼-5	8▲2	15▲3	7▲2
RO		13=	46▼-1	20▲1	17▲2	3▼-3
SI		15=	58▲8	11▼-4	12▼-6	5▲1
SK		16=	47▼-4	17▲3	17▲3	4▼-1
FI		27▲3	38▼-5	17▼-2	14▲4	4=
SE		15▼-5	30▲3	24▲6	27▲3	4▼-6
ME		12	51	15	12	10
MK		11	40	18	23	8
AL		20	35	8	28	10
RS		11	46	15	18	11

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=14 259 (EU27) & n=1 266 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		33▲1	44▼-2	12▲1	6▲1	5=
BE		27▼-1	46▲1	14▲1	7▲1	6▼-2
BG		24▲2	31▼-8	24▲4	15▲4	6▼-2
CZ		37▼-1	43▼-1	10▲2	7=	4=
DK		44▼-2	37▲5	6▼-5	4=	8▲2
DE		48▲3	32▼-6	7=	8▲3	6=
EE		46▲5	38▼-2	7▼-1	4▲2	5▼-3
IE		34▲1	39▼-4	13▲1	7▲2	7=
EL		14▼-2	55▼-3	23▲5	5▼-1	4▲2
ES		34▲6	40▼-2	16▼-2	6▼-5	4▲3
FR		27=	53=	14▲2	4=	3▼-2
HR		18▼-1	51▲1	18▲2	8▼-1	6=
IT		15▼-1	63=	11▼-6	5▲3	7▲3
CY		23▼-2	59▲1	10▼-1	4=	4▲2
LV		38▲6	42▼-4	9▼-1	4▼-1	7▲1
LT		24▲2	48▲1	14▲1	10▼-5	5=
LU		29▼-5	46▲2	11▼-2	7▲3	7▲1
HU		30▼-1	50▲8	11▼-2	7▲1	3▼-6
MT		30▼-6	39▲3	18▼-1	5▲2	9▲2
NL		37▼-2	40▼-5	11▲3	6▲2	6▲2
AT		40▼-1	38▼-4	10▲3	7▲1	7▲2
PL		22=	51▲4	21▲2	3▼-2	3▼-3
PT		20▲4	43▼-4	16▲3	17▼-4	4▲1
RO		22▼-6	49▲4	19▲5	8▲1	2▼-4
SI		27=	49▲1	10▼-2	10▲1	5▲1
SK		26▲7	48▼-9	16▲5	6=	4▼-2
FI		39▼-1	44▼-2	9▲2	4▲2	3▼-1
SE		40▲3	41▲1	11▲3	4=	4▼-6
ME		18	54	17	5	6
MK		14	54	14	9	9
AL		24	42	7	17	10
RS		21	53	8	8	11

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=14 259 (EU27) & n=1 266 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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=	21▼-1	10=	9=	50▲1
BE		10▼-1	26▼-2	16=	9▼-1	40▲4
BG		5▼-1	9=	3▼-2	5▼-1	78▲4
CZ		10=	22▼-13	9=	10▲3	49▲11
DK		24▼-8	37▲4	12▲1	7▼-1	20▲4
DE		14▼-2	26▼-9	11▲3	16▲2	33▲6
EE		19▼-4	28▲5	10▼-1	7▲3	36▼-4
IE		14▼-3	31=	14▲1	11=	31▲3
EL		6▼-2	17▲1	13▼-2	5▼-1	60▲4
ES		13▲3	12▲2	6=	5▼-4	65▼-1
FR		8▼-1	20▲1	15=	8▲1	48▼-1
HR		5▲1	8▼-1	4=	4=	78=
IT		6▼-1	17▼-1	9▼-3	3▲1	65▲4
CY		10=	25▼-1	9▼-2	4▼-3	53▲6
LV		11▲1	17▼-1	6▼-1	5▲2	60▼-1
LT		9▼-1	29▲4	7▼-3	9=	45▲1
LU		11=	30▲2	22▲4	10▼-6	27=
HU		9▲2	15▲3	8▲1	8▲1	61▼-7
MT		12=	22▼-2	20▲7	8▼-4	38=
NL		17▼-4	29▼-2	11▲3	8▲1	35▲2
AT		21▲3	38▼-3	10=	12▼-1	20▲1
PL		8▲2	10▲2	6▲1	3=	73▼-5
PT		8▼-2	28▲1	6▲2	8▲2	50▼-3
RO		8▼-1	22▲1	11=	10=	50=
SI		12▲1	23▼-4	4▼-1	5▼-4	57▲8
SK		8▲1	14=	4▼-1	6=	68=
FI		24▲1	32▼-2	15▼-2	10▲1	19▲2
SE		14▼-2	27▲5	16▲2	19▲1	24▼-7
ME		8	15	5	5	68
MK		5	9	3	7	77
AL		11	15	4	12	59
RS		6	13	4	8	68

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		9▼-1	22▼-1	10=	8▲1	51▲1
BE		9▼-3	25▼-3	16▲2	9▼-1	42▲4
BG		4▼-2	7▼-3	5▼-1	6=	78▲6
CZ		7▼-3	26▼-6	10▼-3	9=	49▲11
DK		32▼-8	26=	11▲2	11▲4	20▲3
DE		14▼-3	28▼-7	11▲2	15▲3	33▲5
EE		17▼-2	28▲1	12▲3	6▲1	37▼-3
IE		18▲1	27▼-5	16=	7▲1	32▲3
EL		6▼-1	17=	12▼-4	5=	61▲5
ES		6=	16▲3	7=	5▼-1	65▼-1
FR		8▼-1	25▲2	14▲1	4▼-1	49▼-1
HR		4▲2	11=	3▼-1	4=	78▼-1
IT		5▼-1	16▼-3	8▼-3	5▲2	67▲5
CY		14▲4	23▼-5	7▼-2	4▼-2	52▲5
LV		11▲2	18▼-1	7=	3=	61=
LT		10▲1	30▲4	9▼-3	6▼-2	45=
LU		15=	32▼-2	12▼-2	10=	32▲4
HU		7▲2	18▲5	9▲1	7▲1	60▼-8
MT		16▲6	16▼-6	18=	8▼-1	42▲1
NL		16▼-1	31▼-1	9▼-1	9▲1	35▲1
AT		19▼-1	33▼-4	15▲3	10=	23▲2
PL		5▲2	11▲2	6▲1	3=	75▼-4
PT		13▲1	24▼-1	4▲1	8▲2	51▼-3
RO		7=	24=	11▲1	9▲1	49▼-2
SI		7▼-1	26=	5▼-3	5▼-4	57▲8
SK		5=	15▼-2	5▲1	6▲1	68▲1
FI		23▲2	31▼-5	14▼-3	12▲3	20▲3
SE		12▼-3	24▲3	19▲5	21▲3	25▼-8
ME		4	18	5	4	68
MK		3	10	5	6	77
AL		9	16	4	13	59
RS		4	17	5	6	68

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

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		17=	23▼-2	6=	3=	50▲1
BE		17▼-2	28▼-1	8=	4▲1	43▲4
BG		6▼-1	8▼-4	6=	4=	77▲5
CZ		20▼-5	23▼-5	5=	4▼-1	48▲11
DK		37▼-3	31▲3	5▼-4	4=	24▲4
DE		35=	23▼-6	5=	6▲2	32▲4
EE		31▲4	25▼-1	5=	3▲1	37▼-4
IE		25=	28▼-4	9▲1	5▲2	33▲2
EL		6▼-2	22▼-5	9▲1	2▼-1	61▲6
ES		12▲3	15=	6=	2▼-2	65▼-1
FR		14=	29=	8▲1	2=	48▼-2
HR		4=	12▲1	4▲1	2=	78▼-1
IT		5▼-1	23▼-2	4▼-3	2▲1	67▲5
CY		11▼-2	29▼-3	5▼-1	2=	53▲6
LV		16▲3	18▼-1	4=	2=	60▼-1
LT		13▲1	27=	8▲1	5▼-3	47▲1
LU		22▼-3	35▲2	9▼-1	5▲2	29▲1
HU		12▲2	20▲6	5=	3▲1	60▼-8
MT		19▼-4	25▲2	12▼-1	3▲1	41▲2
NL		26▼-2	28▼-4	8▲2	4▲2	34▲2
AT		33▼-1	31▼-4	8▲2	5▲1	23▲2
PL		6▲1	14▲3	6▲1	1=	73▼-5
PT		11▲3	23▼-1	9▲2	9▼-1	49▼-3
RO		12▼-3	26▲2	10▲3	4=	49▼-3
SI		12▼-2	22▼-4	5▼-2	5=	57▲8
SK		9▲2	16▼-3	5▲1	2=	68=
FI		33▼-2	37▼-3	8▲1	4▲2	19▲2
SE		31▲3	32▲2	8▲3	4=	25▼-8
ME		6	19	6	2	67
MK		4	14	4	2	77
AL		11	19	3	8	59
RS		8	19	3	3	68

Flash Eurobarometer 540 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 14/2-28/2/2024 - (%) Base: n=25 901 (EU27) & n=3 583 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 519, January 2023)

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

Q3 If you were a party to a court hearing (e.g., a dispute about a purchase you made), would you prefer to attend the hearing in person or via videoconferencing?

		In person	Via video conferencing	Either is fine/ No preference	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		73	17	6	5
BE		83	12	3	2
BG		71	14	8	7
CZ		84	12	3	1
DK		83	7	9	2
DE		78	10	6	7
EE		75	16	7	1
IE		55	37	6	1
EL		83	13	3	1
ES		81	13	4	2
FR		85	10	3	2
HR		86	10	2	2
IT		49	31	10	9
CY		76	15	5	4
LV		60	22	8	10
LT		70	18	8	4
LU		46	32	11	10
HU		84	9	2	5
MT		54	35	8	4
NL		51	30	12	7
AT		45	37	12	6
PL		76	18	4	2
PT		45	36	8	11
RO		83	12	3	2
SI		89	6	2	2
SK		87	11	1	1
FI		71	19	10	1
SE		74	17	7	2
ME		87	8	2	3
MK		77	8	7	8
AL		75	10	9	6
RS		77	10	5	8

