



European  
Commission

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 541

# Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

EUROBAROMETER REPORT  
FEBRUARY-MARCH 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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<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer>

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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:

- How companies perceive the independence of courts and judges in their country, and their reasons for these perceptions, both positive and negative.
- Whether companies have confidence in the protection of their investments by law and courts, and their reasons for concerns about the effectiveness of this protection.

For this Flash Eurobarometer, a representative sample of businesses employing one or more persons in the manufacturing (NACE category C), retail (NACE category G), services (NACE categories H/I/J/K/L/M/N) or industry (NACE categories B/D/E/F) sectors were interviewed. The geographic scope are the 27 EU Member States, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Interviews took place via telephone with someone with decision-making responsibilities in the company (managing director, general manager, CEO, financial director), someone leading the commercial activities (commercial manager, sales manager, marketing manager) or a legal officer. Between 14 February and 5 March 2024, 14 621 interviews were conducted by Ipsos European Public Affairs.

Results are presented from an EU, country and business-demographic perspective, and are compared to the results of the previous survey in this series, conducted in January 2023 (Flash Eurobarometer 520).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2752>

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

### Notes

- Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between business groups and countries 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 weighted to known business population proportions. The EU27 averages are weighted according to the size of the business 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.

## Main findings

One in two companies rate independence of courts and judges in their country as good

- One in two companies rate the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good: 10% say it is 'very good' and 40% that it is 'fairly good'. More than one in three companies say that the independence of courts and judges is bad, with 22% saying it is 'fairly bad' and 13% that it is 'very bad'.
- In 14 EU Member States, more than half of all companies surveyed rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, with companies in Finland (91%) and Denmark (88%) being the most likely to give a positive rating.
- Across the four western Balkan countries surveyed (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), the share of companies rating their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good is lower than the EU average, ranging from 20% in North Macedonia to 45% in Albania.
- Compared to January 2023, companies in Croatia (+10 pp, 28%) are now more likely to rate their justice system – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good. In contrast, companies in Bulgaria (-8 pp, 25%) are now less likely to rate the independence of courts and judges as good.

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

- Companies that rate the independence of the justice system in their country as good are the most likely to say this is due to the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence (78%). By comparison, 62% refer to no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests and 59% to no interference or

pressure from government and politicians as a reason to explain their rating.

- Compared to results observed in January 2023, the share of companies saying that no interference or pressure from government and politicians does *not* explain their positive rating has increased by five percentage points.

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

- Companies that rate the level of independence of the courts and judges in their country as bad are most likely to say this because of interference or pressure from government and politicians (80%), followed by interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (76%). About two-thirds (66%) say that the fact that the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. Compared to January 2023, these figures have not significantly changed.

A majority of companies are confident that their investments are protected

- A majority of companies in the EU say that they are confident that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments if something goes wrong: 14% say that they are 'very confident' and 40% that they are 'fairly confident'.
- The proportion of companies being confident that the law and courts in their country protect their investments varies considerably across the EU Member States, ranging from 28% in Greece to 84% in Luxembourg. In Montenegro and Serbia, about one in two companies are confident that their investments are protected; in North Macedonia, the level of confidence is the lowest (35%).

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

- Compared to January 2023, the total share of companies saying they are confident about the protection of their investments by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong has increased in Cyprus (+12 pp, 31%), Slovenia (+10 pp, 65%) and Poland (+9 pp, 33%).
- Companies that are not confident about the protection of their investments explain this by unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court (63%), frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process (62%), difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice (62%) and difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong (59%).

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## 1. Perceived independence of courts and judges among companies

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

**One in two companies rate the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good:** 10% say it is 'very good' and 40% that it is 'fairly good'. More than one in three companies say that the independence of courts and judges is bad, with 22% saying it is 'fairly bad' and 13% that it is 'very bad'. About one in seven (15%) '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.

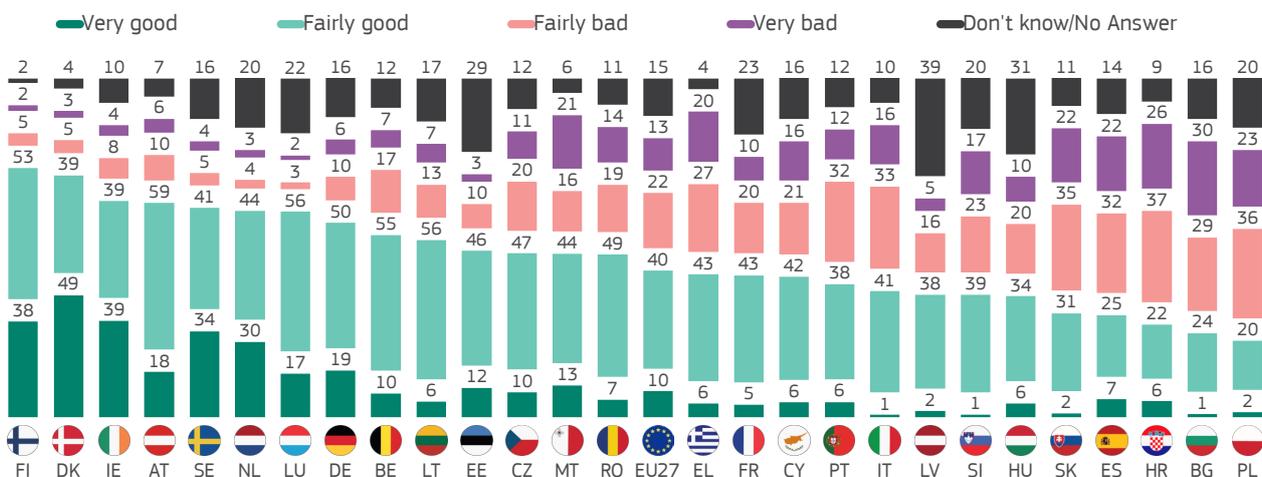
### Individual country results

Opinion about the independence of courts and judges varies considerably across the EU Member States. In 14 Member States, more than

half of all companies surveyed rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, with companies in Finland (91%) and Denmark (88%) being the most likely to say so. By contrast, 22% of companies in Poland and 25% in Bulgaria think the same. In Denmark, 49% of companies say the independence of their justice system is 'very good'. In Bulgaria, Italy and Slovenia, on the other hand, just 1% of companies rate their justice system as 'very good'.

The proportion of companies rating the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad is the highest in Croatia (63%), closely followed by Bulgaria and Poland (both 59%). This proportion is the lowest in Luxembourg (5%), Finland and the Netherlands (both 7%). More than one in three companies in Croatia (37%), Poland (36%) and Slovakia (35%) rate their national justice system, in terms of the independence of courts and judges, as 'fairly bad'. At the other end of the scale, just 3% of companies in Luxembourg think the same.

**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=12 851 – All companies

**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

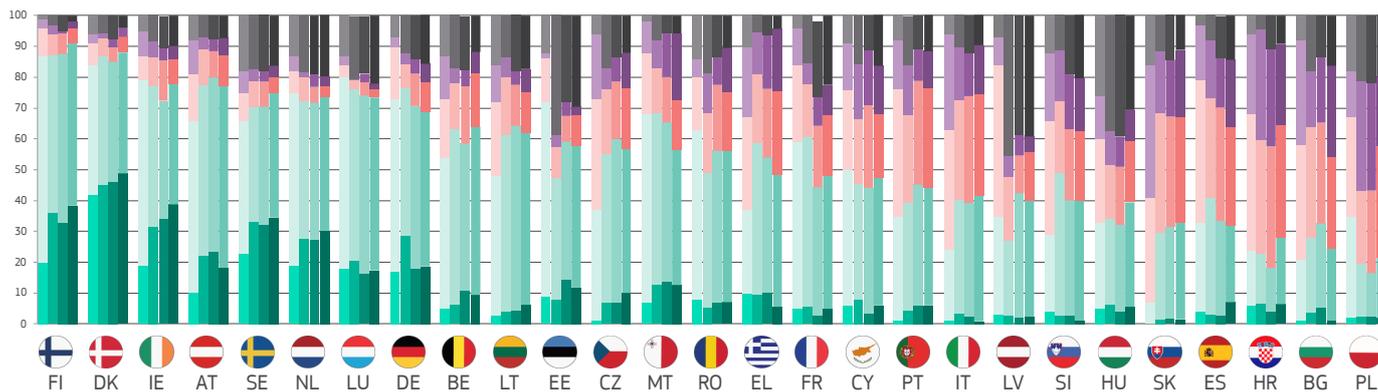
**Trend compared to 2023**

There are some (statistically significant) changes in opinion compared to January 2023.<sup>2</sup> Companies in Croatia (+10 pp) are now more

likely to rate their justice system – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good. In contrast, companies in Bulgaria (-8 pp) are now less likely to do so.

**How companies perceive the independence of courts and judges**

Very good Fairly good Fairly bad Very bad Don't know/No Answer  
 (Light colours: 2016, 2022 and 2023; dark colours: 2024)



(%) Base: n = 12 851 – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2016, 2022, 2023 and 2024

<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 companies

### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

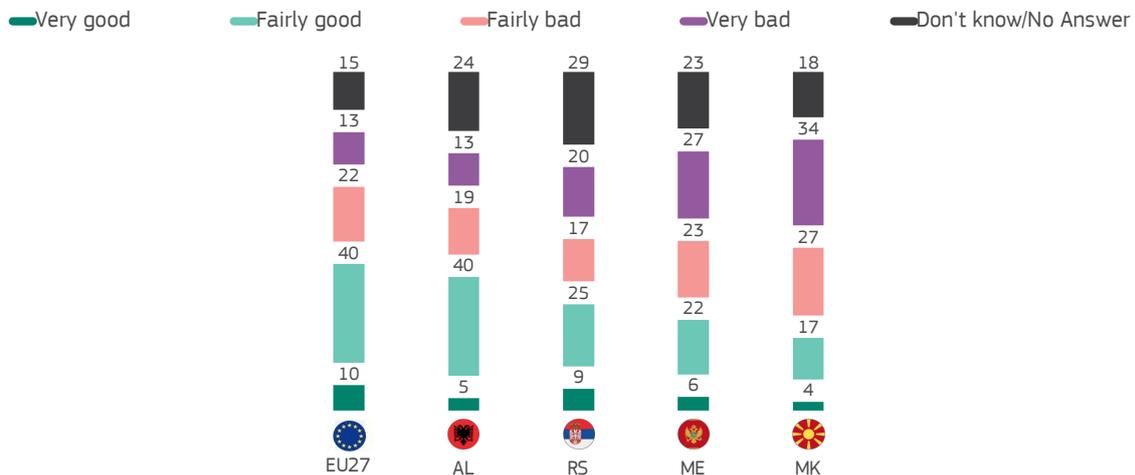
Across the four western Balkan countries surveyed (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), the share of companies rating their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good is lower than the EU average.

In **Albania**, the largest share of companies (45%) rate their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as 'very' or 'fairly good' (compared to 20% giving a

bad rating). In **North Macedonia**, on the other hand, more than six in ten companies (62%) rate the national justice system regarding the independence of courts and judges as 'very' or 'fairly bad'.<sup>3</sup>

In **Montenegro** (as in North Macedonia), companies rating the independence of the justice system as bad (50%) also outnumber those saying rating it as good (28%). Finally, in **Serbia**, companies are divided in their views about the national justice system's independence, with 34% rating it as good and 37% as 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=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

<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 companies

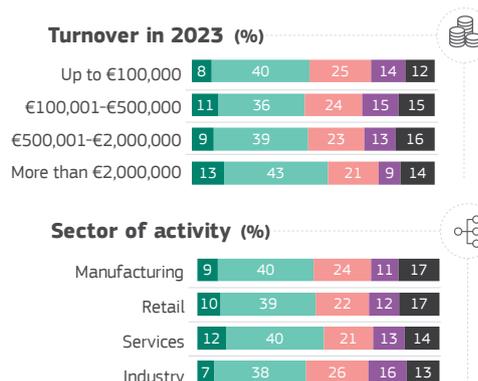
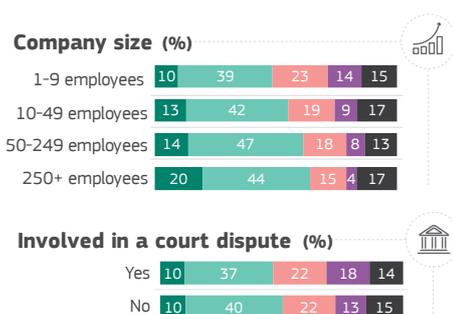
### Company characteristics

The analysis in terms of company characteristics shows the following:

- Micro companies (1-9 employees) (49%) are less likely to rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, especially when compared to medium-sized companies (between 50 and 250 employees) (61%) and large companies (250 or more employees) (64%).
- Companies in the service sector (52%) are somewhat more likely than those in other sectors to rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as good (between 45% and 49% in the retail, manufacturing and industry sectors).
- The higher a company's turnover, the more likely they are to say the independence of courts and judges in their country is good: 56% of companies with the highest turnover (more than two million euros) say so, compared to 49% of those with a turnover of up to 100 000 euros.

**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=12 851 – All companies

## 2. Main reasons among companies for the perceived independence of the national justice systems

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

### 2.1. Positive assessments

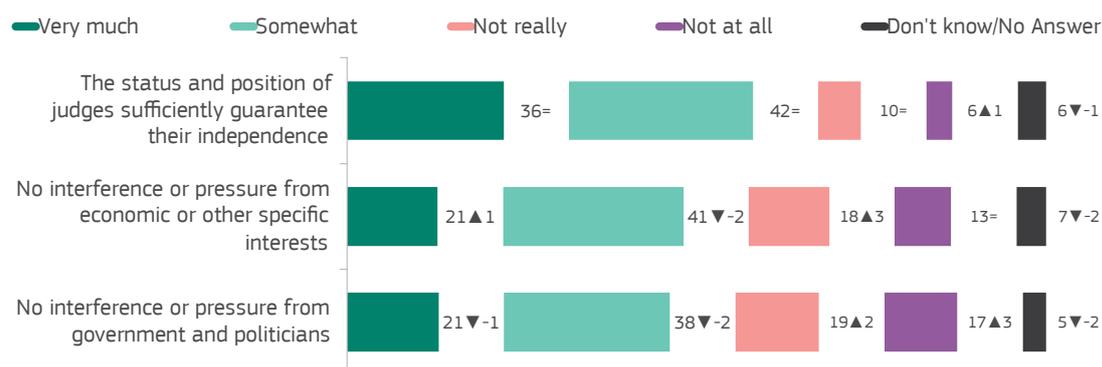
Companies that rated the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as ‘fairly good’ or ‘very good’ were asked to what extent the status of judges, no interference or pressure from government or politicians or from economic or special interests explains their rating.

Close to eight in ten companies (78%) that rate the justice system in their country as good say the fact that **the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence** explains their positive rating of the justice system in their country, with 36% saying this ‘very much’ explains their rating.

More than six in ten (62%) companies that rate the justice system in their country as good say **a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains their rating, with 21% saying this ‘very much’ explains their rating. A similar proportion (59%) say **a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains their rating, with 21% saying this ‘very much’ explains their rating.

**Compared to results observed in January 2023**, the share of companies saying that no interference or pressure from government and politicians does *not* explain their positive rating has increased by five percentage points.

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=7 222 – Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good  
▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## Status and position of judges

In all Member States, a majority of companies that rate the justice system in their country as good say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their positive rating of the independence of the national justice system. This proportion is the highest in Denmark (89%) and then gradually decreases to 67% in Croatia; Portugal stands out with just 53% of companies saying that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their rating.

There are three countries where more than half of companies say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence 'very much' explains their good rating: Denmark (62%), Estonia (52%) and

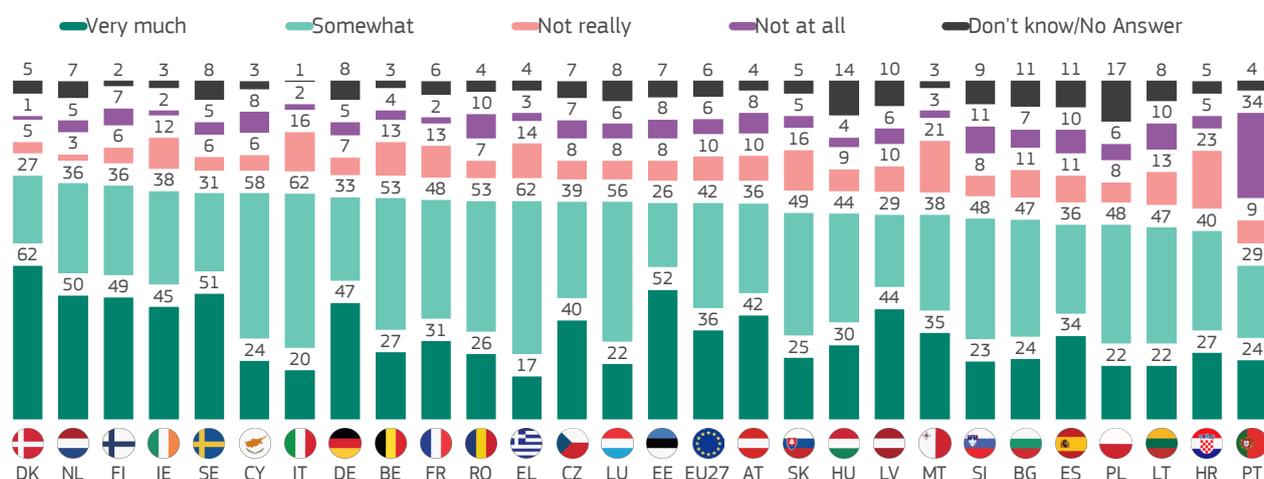
Sweden (51%). In Greece, however, this view is shared by just 17% of companies. Companies in Greece and Italy (both 62%) are the most likely to say the status and position of judges 'somewhat' explain their rating, while those in Estonia (26%), Denmark (27%), Latvia (29%) and Portugal (29%) are the least likely to say so.

Companies in Croatia (23%) and Malta (21%) are the most likely to say the status and position of judges do 'not really' explain their positive rating, compared to 3% in the Netherlands. In Portugal, 34% say this reason does not explain their rating 'at all'; in all other countries, far less companies select this response (between 1% in Denmark and 11% in Slovenia).

The results for this reason are stable compared January 2023.

**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=7 222 – Companies 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 companies

## Economic interests

In all but two Member States (Hungary and Luxembourg), a majority of companies that rate the justice system in their country as good say a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains why they rate the independence of the national justice system positively. Respondents in Denmark (84%) are the most likely to say that a lack of pressure from economic or other specific interest explains their positive rating, while those in Luxembourg (44%), Hungary (49%) and Bulgaria (50%) are the least likely to say so.

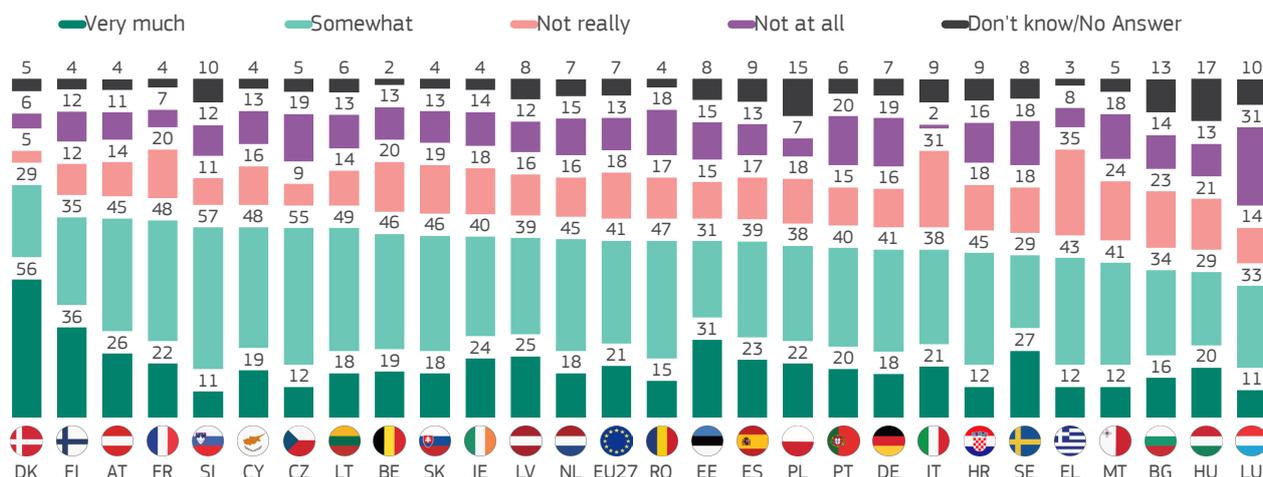
A majority of companies in Denmark (56%) say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their positive rating, compared to 11% in Slovenia and Luxembourg. More than half of companies in Slovenia (57%) and Czechia (55%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their rating, compared to 29% in Denmark, Hungary and Sweden.

Companies in Greece (35%) and Italy (31%) are the most likely to say a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests does 'not really' explain their positive rating of the level of independence of courts and judges, while those in Czechia (9%) and Denmark (5%) are the least likely to say so. Companies in Luxembourg (31%) are the most likely to say this reason 'not at all' explains their rating (compared to between 2% and 20% in the other countries).

**Compared to January 2023**, some significant changes are observed in the results. Notably, companies in Denmark (+9 pp) are now more likely to say a 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 positively. On the other hand, companies in Hungary (-20 pp) are now less likely to say this.

**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=7 222 – Companies 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 companies

## Political pressure

In all but three Member States (Bulgaria, Hungary and Luxembourg), more than half of companies that rate the justice system in their country as good say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as good. Companies in Denmark (80%), Cyprus (75%) and the Netherlands (72%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Luxembourg (42%) are the least likely to say so.

Companies in Denmark (41%), followed by those in Finland (34%), Estonia and Spain (both 33%) and Latvia (32%), are the most likely to say this reason 'very much' explains their good rating of the independence of the national justice system. At the other end of the country ranking, 10% of companies in Malta say the same. A slim majority of companies in Cyprus (56%) say no interference or pressure from government and politicians

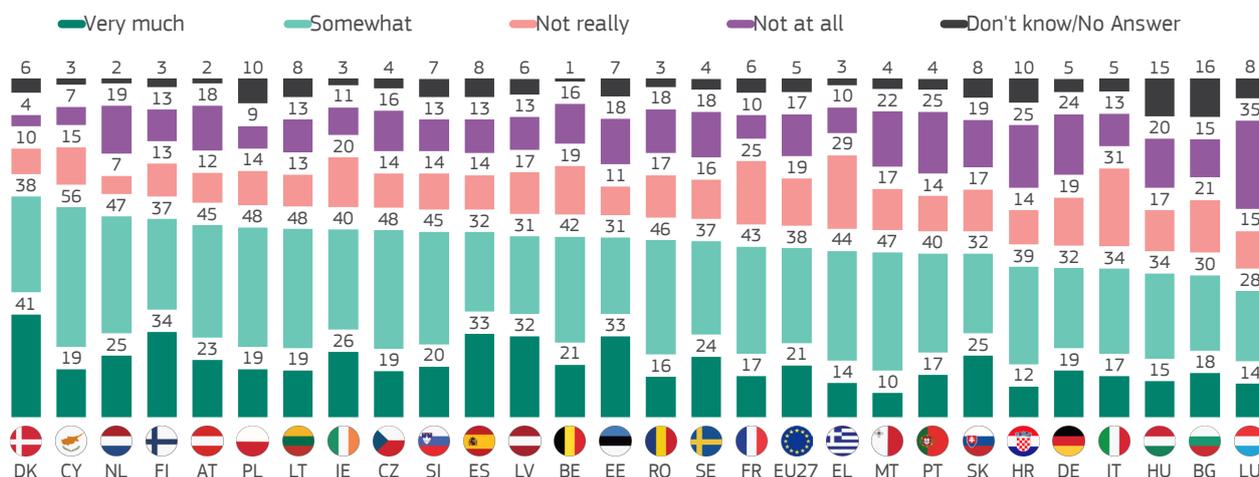
system, while companies in Luxembourg (28%) and Bulgaria (30%) are the least likely to say this.

Companies in Italy (31%) and Greece (29%) are the most likely to say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians does 'not really' explain their positive rating of the level of independence of the national justice system, while those in the Netherlands (7%) and Denmark (10%) are the least likely to say so. In Luxembourg, 35% say this reason does not explain their rating 'at all' (compared to between 4% and 25% in the other countries).

**Compared to January 2023**, the proportion of companies giving no interference from government and politicians as a reason for their positive rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country has significantly increased in Denmark (+8 pp), while it has significantly decreased in Hungary (-15 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=7 222 – Companies 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 companies

## Candidate countries (western Balkans)

In the four western Balkan countries, a majority of companies that rate the justice system in their country as good say that the **status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence** explains their positive rating of the independence of the national justice system. The highest proportion of companies sharing this view is seen in Montenegro (78%) and the lowest in North Macedonia (63%). About one in five respondents in North Macedonia (20%), Serbia (20%) and Albania (19%) say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the national justice system. This also applies to 15% of companies in North Macedonia.

In Albania, 73% of companies indicate that a **lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in the country. This figure,

however, decreases to 52% in North Macedonia. In Albania, companies are also most likely to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains the positive rating of the independence of the justice system in the country (compared to between 10% and 15% in the other three countries).

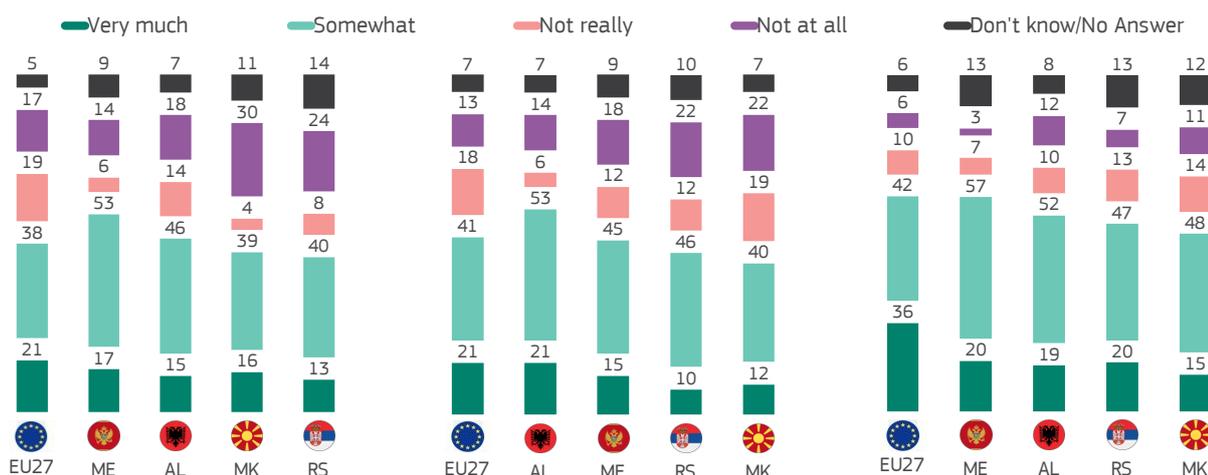
Across the four western Balkan countries, a majority of companies say a **lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the justice system's independence in their country positively. Nonetheless, this view is more frequently shared by companies in Montenegro (71%) and Albania (61%) than by companies in Serbia (54%) and North Macedonia (56%). Between 13% of companies in Serbia and 17% in Montenegro say that no political pressure 'very much' explains their good rating of the independence of the national justice system in their country.

**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*



(%) Base: n= 7 222 (EU27) & n= 601 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Companies 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 companies

### Company characteristics

The analysis by business demographics for companies saying that the independence of their justice system is good shows that:

- The higher a company's turnover, the more likely they are to say that the status and position of judges explain their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country: 82%-84% say so among companies with the highest turnover values (more than 500 000 euros), compared to 77% for companies with a turnover of up to 100 000 euros.
- Additionally, companies in the service sector (81%) are more likely to say the status and position of judges explain their positive rating of the level of the independence of the justice system in their country (compared to 73%-76% of companies in the other sectors). Companies in the service sector (62%) are also more likely to say that a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system (compared to 55% of companies in retail or in the industry sector).

**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	78	16	62	31	59	36
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	78	16	62	31	59	36
10-49 employees	80	13	62	30	59	35
50-249 employees	78	16	61	31	63	32
250+ employees	77	16	68	25	67	29
 <b>Turnover in 2023</b>						
Up to €100,000	77	17	61	32	59	36
€100,001-€500,000	75	20	59	35	60	35
€500,001-€2,000,000	84	12	70	27	62	35
More than €2,000,000	82	12	64	27	65	30
 <b>Sector of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	73	19	64	28	59	36
Retail	76	16	61	29	55	39
Services	81	14	62	33	62	33
Industry	74	19	64	32	55	39
 <b>Involved in a court dispute</b>						
Yes	79	18	61	34	56	41
No	78	15	62	31	59	35

(%, EU27) Base: n=7 222 – Companies 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 companies

### Analysis based on all respondents

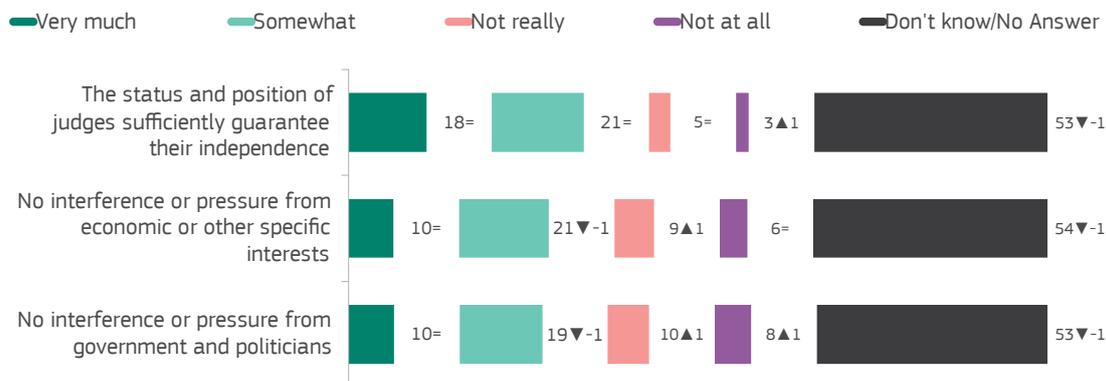
The chart below shows the results for this question when using the whole sample of companies that took part in the survey.

About four in ten of all companies surveyed (39%) say that the **status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence** explains why they rate the independence of their national justice system, in terms of independence of courts and judges, as good. About one in three companies (29%) say

that **government and politicians' lack of interference or pressure** explains their good rating; a similar share (31%) say this about a **lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests**.

**Compared to January 2023**, the proportions of companies explaining the independence of their national justice system by the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence, a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians or economic or other specific interest have remained stable.

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=12 851 – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

The results recalculated on the full sample show that opinions vary substantially across the EU Member States. More than three-quarters of companies in Denmark (78%) and Finland (77%) 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. In another seven countries, at least half of companies say the same (e.g. 55% in Germany and 61% in Sweden); this compared to just 15% of companies in Poland, 18% in Bulgaria and 19% in Croatia.

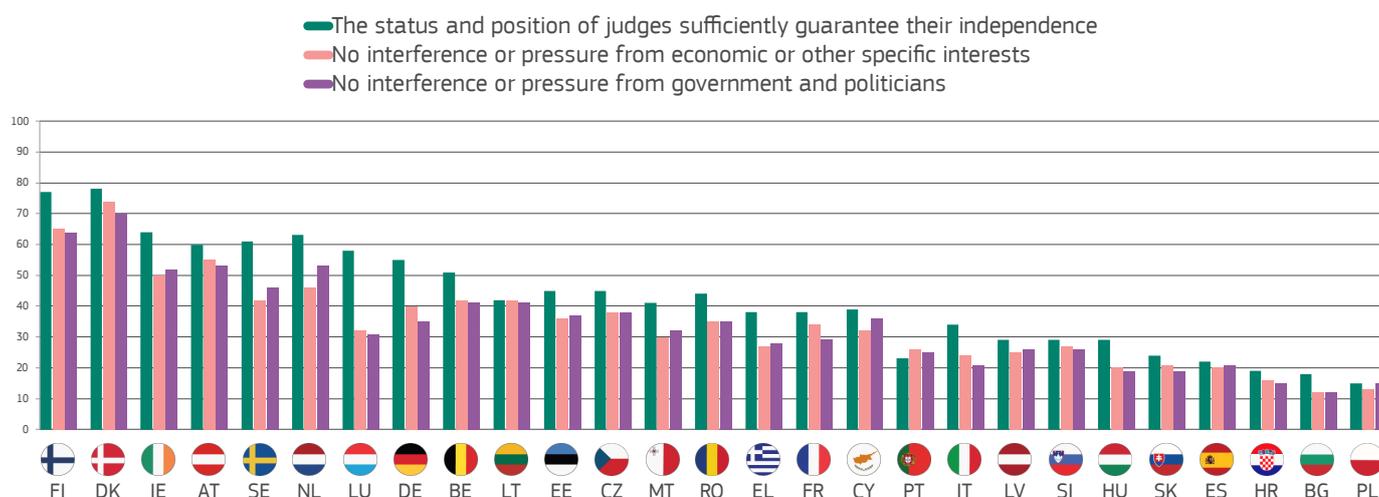
In four Member States, at least 50% of companies say that **a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific**

**interests** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges as good. This applies to Denmark (74%), Finland (65%), Austria (55%) and Ireland (50%). At the other end of the country ranking, 12% of companies in Bulgaria, 13% in Poland and 16% in Croatia say the same.

More than half of all companies surveyed in Denmark (70%), Finland (64%), the Netherlands (53%), Austria (53%) and Ireland (52%) say **a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges as good. By contrast, 12% of companies in Bulgaria and 15% in both Croatia and Poland say the same.

### Main reasons among companies for the perceived independence

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



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

(%) Base: n=n=12 851 – All companies

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

The results recalculated on the full sample show that opinions also vary across the four countries in the western Balkans.

More than a quarter of companies in Albania (27%) say **a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains their positive rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. This view is shared by about two in ten companies in Serbia (18%) and Montenegro (19%), and by just about one in ten companies in North Macedonia (11%).

One in three respondents in Albania (33%) say that **a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains

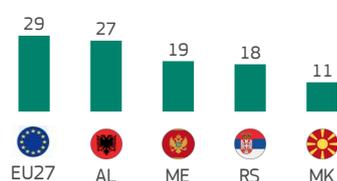
why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges as good. In contrast between 10% of companies in North Macedonia and 19% in Serbia say the same.

Similarly, 32% of companies in Albania say that **the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence** explains why they rate the independence of their justice system, in terms of independence of courts and judges, as good. This view is shared by 13% of companies in North Macedonia, 21% of companies in Montenegro and 23% in Serbia.

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'

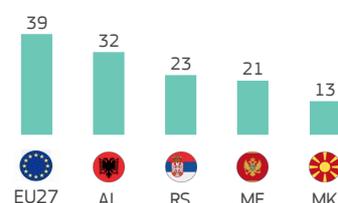
*No interference or pressure from government and politicians*



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



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



(%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## 2.2. Negative assessments

Companies that rated the level of independence of their national justice system as 'fairly bad' or 'very bad' were asked to what extent their rating can 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.

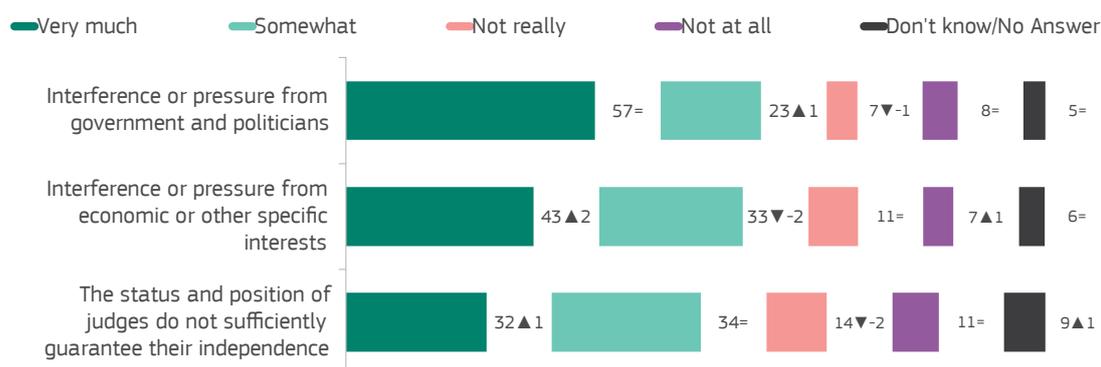
Eight in ten companies that rate the justice system in their country as good (80%) say that **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, with close to six in ten (57%) saying this 'very much' explains their rating.

About three-quarters (76%) say that **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains their negative evaluation, with 43% saying this 'very much' explains it.

About two-thirds of companies that rate the justice system in their country as good (66%) say the fact that **the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence** explains their negative rating of the justice system, with 32% saying this 'very much' explains it.

Compared to January 2023, these figures have remained mostly 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)?



(%, EU27) Base: n=3 737 – Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad  
▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## Status and position of judges

In all but one of the Member States, a majority of companies say that the fact that the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their negative rating of the justice system in their country. The proportion of companies holding this view ranges from 55% in Germany to 78% in Portugal; Luxembourg appears to present an outlier with 40% of companies referring to this explanation; however, caution should be exercised when interpreting the results of this question for Luxembourg due to low base size.<sup>4</sup>

Companies in Portugal (43%) and Bulgaria (42%) 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 Belgium and Germany (both 17%), and Estonia (18%) are the least likely to say so. More than four in ten companies in Belgium and Greece (both 44%), as well as in Czechia (43%) say the status and position of judges 'somewhat' explains their negative rating of the independence of the national justice

system, compared to 25% in Bulgaria and 26% in Spain.

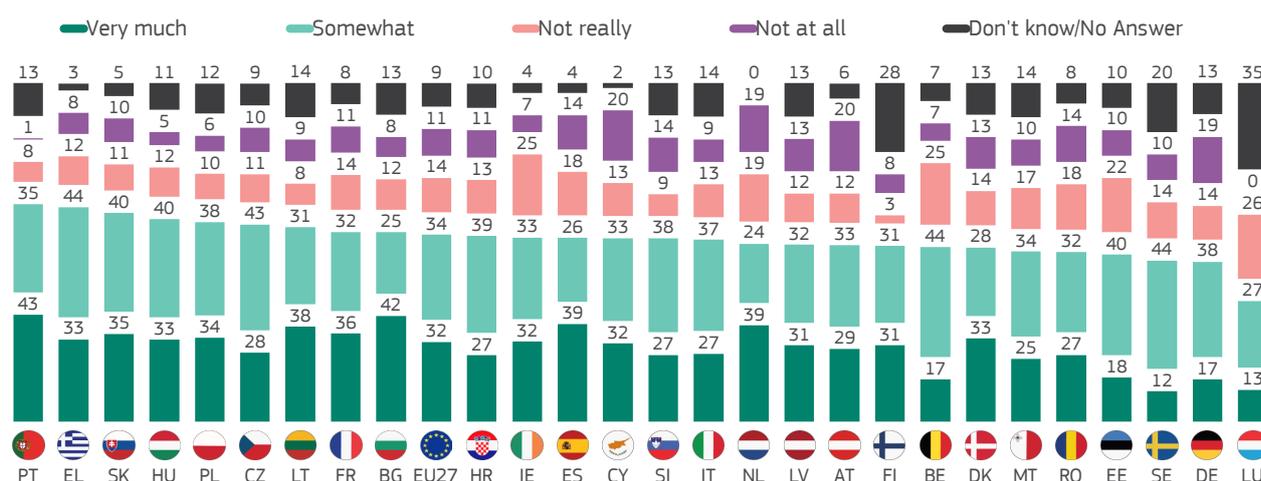
In Belgium and Ireland (both 25%), a quarter of companies say the status and position of judges do 'not really' explain their negative rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country. By contrast, 8% of companies in Portugal and Lithuania, and 9% in Slovenia say the same. The proportion of companies saying the status and position of judges do 'not at all' explain their negative rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country is the highest in Austria and Cyprus (both 20%) and the lowest in Portugal (1%).

In two countries, there is significant change in results **compared to January 2023**: companies in France (+21%) and Greece (+14 pp) are now more likely to say the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their poor rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.

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)?

Q2a.3

*The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence*



(%) Base: Base: n=3 737 – Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

<sup>4</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes (<50): DK, FI, LU, NL and SE. Caution should be exercised when

interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, IE and MT.

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## Economic interests

In each Member State, at least half of companies that rate the justice system in their country as bad say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country negatively, ranging from 60% in Germany and Malta to 91% in Cyprus.<sup>5</sup>

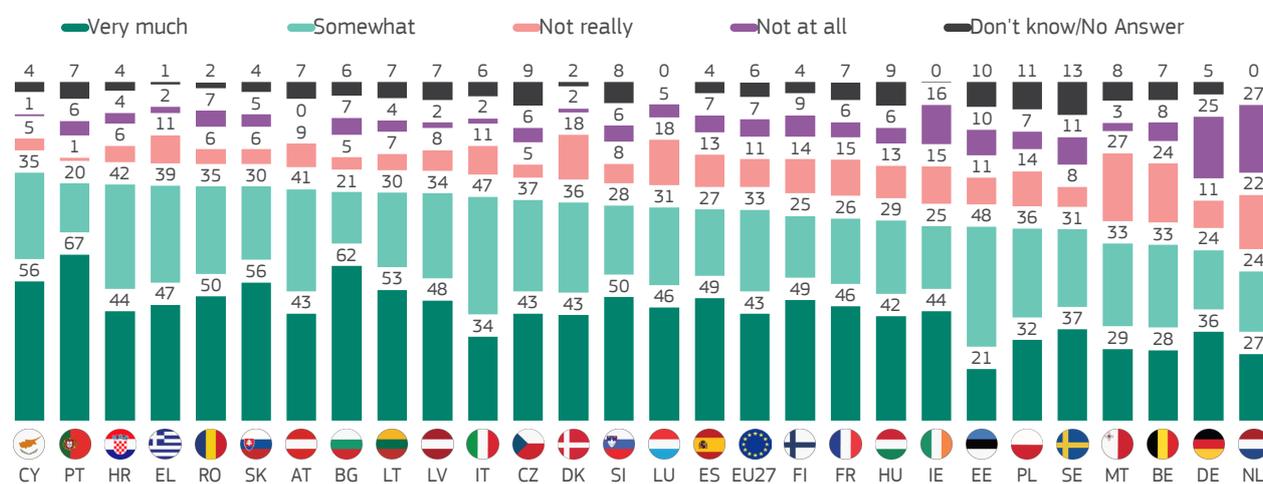
In five countries, more than half of companies say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country. This applies to Portugal (67%), Bulgaria (62%), Cyprus (56%) Slovakia (56%) and Lithuania (53%). By contrast, 21% of companies say this in Estonia. Nearly half of companies in Estonia (48%) and Italy (47%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their rating, while companies in Portugal (20%) and Bulgaria (21%) are the least likely to select this response.

In Malta, 27% of companies say that the interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests does 'not really' explain their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, whereas 1% say this in Portugal and 5% in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Czechia. In Germany, 25% say this reason does not explain their rating 'at all', compared to 0% of companies in Austria, 1% in Cyprus and 2% in Greece, Latvia and Italy.

**Compared to January 2023**, companies in Germany (-23 pp), Belgium (-16 pp) and Hungary (-13 pp) are now less likely to say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their bad ratings of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.

**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=3 737 – Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

<sup>5</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes (<50): DK, FI, LU, NL and SE. Caution should be exercised when

interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, IE and MT.

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## Political pressure

In Slovakia (91%), Portugal (89%) and Spain (88%), about nine in ten companies that rate the justice system in their country as bad say that interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative perception of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. At the lower end of the country ranking, 51% of companies in Sweden and 53% in Ireland say the same.<sup>6</sup>

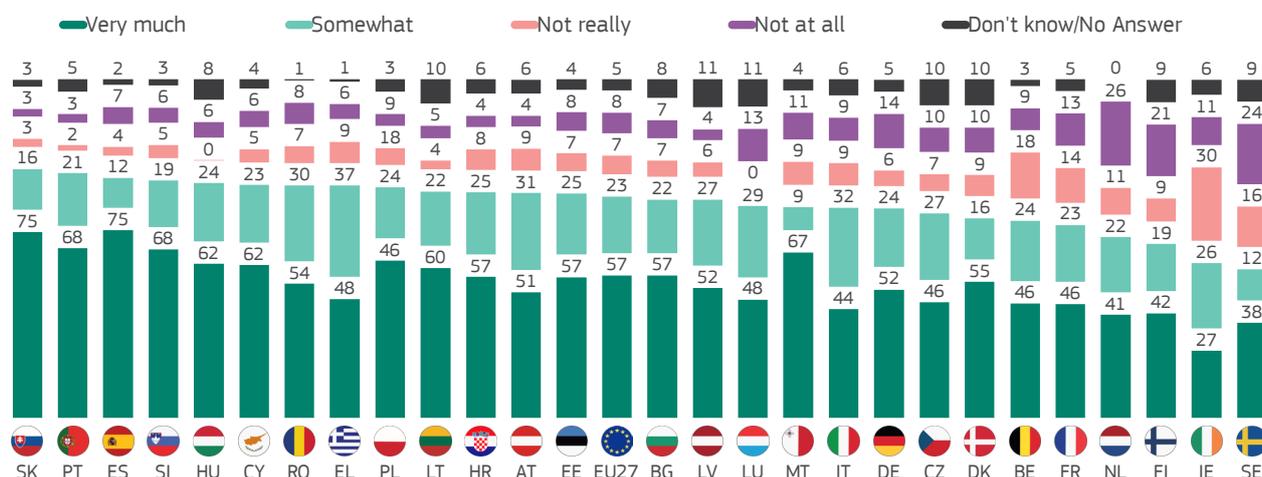
Three-quarters of companies in Slovakia and Spain (both 75%) and about two-thirds in Portugal and Slovenia (both 68%) say this reason 'very much' explains their bad rating, compared to 27% in Ireland. Companies in Greece (37%), Italy (32%) and Austria (31%) are the most likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians 'somewhat' explains their negative rating, while those in Malta (9%), Sweden and Spain (12%) and Slovakia (16%) are the least likely to say so.

Companies in Ireland (30%) are the most likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians does 'not really' explain their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges, while few say this in Hungary (0%), Portugal (2%) and Slovakia (3%), Spain and Lithuania (both 4%). About one in seven companies in Germany (14%) say this reason does not 'at all' explain their rating. By contrast, few say this in Portugal and Slovakia (both 3%).

**Compared to January 2023**, companies in Estonia (+22 pp) are now more likely to say that interference or pressure from the government and politicians explains their bad ratings of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. Companies in Belgium, on the other hand, are now less likely to say so (-18 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=3 737 – Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

<sup>6</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes (<50): DK, FI, LU, NL and SE. Caution should be exercised when

interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, IE and MT.

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## Candidate countries (western Balkans)

In the four western Balkan countries surveyed, eight in ten – or more – companies that rate the justice system in their country as bad say that **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains their negative perception of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. The highest share saying so is observed in Montenegro (88%). Moreover, 62% of companies in both Montenegro and North Macedonia say this reason 'very much' explains their bad rating, compared to 52% in Albania and 55% in Serbia.

Between 73% of companies in North Macedonia and 94% in Albania say that **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country negatively. In Albania, 69% of companies say interference or pressure from

economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country. In contrast, this applies to nearly half of the companies in Montenegro (46%), North Macedonia (47%) and Serbia (49%).

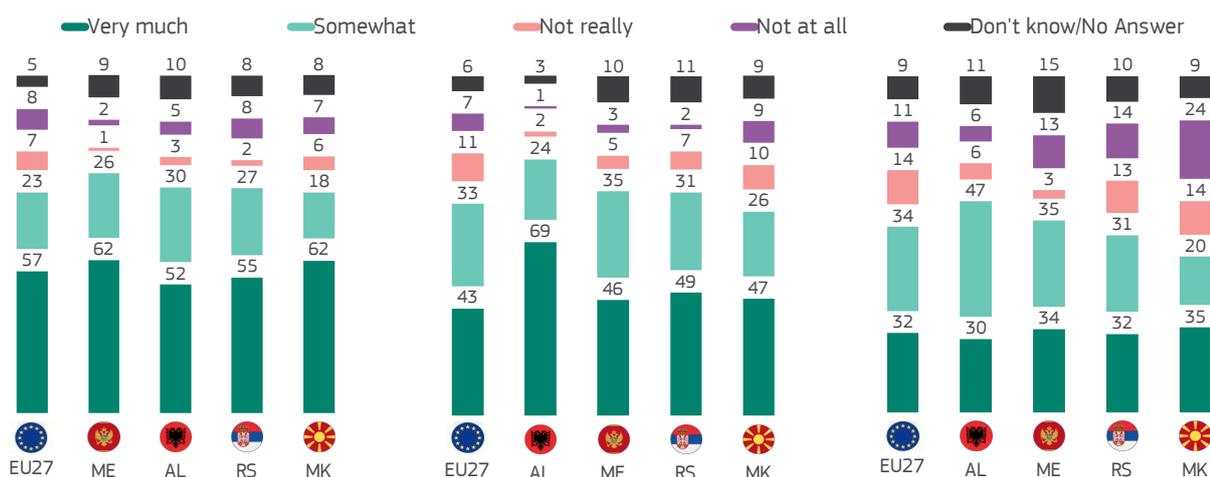
In the four western Balkan countries, a majority of companies also say that the **status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence** explains their negative rating of the justice system in their country. Companies in Albania (77%) are more likely to hold this view compared to those in North Macedonia (54%), Serbia (63%) and Montenegro (69%). Additionally, companies in North Macedonia (35%) and Montenegro (34%) are slightly more likely to say this reason 'very much' explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, compared to those in Albania (30%) and Serbia (32%).

**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=3 737 (EU27) & n=788 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Companies 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 companies

### Company characteristics

The analysis by business demographics for companies saying that the independence of their justice system is bad shows that:

- Companies in the service sector (80%) are more likely than those in the manufacturing (70%) and retail sectors (73%) to say that their negative rating of the national judicial system is explained by the interference or pressure from interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests.
- Companies that have been involved in a dispute that went to court in the past year (73%) are more likely than those who did not (81%) to say that the interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their poor rating of the independence of the national justice system in their country.

**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	80	16	76	18	66	24
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	80	15	76	18	67	24
10-49 employees	77	18	73	20	63	28
50-249 employees	81	14	74	22	64	29
250+ employees	81	15	73	23	70	24
 <b>Turnover in 2023</b>						
Up to €100,000	81	14	78	17	69	19
€100,001-€500,000	84	13	77	19	70	25
€500,001-€2,000,000	80	17	75	19	65	28
More than €2,000,000	83	14	76	19	68	24
 <b>Score of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	81	12	70	22	63	28
Retail	77	16	72	19	63	25
Services	83	14	80	16	69	22
Industry	77	21	74	20	66	26
 <b>Involved in a court dispute</b>						
Yes	73	23	77	16	64	25
No	81	15	76	19	67	25

(%, EU27) Base: n=3 737 – Companies 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 companies

## Analysis based on all respondents

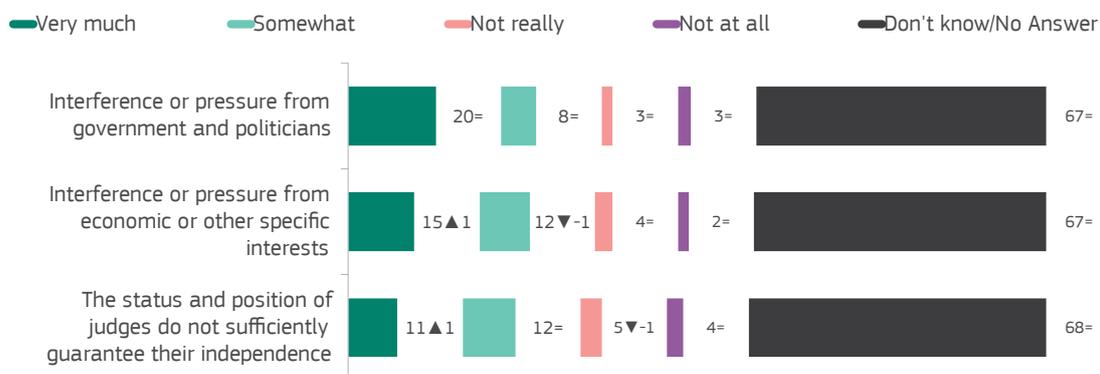
The chart below shows the results when analysing all companies' answers to the question asking to which extent the status of judges, interference or pressure from government or politicians, or from economic or other specific interests explains their negative rating of the independence of the national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

More than a quarter (28%) of companies 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. Additionally, 27% say this about **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** and 23% about the fact that **the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence**.

These overall 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=12 851 – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

The country results, based on all respondents, show that about one in two companies in Croatia (51%), Slovakia (51%) and Poland (49%) say that **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. These two countries are closely followed by Bulgaria and Spain (both 47%). Companies in Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden (all 4%), however, are the least likely to say this.

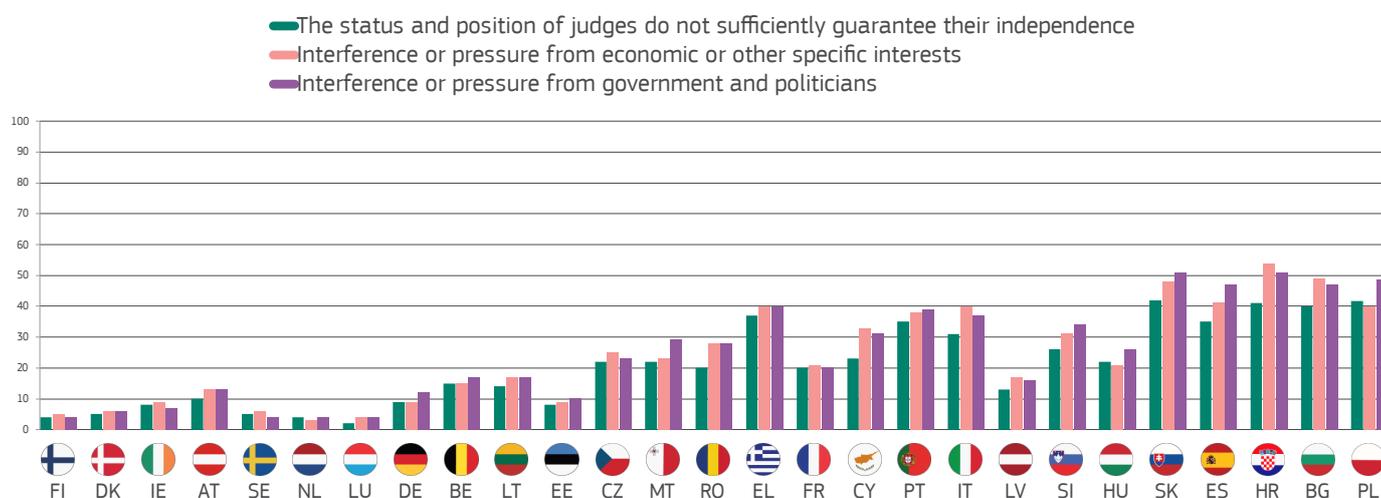
Croatia stands out with 54% of companies saying that **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country poorly. At least four in ten companies in Bulgaria (49%), Slovakia (48%) and Spain (41%), as well as in Greece,

Italy and Poland (both 40%) say the same. In comparison, 3% of companies in the Netherlands, 4% in Luxembourg and 5% in Finland hold this view.

More than four in ten companies in Slovakia (42%), Poland (42%) and Croatia (41%) say that **the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. At the other end of the country ranking, 2% of companies in Luxembourg, 4% of companies in the Netherlands and Finland, and 5% of companies in Denmark and Sweden say the same.

### Main reasons among companies for the perceived lack of independence

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



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

(%) Base: n = 12 851 - All companies

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

About one in two companies (49%) in North Macedonia say that **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the independence of their justice system, in terms of independence of courts and judges, as bad. In contrast, 26% of companies in Albania, 30% Serbia and 44% Montenegro say the same.

At least four in ten companies in North Macedonia (45%) and Montenegro (40%) say that **interference or pressure from economic**

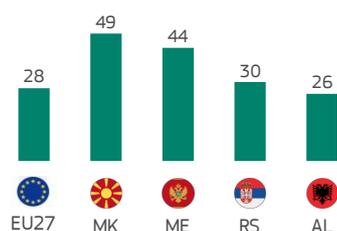
**or other specific interests** explains their negative rating of the justice system in their country. This is compared to 30% of companies saying the same in Albania and Serbia.

About one in three companies in Montenegro (34%) and North Macedonia (33%) say that **the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence** explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. This, however, applies to less than one in five companies in Serbia (23%) and Albania (24%).

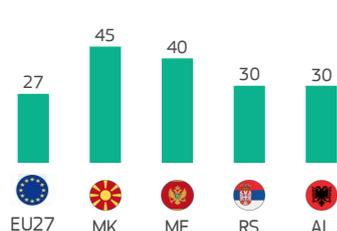
**Q2a** Could you tell me to what extent each of the following reasons explains your rating of the independence of the justice system in (THIS COUNTRY)?

### Total 'Explains'

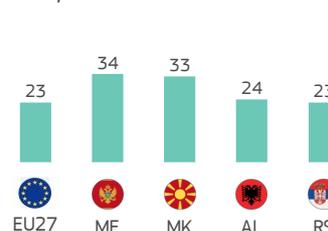
*Interference or pressure from government and politicians*



*Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests*



*The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence*



(%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

### 3. Investment protection

#### 3.1. Confidence in investment protection

**A majority of companies in the EU say they are confident that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments if something goes wrong:** 14% say that they are 'very confident' and 40% that they are 'fairly confident'. Four in ten companies are not confident that their investments are protected: 25% say they are 'fairly unconfident' and 15% are 'very unconfident.' Less than one in ten (7%) companies say they 'do not know'.

Compared to January 2023, these results have remained the same.

##### Individual country results

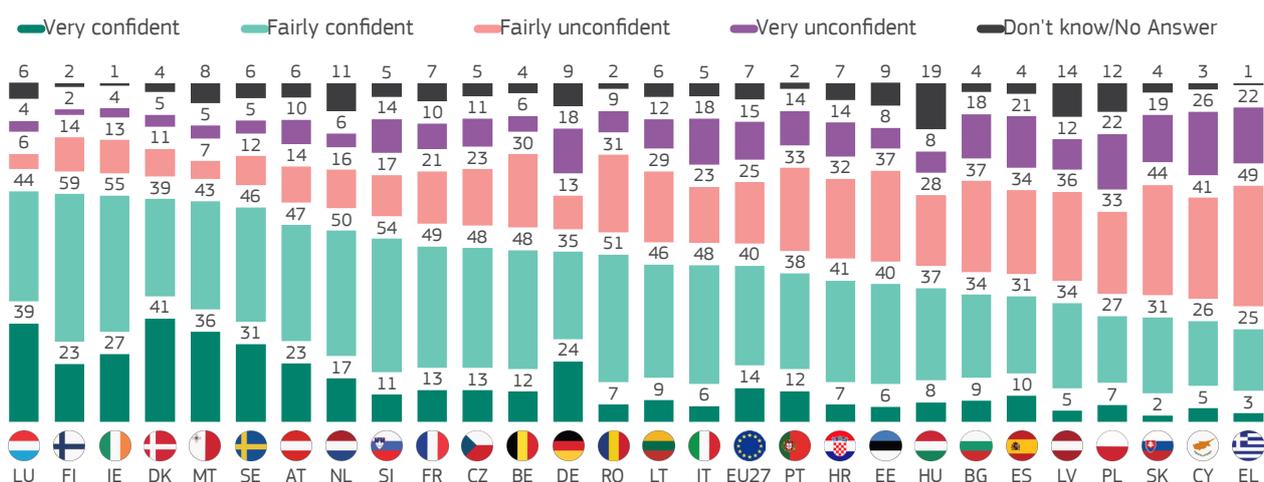
In 18 Member States, more than 50% of companies say they are confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong, with companies in Luxembourg (84%), Ireland (82%),

Finland (82%) and Denmark (81%) being the most likely to be confident. By contrast, 28% of companies in Greece and 31% in Cyprus feel confident about investment protection in their country.

In four countries – Denmark (41%), Luxembourg (39%), Malta (36%) and Sweden (31%) – more than three in ten companies say they are 'very confident' that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments if something goes wrong. In contrast, only 2% of companies in Slovakia and 3% in Greece think the same.

The total proportion of companies saying that they are not confident about the protection of their investments by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong is the highest in Greece (71%), followed by Cyprus (66%) and Slovakia (63%). The proportion of companies saying they are 'very unconfident' is the highest in Cyprus (26%), Greece and Poland (both 22%).

**Q3** To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in (THIS COUNTRY) if something goes wrong?



(%) Base: n=12 851 – All companies

**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

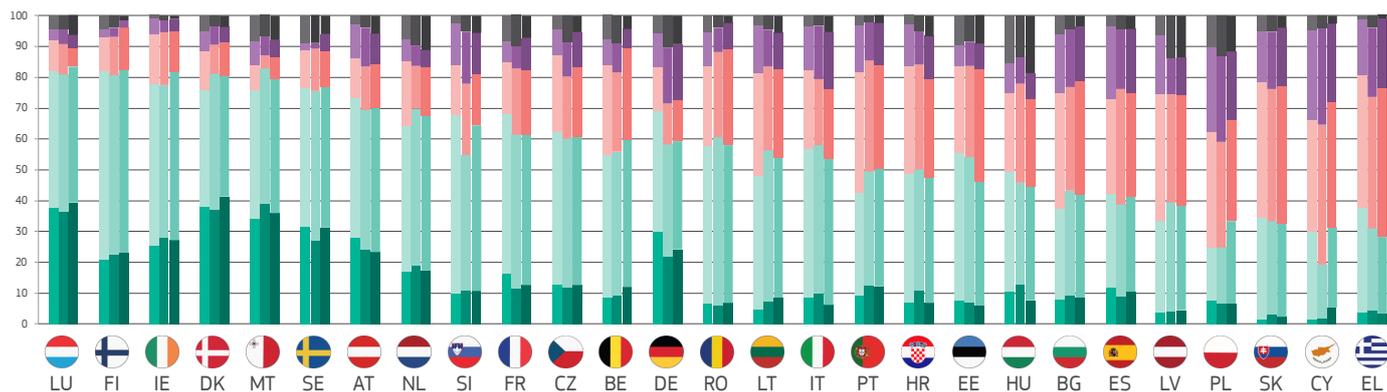
**Trend compared to 2023**

Compared to January 2023, the total share of companies saying they are confident about the protection of their investments by the law and

courts in their country if something goes wrong has increased in Cyprus (+12 pp), Slovenia (+10 pp) and Poland (+9 pp). There are no countries where this proportion has significantly decreased compared to 2023.<sup>7</sup>

**How companies perceive the effectiveness of investment protection by the law and courts**

Very confident Fairly confident Fairly unconfident Very unconfident Don't know/No Answer  
 (Light colours: 2022 and 2023; dark colours: 2024)



(%) Base: n=12 851 – All companies  
 ▼▲ Evolution 2016, 2022, 2023 and 2024

<sup>7</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 companies

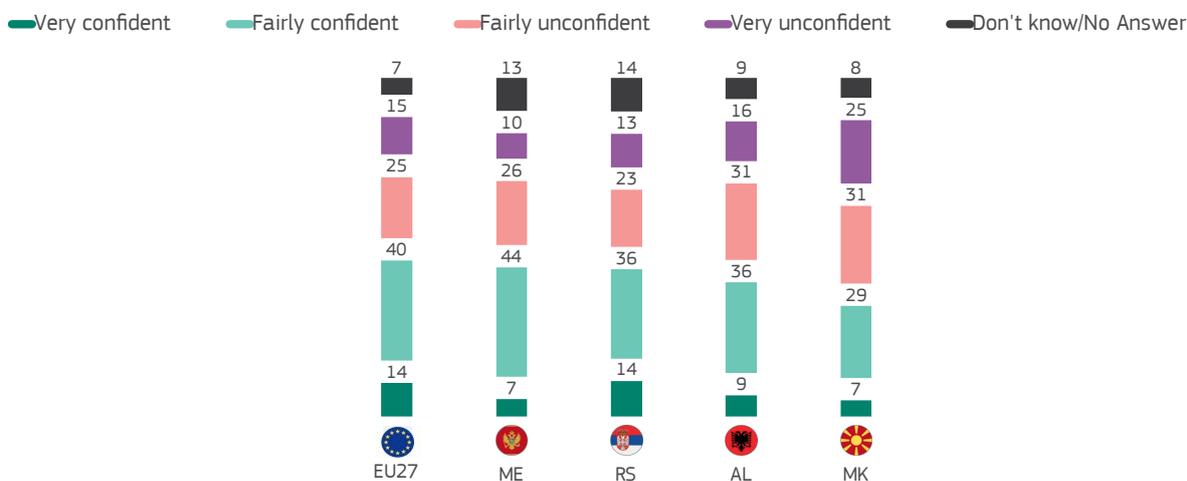
### Candidate countries (western Balkans)

In Montenegro, about one in two companies are confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong in Montenegro (7% are 'very confident' and 44% 'fairly confident'); a similar result is observed in Serbia (14% are 'very confident' and 36% 'fairly confident'). The confidence level, however, is lower among companies in Albania (9% 'very confident' and 36% 'fairly confident')

36% 'fairly confident') and North Macedonia (7% 'very confident' and 29% 'fairly confident').

North Macedonia stands out with 25% of companies saying that they are 'very unconfident' about the protection of their investments by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong. In the other three countries, the proportion of companies selecting this response varies between 10% in Montenegro and 16% in Albania.

**Q3** To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in (THIS COUNTRY) if something goes wrong?



(%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

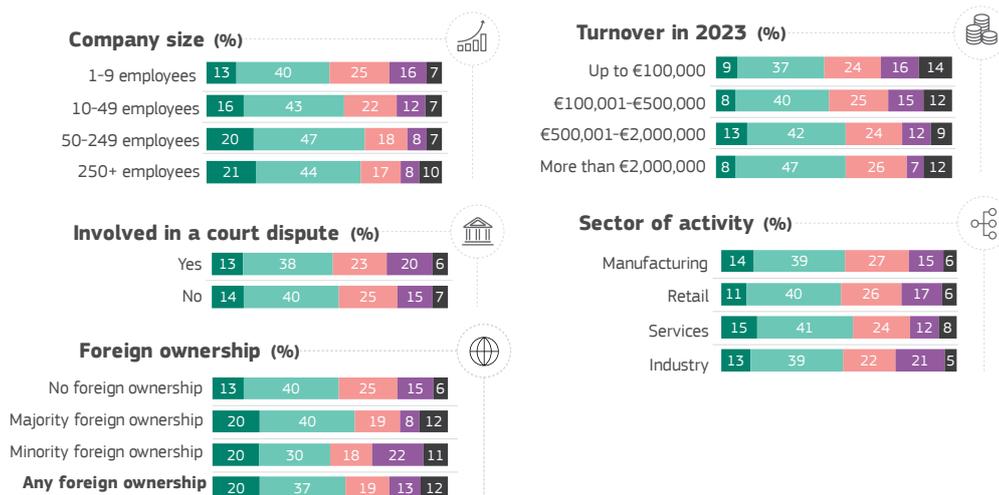
### Company characteristics

The analysis by company characteristics shows the following:

- Medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employees) (67%) and large companies (250 employees or more) (66%) are more likely to say that they are confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong, compared to micro companies (1-9 employees) (52%) and small companies (10 to 49 employees) (59%).
- Companies operating in the service sector (56%) are somewhat more likely than companies in the retail sector (51%) to say that they are confident that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments if something goes wrong.
- The proportion of companies saying they are confident that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments if something goes wrong is higher among those with a turnover of more than two million euros (59% vs 52%-55% among companies with lower turnover values).

**Q3** To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in (THIS COUNTRY) if something goes wrong?

Very confident    Fairly confident    Fairly unconfident    Very unconfident    Don't know/No Answer



(%, EU27) Base: n=12 851 – All companies

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

### 3.2. Reasons for concern about investment protection

Companies that indicated that they are 'fairly' or 'very unconfident' that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments in case something goes wrong were asked about their reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection.

The main reasons for concern (as listed in the survey) are selected by about six in ten companies surveyed:

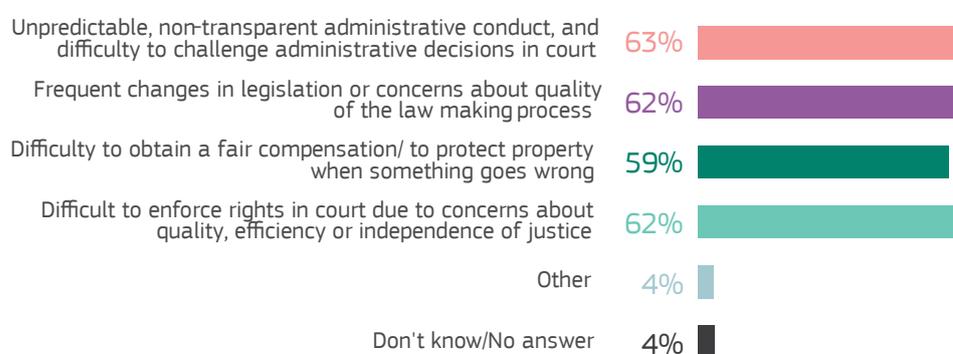
- unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court (63%)
- frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process (62%)

- difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice (62%)
- difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong (59%).

Few companies (4%) *spontaneously* say that there is another reason for their concern about investment protection and 4% say they 'don't know' how to explain their concerns.

These results have remained stable compared to January 2023.

Q4 [MULTIPLE ANSWERS] What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection?



(%, EU27) Base: n=4 441 – Companies having concerns about the effectiveness of investment protection

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

At the country level, there is substantial variation in the shares of companies that are not confident about investment protection and who mention specific reasons for their concern about the effectiveness of investment protection.<sup>8</sup> The figures focusing on companies that are not confident about investment protection are discussed in the next paragraphs and are presented in the table on the next page. The figure on page 34 presents the results when analysing all companies (both those confident and not confident about investment protection).

**'Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court'** is the most-mentioned reason for companies' concern about the effectiveness of investment protection in Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy and Poland. The proportion of non-confident companies mentioning this reason ranges from 34% in Germany to 81% in Spain. Compared to January 2023, the share of companies mentioning this reason has increased in France (+30 pp) and Estonia (+24 pp), while it has decreased in Latvia (-18 pp).

**'Frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process'** is the most-mentioned reason for concern in Czechia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia. In three countries, more than eight in ten companies not being confident say that frequent changes in legislation or quality of the law-making process are a reason for their concern about investment protection in their country: Romania (88%), Greece (84%) and Czechia (81%). In contrast, this reason is mentioned by far less companies

in Sweden (35%). Since January 2023, the proportion of companies selecting this reason has increased by 27 percentage points in Estonia; in Poland and Latvia, this proportion has decreased by 12 and 14 percentage points, respectively.

In Austria, Spain, Portugal and Sweden, the **'[difficulty in enforcing] rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency, or independence of justice'** is the most-mentioned reason for not being confident about investment protection. The proportion of companies not being confident citing this reason ranges from 27% in Finland to 83% in Spain. Compared to January 2023, the proportion of companies mentioning this reason has significantly increased in France (+23 pp), while it has significantly decreased in Poland (-12 pp).

In Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands and Slovakia, the **'difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong'** is the most-mentioned reason for companies' concern about the effectiveness of investment protection. Companies in Spain (80%), Czechia (78%), Belgium (77%) and Slovakia (76%) are overall the most likely to say that this reason explains their concern about investment protection. In comparison, companies in Denmark (22%), Austria (26%) and Latvia (30%) are the least likely to mention this reason. Since January 2023, the proportion of companies choosing this reason has increased by 20 percentage points in Estonia and by 16 percentage points in France, while it has decreased by 17 percentage points in Latvia and by 21 percentage points in Poland.

<sup>8</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes (<50): LU and MT. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the

results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): DK, FI, IE and SE.

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

**Q4** What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection?  
(multiple answers possible)

		Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court	Frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process	Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice	Difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong	Other	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		63	62	62	59	4	4
BE		74	67	58	77	5	5
BG		59	41	54	41	4	3
CZ		72	81	72	78	2	3
DK		42	38	31	22	14	3
DE		34	51	47	48	5	11
EE		59	60	49	67	2	5
IE		56	48	41	39	3	7
EL		68	84	66	72	1	0
ES		81	79	83	80	2	0
FR		73	61	63	68	3	5
HR		71	70	61	58	1	4
IT		58	45	57	41	1	1
CY		49	38	63	65	4	1
LV		40	47	36	30	9	10
LT		58	67	64	57	4	3
LU		45	34	64	53	7	3
HU		67	63	52	52	4	8
MT		72	60	57	49	11	0
NL		48	43	44	71	2	14
AT		47	52	56	26	5	0
PL		75	67	59	53	5	4
PT		54	43	61	48	16	4
RO		71	88	64	72	4	1
SI		46	60	59	53	8	2
SK		76	75	72	76	1	2
FI		46	42	27	50	5	11
SE		37	35	45	40	16	9

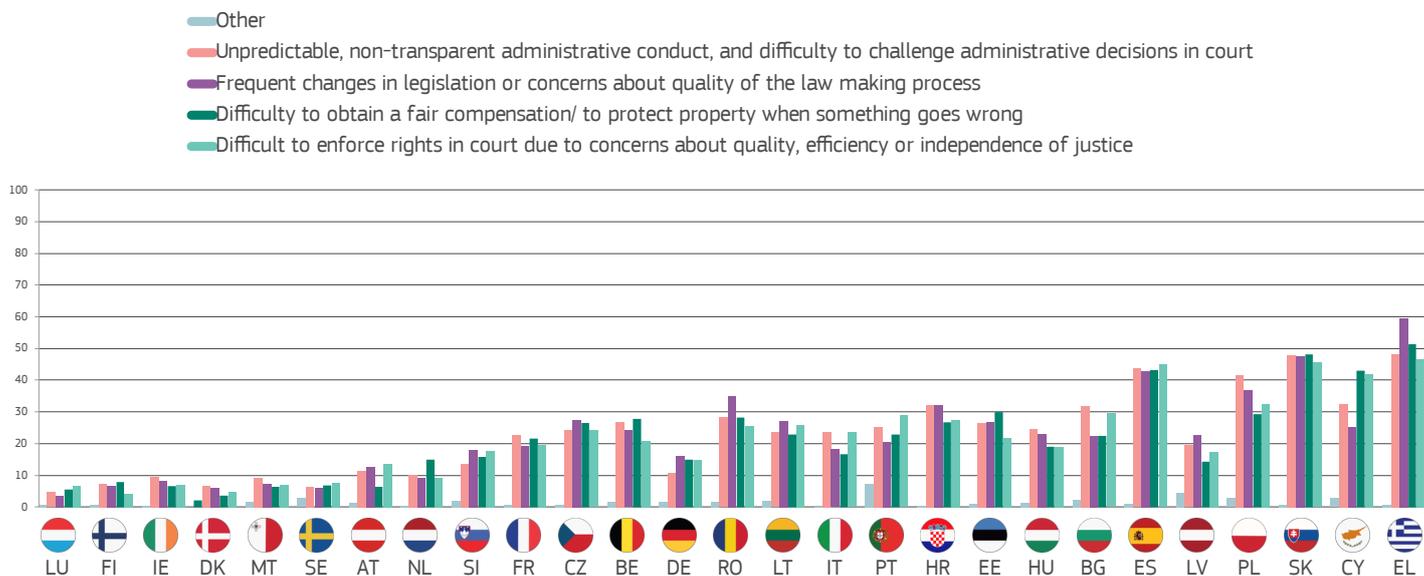
Note: The higher the proportion selecting a response, the darker green the cell.

(%) Base: n=4 441 – Companies having concerns about the effectiveness of investment protection

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

### Main reasons among companies for their perceived lack of effectiveness of investment protection

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



Note: the Member States are listed in the same order as in the chart for Q3.

(%) Base: n=4 441 – Companies having concerns about the effectiveness of investment protection

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Candidate countries (western Balkans)

### **'Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court'**

is the most-mentioned reason for companies' concern about the effectiveness of investment protection in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The share of companies selecting this reason varies between 46% in Albania to 66% on Montenegro.

**'Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency, or independence of justice'** is the most-mentioned reason for concern in Albania, selected by 48% of companies. Yet, the overall highest proportion selecting this reason is

observed in Montenegro (61%), closely followed by North Macedonia (59%) and Serbia (50%).

A majority of companies in Montenegro (62%) and North Macedonia (58%) mention **'difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong'** as a reason for their concern about the effectiveness of investment protection. In comparison, 44% of companies in Serbia and 42% of companies in Albania select this reason.

The highest share of companies selecting **'frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process'** as a reason for concern is observed in North Macedonia (58%), while the lowest proportion is found in Montenegro (39%).

**Q4** What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection? (multiple answers possible)

		Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court	Frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process	Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice	Difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong	Other	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		63	62	62	59	4	4
ME		66	39	61	62	2	3
MK		64	58	59	58	3	4
AL		46	42	48	42	3	3
RS		52	41	50	44	3	6

Note: The higher the proportion selecting a response, the darker green the cell.

(%) Base: n=4 441 (EU27) & n=770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – Companies having concerns about the effectiveness of investment protection

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

### Company characteristics

Companies with different characteristics tend to have similar reasons for their concern about the effectiveness of investment protection. The analysis by company characteristics, nonetheless, shows some nuances:

- Micro companies (1-9 employees) are more likely than medium-sized companies (between 50 and 249 employees) to say that frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the lawmaking process explain their concern about investment protection in their country.
- Companies in the retail sector (65%) are more likely than companies in the

manufacturing sector (59%) to say that 'unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court' explain their concern about investment protection in their country.

- Companies with an annual turnover between 500 000 to 2 million euros are more likely than companies with a lower turnover to say that difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong explain concerns about investment protection in their country (72% vs 50%-62%).

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

**Q4** What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection?  
(multiple answers possible)

	Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court	Frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process	Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice	Difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong	Other	Don't know/No Answer
EU27	63	62	62	59	4	4
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	64	63	62	59	3	4
10-49 employees	57	61	58	60	5	6
50-249 employees	59	55	59	56	4	3
250+ employees	59	59	55	61	3	5
 <b>Turnover in 2023</b>						
Up to €100,000	66	66	61	58	4	3
€100,001-€500,000	67	64	64	62	3	3
€500,001-€2,000,000	72	68	67	72	3	1
More than €2,000,000	61	57	60	50	4	3
 <b>Sector of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	61	56	65	57	3	2
Retail	63	65	58	56	3	5
Services	62	63	62	62	4	3
Industry	68	61	66	60	4	5
 <b>Involved in a court dispute</b>						
Yes	75	72	77	69	1	1
No	62	61	60	58	4	4
 <b>Foreign ownership</b>						
No foreign ownership	63	63	62	60	4	4
Majority foreign ownership	71	69	55	62	2	3
Minority foreign ownership	72	43	71	60	4	1
Any foreign ownership	71	57	62	61	3	2

(%, EU27) Base: n=4 441 – Companies having concerns about the effectiveness of investment protection

## Technical specifications

Between 14 February and 5 March 2023, Ipsos European Public affairs carried out Flash Eurobarometer 541 at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. It is a company survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication, “Media monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit.

This Flash Eurobarometer survey covers businesses employing one or more persons in the Manufacturing (NACE category C), Retail (NACE category G), Services (NACE categories H/I/J/K/L/M/N) and Industry (NACE categories B/D/E/F) sectors within the European Union. Interviews took place with someone with decision-making responsibilities (managing director, general manager, CEO, financial director), someone leading the commercial activities (commercial manager, sales manager, marketing manager) or a legal officer. All interviews were carried via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI).

The sample was selected from an international business database. Sampling targets were defined on both company size (using four different ranges: 1-9 employees, 10-49 employees, 50-249 employees and 250 employees or more) and sectors (Retail, Services, Manufacturing and Industry). These quotas were adjusted according to the country’s universe but were also reasoned in order to ensure that the sample was large enough in every cell.

### 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 companies

	Number of interviews	Fieldwork dates	EU business population (absolute number)	EU business population (as % of EU27 population)
EU27 	<b>12 851</b>	<b>14.02.24-05.03.24</b>	<b>10 129 285</b>	<b>100%</b>
BE 	500	19.02.24-01.03.24	181 660	1.79%
BG 	508	19.02.24-05.03.24	165 311	1.63%
CZ 	508	19.02.24-01.03.24	225 612	2.23%
DK 	503	19.02.24-01.03.24	122 319	1.21%
DE 	509	19.02.24-01.03.24	1 755 933	17.34%
EE 	506	19.02.24-04.03.24	70 626	0.70%
IE 	505	19.02.24-01.03.24	133 705	1.32%
EL 	501	19.02.24-01.03.24	296 881	2.93%
ES 	501	19.02.24-01.03.24	1 351 127	13.34%
FR 	503	19.02.24-04.03.24	1 221 489	12.06%
HR 	503	19.02.24-29.02.24	123 972	1.22%
IT 	505	19.02.24-01.03.24	1 392 678	13.75%
CY 	253	19.02.24-29.02.24	47 718	0.47%
LV 	500	19.02.24-29.02.24	71 581	0.71%
LT 	505	19.02.24-28.02.24	78 406	0.77%
LU 	254	19.02.24-01.03.24	21 934	0.22%
HU 	505	19.02.24-29.02.24	250 132	2.47%
MT 	254	19.02.24-01.03.24	15 758	0.16%
NL 	506	19.02.24-01.03.24	262 159	2.59%
AT 	505	19.02.24-01.03.24	214 433	2.12%
PL 	501	19.02.24-04.03.24	766 827	7.57%
PT 	504	19.02.24-01.03.24	336 406	3.32%
RO 	505	19.02.24-01.03.24	437 894	4.32%
SI 	502	19.02.24-27.02.24	67 341	0.66%
SK 	500	19.02.24-29.02.24	123 477	1.22%
FI 	502	19.02.24-01.03.24	113 158	1.12%
SE 	503	14.02.24-01.03.24	280 748	2.77%
ME 	250	19.02.24-01.03.24	40 711	
MK 	507	19.02.24-05.03.24	61 107	
AL 	511	19.02.24-01.03.24	143 703	
RS 	502	19.02.24-01.03.24	30 158	

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

## 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 |

FL520 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 |

FL520 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 |

FL520 Q2a

**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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

FL520 Q2b

ASK ALL

Intro The next question is about protection of investments. Investment includes any asset acquired by your company with the aim of obtaining profits. This includes monetary items (such as bonds or stock), but also real estate. Additionally, a building used to produce goods or the production of goods required to produce other goods may also be seen as investing.

ASK ALL

**Q3 To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in (YOUR COUNTRY) if something goes wrong?**

(READ OUT, ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very confident	1
Fairly confident	2
Fairly unconfident	3
Very unconfident	4
Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	98

FL520 Q3

IF Q3=3 or 4

**Q4 What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection?**

(READ OUT, MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED) (RANDOMISE ITEMS 1 TO 4, ITEM 98 IS EXCLUSIVE)

Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court	1
Frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process	2
Difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong	3
Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice	4
Other (DO NOT READ OUT)	5
Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	98

FL520 Q4

## 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		10▼-1	89▲1	2=
BE		12▼-2	86▲3	2=
BG		10▲1	89▼-1	1=
CZ		9▲1	91=	0=
DK		13▲2	87▼-1	0▼-1
DE		9▼-5	90▲7	1▼-2
EE		5▼-3	95▲3	0=
IE		3▲1	95▼-2	2▲1
EL		12=	87=	1=
ES		11▲2	88▼-3	1▲1
FR		14▲4	86▼-3	1▼-1
HR		13=	86▲1	1▼-1
IT		3▼-1	92▼-3	5▲5
CY		10▲3	90▼-1	0▼-1
LV		7▲1	93▼-1	0=
LT		11▼-2	89▲1	1=
LU		9=	84=	8=
HU		6▼-1	93▲1	1=
MT		14▼-9	82▲6	4▲4
NL		15▲3	82▼-5	3▲3
AT		10▼-3	87▲1	2▲2
PL		14▼-6	85▲5	1▲1
PT		16▼-3	83▲2	2▲1
RO		6▼-2	94▲2	0=
SI		7=	93▲1	1▼-1
SK		7▲1	92▼-2	1=
FI		3▼-2	97▲2	0=
SE		4=	95▲1	1=
ME		12	87	1
MK		10	90	0
AL		6	93	1
RS		9	91	1

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		10▲1	40=	22▼-1	13▲1	15▼-1
BE		10▼-1	55▲7	17▼-1	7▲2	12▼-6
BG		1▼-4	24▼-4	29▼-3	30▲9	16▲3
CZ		10▲3	47▼-6	20▲1	11▲3	12▼-1
DK		49▲3	39=	5▲1	3=	4▼-4
DE		19▲1	50▼-2	10▼-1	6▲1	16▲2
EE		12▼-3	46▲1	10▲2	3▼-2	29▲1
IE		39▲5	39▲1	8▼-5	4=	10▼-1
EL		6▼-5	43▼-1	27▲5	20▲3	4▼-2
ES		7▲4	25▼-6	32▼-5	22▲6	14▲1
FR		5=	43▲1	20=	10=	23▼-2
HR		6▲2	22▲8	37▼-3	26▼-6	9▼-2
IT		1▼-2	41▲4	33▼-2	16▲2	10▼-2
CY		6▲2	42▲1	21▼-6	16▼-2	16▲5
LV		2=	38▼-3	16▲4	5▼-2	39▲1
LT		6▲2	56▼-4	13=	7▲3	17▼-1
LU		17▲1	56▼-2	3▼-2	2▼-1	22▲3
HU		6▲1	34▲6	20▲1	10=	31▼-9
MT		13▼-1	44▼-8	16▲1	21▲7	6=
NL		30▲3	44▼-1	4▼-2	3▼-1	20▲1
AT		18▼-5	59▲3	10▲2	6▲1	7=
PL		2=	20▲5	36▲9	23▼-12	20▼-2
PT		6=	38▼-1	32▼-2	12▲2	12▲1
RO		7=	49=	19▼-2	14▲5	11▼-3
SI		1▼-2	39▲2	23=	17▼-1	20▲1
SK		2=	31▲2	35▼-1	22▲3	11▼-3
FI		38▲6	53▼-3	5▼-2	2▲1	2▼-3
SE		34▲2	41▲2	5▼-3	4=	16▼-2
ME		6	22	23	27	23
MK		4	17	27	34	18
AL		5	40	19	13	24
RS		9	25	17	20	29

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		57=	23▲1	7▼-1	8=	5=
BE		46▼-8	24▼-10	18▲13	9▲3	3▲2
BG		57▲3	22▼-4	7▲4	7▼-3	8▲1
CZ		46▼-9	27▼-1	7▲4	10=	10▲7
DK		55▲9	16▼-14	9▲9	10▼-7	10▲3
DE		52▼-2	24▲5	6▼-3	14▲2	5▼-1
EE		57▲29	25▼-7	7▲3	8▼-19	4▼-6
IE		27▼-13	26=	30▲8	11▲2	6▲4
EL		48=	37▲3	9=	6=	1▼-3
ES		75▲7	12▼-5	4▼-2	7▼-1	2▲1
FR		46▲2	23▼-6	14▲3	13▲1	5=
HR		57▼-6	25=	8▲4	4▼-1	6▲2
IT		44▼-4	32▲5	9▼-7	9▲3	6▲3
CY		62▲5	23▼-10	5▲2	6▲2	4▲1
LV		52▼-5	27▲10	6=	4▼-5	11=
LT		60▲19	22▼-21	4▼-4	5▼-2	10▲8
LU		48▼-4	29▲14	0▼-19	13▲5	11▲5
HU		62▼-6	24▲3	0▼-9	6▲6	8▲6
MT		67▼-7	9▼-1	9=	11▲6	4▲2
NL		41▲7	22▼-2	11▼-5	26=	0=
AT		51▼-14	31▲12	9▲6	4▼-9	6▲5
PL		63▼-8	21▲7	7▲3	5▼-1	5▼-1
PT		68▲3	21▲3	2▲1	3=	5▼-6
RO		54▲2	30▲11	7=	8▼-6	1▼-6
SI		68▲5	19=	5▼-3	6▲4	3▼-6
SK		75▲13	16▼-10	3▼-1	3▼-2	3=
FI		42▲12	19▼-19	9▲1	21▼-3	9▲9
SE		38▲5	12▼-33	16▲6	24▲22	9▲1
ME		62	26	1	2	9
MK		62	18	6	7	8
AL		52	30	3	5	10
RS		55	27	2	8	8

**Caution should be exercised when interpreting the individual country results, due to low base size in some countries (<100)**

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=3 737 (EU27) & n=788 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

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		43▲2	33▼-2	11=	7▲1	6=
BE		28▼-11	33▼-6	24▲10	8▲2	7▲4
BG		62▲7	21▼-6	5▲2	7▲1	6▼-3
CZ		43▼-7	37▲7	5▲2	6▼-3	9▲1
DK		43▼-2	36▲9	18▲13	2▼-13	2▼-7
DE		36▼-5	24▼-18	11▲2	25▲19	5▲2
EE		21▲5	48▼-7	11▲6	10▼-9	10▲4
IE		44▲14	25▼-22	15▲6	16▲4	0▼-2
EL		47▲5	39▼-4	11▲6	2▼-3	1▼-4
ES		49▲5	27▼-2	13▲1	7▼-4	4▼-1
FR		46▲6	26▼-7	15▲3	6▼-3	7▲1
HR		44▼-4	42▲7	6▼-1	4▲1	4▼-3
IT		34▲3	47▲1	11▼-4	2=	6=
CY		56▼-7	35▲7	5▲2	1▼-3	4▲1
LV		48▼-21	34▲16	8▲6	2▲1	7▼-2
LT		53▲12	30▼-13	7=	4=	7▲1
LU		46▲7	31▲25	18▼-17	5▼-1	0▼-14
HU		42▼-15	29▲2	13▲6	6▲3	9▲4
MT		29▼-11	33▲4	27▲5	3▼-4	8▲6
NL		27▼-5	24▼-8	22▼-2	27▲15	0=
AT		43▲5	41▼-6	9▲1	0▼-2	7▲3
PL		32▼-7	36▲7	14▼-2	7▲3	11=
PT		67▲8	20▼-4	1▼-3	6▼-2	7▲1
RO		50▲1	35▲8	6▼-3	7▼-4	2▼-2
SI		50▲5	28▼-12	8▲3	6▲2	8▲3
SK		56▲6	30▼-2	6▼-3	5▲2	4▼-2
FI		49▲25	25▼-35	14▲6	9▲4	4=
SE		37▲22	31▼-25	8▼-16	11▲9	13▲10
ME		46	35	5	3	10
MK		47	26	10	9	9
AL		69	24	2	1	3
RS		49	31	7	2	11

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the individual country results, due to low base size in some countries (<100)

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=3 737 (EU27) & n=788 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

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		32▲1	34=	14▼-2	11=	9▲1
BE		17▼-18	44▲10	25▲6	7=	7▲3
BG		42▲6	25▼-4	12▼-3	8▲1	13=
CZ		28▼-5	43▲18	11▼-5	10▼-8	9=
DK		33▲8	28▼-22	14▲12	13▲1	13▲2
DE		17▼-2	38▼-13	14▲8	19▲3	13▲5
EE		18▼-1	40▲3	22▲20	10▼-3	10▼-19
IE		32▲10	33▼-12	25▲2	7▼-1	4▲1
EL		33▲9	44▲6	12▼-6	8▼-5	3▼-4
ES		39▲6	26▼-11	18▲2	14▲1	4▲1
FR		36▲13	32▲7	14▼-11	11▲3	8▼-13
HR		27▼-6	39▲2	13▲3	11▲1	10=
IT		27=	37▲3	13▼-8	9▼-3	14▲7
CY		32▲8	33▼-4	13▼-7	20▲10	2▼-7
LV		31▼-6	32▲2	12▼-1	13▲9	13▼-4
LT		38▲7	31▼-13	8▼-1	9▼-4	14▲11
LU		13▲4	27▲12	26▼-21	0▼-18	35▲23
HU		33▼-12	40▲18	12=	5▼-10	11▲4
MT		25▲9	34▼-9	17=	10▲1	14▼-1
NL		39▲10	24▼-3	19▲2	19▼-9	0=
AT		29▲9	33▼-15	12▼-5	20▲7	6▲3
PL		34▼-13	38▲13	10▼-1	6▼-2	12▲3
PT		43▼-1	35=	8=	1▼-1	13▲2
RO		27▲3	32▼-7	18▲7	14▲1	8▼-3
SI		27▲9	38▼-1	9▼-7	14▼-2	13▲1
SK		35▲8	40▲1	11▼-4	10=	5▼-4
FI		31▲7	31▼-18	3▼-7	8▼-1	28▲20
SE		12▲4	44▼-6	14▼-6	10▼-5	20▲13
ME		32	34	14	11	9
MK		34	35	3	13	15
AL		35	20	14	24	9
RS		30	47	6	6	11

**Caution should be exercised when interpreting the individual country results, due to low base size in some countries (<100)**

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=3 737 (EU27) & n=788 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		20=	8=	3=	3=	67=
BE		11▼-2	6▼-2	4▲3	2▲1	77=
BG		34▲4	13▼-1	4▲2	4▼-1	45▼-4
CZ		14▼-1	8▲1	2▲1	3=	72▼-2
DK		4▲1	1▼-1	1▲1	1=	93▼-1
DE		8=	4▲1	1=	2=	85=
EE		7▲4	3▼-1	1=	1▼-2	88▼-1
IE		3▼-4	3▼-1	4=	1=	88▲5
EL		23▲4	17▲4	4▲1	3=	53▼-9
ES		41▲5	7▼-2	2▼-1	4▼-1	47▼-1
FR		14▲1	7▼-2	4▲1	4=	72=
HR		36▼-9	16▼-2	5▲3	3▼-1	41▲10
IT		21▼-2	16▲3	4▼-3	5▲1	54▲1
CY		22▼-3	8▼-6	2=	2=	65▲9
LV		11=	6▲2	1=	1▼-1	82▼-1
LT		12▲5	5▼-3	1▼-1	1=	81▼-1
LU		2▼-2	1=	0▼-1	1=	96▲3
HU		19▼-1	7▲1	0▼-3	2▲2	73▲1
MT		25▲4	3=	4▲1	4▲3	64▼-8
NL		3▼-1	2▼-1	1▼-1	2▼-1	93▲3
AT		8=	5▲2	1▲1	1▼-1	85▼-2
PL		37▼-7	12▲4	4▲2	3▼-1	45▲2
PT		30▲2	9▲1	1=	2=	58▼-3
RO		18▲2	10▲4	2=	3▼-2	67▼-5
SI		27▲1	7=	2▼-1	2▲2	62▼-1
SK		42▲9	9▼-5	2▼-1	2▼-1	45▼-2
FI		3▲1	1▼-1	1=	2=	94▲1
SE		3=	1▼-4	1=	2▲2	92▲3
ME		31	13	1	1	55
MK		38	11	4	4	43
AL		16	10	1	2	71
RS		20	10	1	3	66

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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▲1	12▼-1	4=	2=	67=
BE		7▼-3	8▼-1	6▲3	2▲1	78▲1
BG		37▲7	12▼-2	3▲1	4▲1	44▼-7
CZ		13=	11▲3	2▲1	2▼-1	72▼-3
DK		3=	3▲1	1▲1	0▼-1	92▼-1
DE		6▼-1	4▼-3	2=	4▲3	85=
EE		3▲1	6▼-1	1▲1	1▼-1	88▲1
IE		6=	3▼-5	2=	2=	88▲4
EL		22▲5	18▲1	5▲3	1▼-1	53▼-9
ES		27▲3	14▼-1	7▲1	4▼-2	48▼-2
FR		14▲2	8▼-2	4▲1	2▼-1	73=
HR		28▼-7	26▲2	4▼-1	3=	40▲6
IT		16▲2	23▲1	6▼-2	1=	54=
CY		20▼-8	13=	2▲1	0▼-2	65▲9
LV		10▼-3	7▲4	2▲1	0=	81▼-2
LT		11▲4	6▼-1	1=	1=	81▼-2
LU		2▼-1	1▲1	1▼-2	0=	95▲2
HU		13▼-4	9▲1	4▲2	2▲1	73=
MT		11▼-1	13▲4	10▲4	1▼-1	65▼-7
NL		2▼-1	2▼-1	1▼-1	2▲1	93▲3
AT		7▲2	6▲1	1=	0=	85▼-3
PL		19▼-5	21▲3	8▼-2	4▲2	48▲3
PT		29▲3	9▼-2	1▼-1	3▼-1	59=
RO		17▲2	12▲3	2▼-1	2▼-1	68▼-3
SI		20▲1	11▼-5	3▲1	3▲1	64▲3
SK		31▲4	17=	3▼-2	3▲1	46▼-3
FI		4▲2	2▼-3	1=	1=	93=
SE		3▲2	3▼-4	1▼-2	1▲1	92▲3
ME		23	17	3	2	56
MK		29	16	6	5	44
AL		22	8	1	0	69
RS		18	12	3	1	67

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		11▲1	12=	5▼-1	4=	68=
BE		4▼-4	11▲2	6▲1	2=	78▲1
BG		25▲5	15▼-1	7▼-1	5▲1	48▼-5
CZ		9=	13▲7	4▼-1	3▼-2	72▼-3
DK		3▲1	2▼-1	1▲1	1=	93▼-1
DE		3=	6▼-2	2▲1	3▲1	87▲1
EE		2=	5=	3▲3	1=	88▼-3
IE		4=	4▼-4	3▼-1	1▼-1	88▲5
EL		16▲6	21▲6	6▼-1	4▼-1	54▼-9
ES		21▲4	14▼-6	9▲1	7▲1	48▼-1
FR		11▲4	9▲2	4▼-3	3▲1	73▼-4
HR		17▼-7	24▼-2	8▲1	7=	44▲8
IT		13=	18▲1	7▼-4	4▼-1	58▲3
CY		11▲1	12▼-4	5▼-4	7▲3	65▲5
LV		6▼-1	7▲1	2=	3▲2	82▼-2
LT		8▲2	6▼-2	2=	2=	82=
LU		1=	1=	1▼-2	0▼-1	97▲3
HU		10▼-3	12▲6	4=	2▼-3	73=
MT		10▲5	13=	6▲2	4▲1	68▼-8
NL		3=	2▼-1	1=	1▼-1	93▲3
AT		5▲2	5▼-1	2=	3▲2	85▼-3
PL		20▼-9	22▲7	6▼-1	4▼-1	49▲4
PT		19▼-1	16=	4=	0▼-1	62▲1
RO		9▲2	11▼-1	6▲3	5▲1	70▼-4
SI		11▲3	15▼-1	3▼-3	6▼-1	66▲1
SK		20▲5	22▲1	6▼-2	5=	47▼-4
FI		2=	2▼-1	0▼-1	1=	95▲2
SE		1=	4▼-2	1▼-1	1▼-1	93▲4
ME		17	17	2	7	58
MK		21	12	8	15	44
AL		9	15	2	2	72
RS		12	12	5	5	67

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		21▼-1	38▼-2	19▲2	17▲3	5▼-2
BE		21▼-1	42▲4	19▼-6	16▲3	1=
BG		18=	30▼-2	21▲6	15▼-3	16▼-1
CZ		19▲7	48▼-3	14▲3	16▼-4	4▼-3
DK		41▲4	38▲4	10▼-3	4▼-5	6▲1
DE		19▼-7	32▼-1	19▲10	24▲5	5▼-8
EE		33▼-2	31=	11▼-2	18▲6	7▼-2
IE		26▲1	40▼-7	20▲4	11▲2	3=
EL		14▲3	44▲9	29▼-12	10▼-1	3▲1
ES		33▲17	32▼-19	14▼-1	13▼-2	8▲5
FR		17▲2	43▼-6	25▲2	10▲1	6=
HR		12▼-12	39▼-2	14=	25▲9	10▲5
IT		17=	34▼-10	31=	13▲7	5▲2
CY		19▼-2	56▲10	15▲3	7▼-10	3▼-1
LV		32▲9	31▼-2	17▼-1	13▲7	6▼-13
LT		19▲1	48▲6	13▼-3	13▼-8	8▲3
LU		14▲2	28=	15▼-1	35=	8▼-1
HU		15▼-9	34▼-6	17▲6	20▲5	15▲4
MT		10▼-7	47▲1	17▲1	22▲7	4▼-1
NL		25=	47▲3	7▼-5	19▲3	2▼-1
AT		23▼-2	45▲1	12=	18▲2	2▼-1
PL		19▼-6	48▲16	14▲4	9▼-6	10▼-9
PT		17▼-10	40▼-2	14▼-1	25▲8	4▲4
RO		16▼-5	46▲8	17▼-5	18▲5	3▼-3
SI		20▼-2	45▼-8	14▲3	13▲7	7=
SK		25▲12	32▼-9	17▼-2	19▼-2	8=
FI		34▲6	37=	13▼-6	13=	3=
SE		24▼-8	37▲2	16▲1	18▲8	4▼-3
ME		17	53	6	14	9
MK		16	39	4	30	11
AL		15	46	14	18	7
RS		13	40	8	24	14

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=7 222 (EU27) & n=601 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		21▲1	41▼-2	18▲3	13=	7▼-2
BE		19▼-3	46▲12	20▼-6	13▼-3	2▲1
BG		16▼-2	34▲7	23▲8	14▼-5	13▼-8
CZ		12▼-2	55▲8	9▼-3	19▲1	5▼-4
DK		56▲7	29▲2	5▼-2	6▼-4	5▼-4
DE		18▼-4	41▲4	16▲5	19▲2	7▼-7
EE		31▼-4	31▼-4	15▲3	15▲6	8▼-1
IE		24▼-4	40=	18=	14▲3	4▲2
EL		12▲2	43▼-2	35▼-3	8▲1	3▲2
ES		23▲14	39▼-12	17▼-5	13▼-2	9▲5
FR		22▲6	48▼-9	20▲4	7▲2	4▼-2
HR		12=	45▼-12	18▲6	16▲2	9▲5
IT		21▲1	38▼-6	31▲8	2▼-2	9=
CY		19▲8	48▼-10	16▲9	13▼-2	4▼-4
LV		25▲2	39▼-2	16=	12▲6	8▼-6
LT		18=	49▲6	14▼-1	13▼-3	6▼-2
LU		11=	33▲2	14=	31▼-5	10▲2
HU		20▼-7	29▼-13	21▲7	13▲5	17▲8
MT		12▼-8	41=	24▲4	18▲6	5▼-2
NL		18▼-3	45▲1	16=	15▼-1	7▲3
AT		26▲2	45▼-5	14▲3	11=	4▲1
PL		22▼-5	38▲11	18▲4	7▼-7	15▼-2
PT		20▼-4	40▼-4	15▲3	20▲3	6▲1
RO		15▲1	47▼-6	17▲5	18▲3	4▼-4
SI		11▼-2	57▲4	11▼-8	12▲4	10▲2
SK		18▲3	46▲2	19▲6	13▼-6	4▼-5
FI		36▲10	35▼-3	12▼-5	12▼-2	4=
SE		27▼-10	29▲1	18▲8	18▲2	8▼-1
ME		15	45	12	18	9
MK		12	40	19	22	7
AL		21	53	6	14	7
RS		10	46	12	22	10

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=7 222 (EU27) & n=601 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		36=	42=	10=	6▲1	6▼-1
BE		27▼-7	53▲13	13▼-4	4▼-4	3▲1
BG		24▲2	47▲11	11▼-3	7▼-2	11▼-9
CZ		40▲3	39▲4	8▼-2	7▼-3	7▼-2
DK		62▲7	27▼-1	5▲2	1▼-5	5▼-3
DE		47▼-1	33▲3	7▲1	5▲2	8▼-5
EE		52▲5	26▼-8	8▲2	8▲2	7▼-1
IE		45▼-1	38▼-5	12▲6	2=	3=
EL		17=	62▲5	14▼-6	3=	4▲1
ES		34▲6	36▼-12	11▼-4	10▲3	11▲7
FR		31▲3	48▼-11	13▲6	2▲2	6=
HR		27▲15	40▼-15	23▲8	5▼-4	5▼-4
IT		20▼-6	62▲3	16▲4	2▼-1	1=
CY		24▼-1	58▲6	6▼-2	8▲5	3▼-8
LV		44▲14	29▼-7	10▼-2	6▲3	10▼-8
LT		22▼-3	47▲3	13▲3	10▼-3	8=
LU		22▼-5	56▲2	8▲4	6▲2	8▼-2
HU		30▼-2	44▲1	9▼-2	4=	14▲3
MT		35▼-4	38▲5	21▲5	3▼-2	3▼-4
NL		50▼-5	36▲2	3▼-1	5▼-1	7▲5
AT		42=	36▼-4	10▲3	8=	4=
PL		22▼-14	48▲10	8▲2	6▲4	17▼-2
PT		24▼-3	29=	9▼-7	34▲7	4▲2
RO		26▼-4	53▲4	7▲1	10▲5	4▼-6
SI		23▼-2	48▲1	8▼-2	11▲4	9▼-1
SK		25▼-1	49▼-2	16▲4	5▼-1	5=
FI		49▲5	36▼-1	6▼-2	7▲1	2▼-3
SE		51▲8	31▼-3	6▼-3	5▲1	8▼-3
ME		20	57	7	3	13
MK		15	48	14	11	12
AL		19	52	10	12	8
RS		20	47	13	7	13

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=7 222 (EU27) & n=601 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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		10=	19▼-1	10▲1	8▲1	53▼-1
BE		14▲1	27▲5	12▼-2	10▲2	37▼-6
BG		4▼-1	8▼-3	5=	4▼-2	79▲6
CZ		11▲4	27▼-3	8▲1	9▼-3	45▲1
DK		36▲4	34▲4	9▼-2	4▼-4	17▼-2
DE		13▼-5	22▼-1	13▲7	17▲3	35▼-4
EE		19▼-2	18=	7▼-1	11▲3	46=
IE		20▲2	31▼-3	16▲4	9▲2	24▼-5
EL		7▲1	21▲2	14▼-8	5▼-1	53▲6
ES		11▲5	10▼-7	4▼-1	4▼-1	71▲3
FR		8▲1	21▼-2	12▲1	5▲1	55▼-1
HR		4▼-1	11▲4	4▲1	7▲4	75▼-8
IT		7▲1	14▼-3	13▲1	5▲3	61▼-1
CY		9=	27▲6	7▲2	3▼-4	54▼-4
LV		13▲3	13▼-2	7▼-1	5▲3	62▼-3
LT		12=	30▲3	8▼-2	8▼-5	43▲4
LU		10▲1	21=	11▼-1	26=	33=
HU		6▼-2	14▲1	7▲3	8▲3	66▼-5
MT		6▼-6	27▼-4	9▼-1	13▲3	46▲8
NL		18=	35▲3	6▼-3	14▲3	28▼-3
AT		18▼-2	35=	9▼-1	14▲1	24▲2
PL		4=	10▲5	3▲1	2▼-1	81▼-6
PT		8▼-4	18▼-1	6▼-1	11▲4	58▲3
RO		9▼-3	26▲4	10▼-3	10▲3	46▼-2
SI		8▼-1	18▼-3	6▲1	5▲3	63=
SK		8▲4	10▼-2	5=	6=	70▼-1
FI		31▲7	33▲1	12▼-5	12=	12▼-4
SE		18▼-5	28▲3	12▲1	14▲7	28▼-6
ME		5	15	2	4	75
MK		3	8	1	6	82
AL		7	21	6	8	59
RS		4	14	3	8	71

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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=	21▼-1	9▲1	6=	54▼-1
BE		12▼-1	30▲10	13▼-2	8▼-1	37▼-5
BG		4▼-2	8▼-1	6▲1	3▼-3	79▲4
CZ		7▼-2	31▲3	5▼-2	11=	46▲1
DK		49▲8	25▲3	4▼-1	5▼-3	16▼-6
DE		12▼-3	28▲2	11▲3	13▲1	36▼-3
EE		18▼-3	18▼-3	9▲1	9▲3	47▲1
IE		18▼-2	31▲2	14▲1	11▲3	26▼-4
EL		6=	21▼-3	17▼-4	4=	53▲7
ES		7▲4	12▼-5	5▼-2	4▼-1	71▲3
FR		10▲3	23▼-4	9▲2	3▲1	54▼-2
HR		4▲1	13▲2	5▲3	5▲2	74▼-8
IT		9▲1	16▼-2	13▲4	1▼-1	62▼-2
CY		9▲4	23▼-3	7▲4	6▼-1	54▼-5
LV		10=	16▼-2	7▼-1	5▲2	63=
LT		11▼-1	31▲3	9▼-1	8▼-2	41▲1
LU		8=	24▲1	11=	23▼-4	34▲3
HU		8▼-1	12▼-2	8▲4	5▲3	67▼-4
MT		7▼-6	23▼-3	14▲1	10▲2	46▲7
NL		13▼-2	33▲2	12=	11=	31=
AT		20▲1	35▼-5	11▲2	9▼-1	26▲3
PL		5=	8▲4	4▲2	2▼-1	82▼-5
PT		9▼-2	18▼-2	7▲1	9▲1	58▲1
RO		8▲1	27▼-3	9▲3	10▲2	46▼-2
SI		4▼-1	23▲1	4▼-3	5▲2	64▲1
SK		6▲1	15▲1	6▲2	4▼-2	69▼-3
FI		33▲10	32▼-2	11▼-4	11▼-1	13▼-3
SE		20▼-6	22▲2	14▲6	13▲2	31▼-5
ME		4	13	3	5	75
MK		2	8	4	5	81
AL		9	24	3	6	58
RS		3	15	4	7	70

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

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=	21=	5=	3▲1	53▼-1
BE		17▼-3	34▲11	9▼-1	2▼-2	38▼-5
BG		6▼-1	12=	3▼-2	2▼-1	78▲4
CZ		23▲1	22▲1	4▼-2	4▼-2	47▲2
DK		54▲8	24=	4▲2	1▼-4	17▼-5
DE		32▼-2	23▲2	5▲1	4▲1	37▼-2
EE		30▲2	15▼-5	5▲1	4▲1	46▲1
IE		35▲2	29▼-2	10▲5	1=	25▼-5
EL		8▼-1	30▼-1	7▼-4	2=	54▲6
ES		11▲1	11▼-5	3▼-2	3▲1	72▲4
FR		15▲2	23▼-4	6▲3	1▲1	55▼-1
HR		8▲5	11▲1	7▲4	1=	73▼-10
IT		8▼-2	26▲3	7▲2	1▼-1	59▼-2
CY		11=	28▲5	3▼-1	4▲2	54▼-7
LV		18▲5	12▼-4	4▼-1	2▲1	64▼-1
LT		13▼-2	29▲1	8▲2	6▼-2	43▲2
LU		16▼-4	41▲1	6▲3	4▲1	33▼-1
HU		12▲2	17▲4	4=	2=	66▼-6
MT		20▼-6	22=	12▲2	2▼-2	45▲6
NL		37▼-3	27▲2	2▼-1	3▼-1	31▲2
AT		32▼-1	28▼-4	8▲3	6=	26▲3
PL		5▼-1	10▲4	2▲1	1▲1	82▼-5
PT		11▼-1	13=	4▼-3	15▲3	58▲1
RO		15▼-2	30▲2	4=	5▲3	46▼-3
SI		9▼-1	19▲1	3▼-1	4▲2	64=
SK		8=	16=	5▲1	2=	69▼-1
FI		45▲6	33▲1	6▼-2	6▲1	11▼-5
SE		38▲8	24▼-1	4▼-2	4▲1	31▼-6
ME		6	16	2	1	76
MK		3	10	3	2	82
AL		8	23	5	5	59
RS		7	16	4	2	71

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) – All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

Flash Eurobarometer 541  
**Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies**

Q3 To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in (THIS COUNTRY) if something goes wrong?

		Very confident	Fairly confident	Fairly unconfident	Very unconfident	Don't know/ No Answer
EU27		14=	40▲1	25=	15=	7=
BE		12▲3	48▲2	30▲4	6▼-3	4▼-5
BG		9▼-1	34=	37▲3	18▼-1	4▼-1
CZ		13▲1	48=	23▲3	11=	5▼-3
DK		41▲4	39▼-5	11▲2	5▼-1	4=
DE		24▲2	35▼-1	13=	18=	9▼-1
EE		6▼-1	40▼-7	37▲7	8=	9▲1
IE		27▼-1	55▲6	13▼-4	4=	1=
EL		3▼-1	25▼-2	49▲6	22=	1▼-3
ES		10▲2	31▲1	34▼-4	21▲1	4=
FR		13▲1	49▼-1	21=	10▲3	7▼-3
HR		7▼-4	41▲2	32▼-2	14▲3	7▲2
IT		6▼-4	48▼-1	23▲1	18▲1	5▲2
CY		5▲4	26▲9	41▼-5	26▼-6	3▼-2
LV		5=	34▼-1	36▲1	12=	14=
LT		9▲1	46▼-4	29▲1	12=	6▲1
LU		39▲3	44=	6▼-4	4▼-1	6▲2
HU		8▼-5	37▲4	28▼-4	8▼-1	19▲5
MT		36▼-3	43▼-1	7▲3	5▼-1	8▲1
NL		17▼-2	50=	16▲2	6▼-1	11▲2
AT		23▼-1	47▲2	14=	10▼-3	6▲2
PL		7=	27▲9	33▼-1	22▼-6	12▼-2
PT		12=	38▲2	33▼-3	14▲1	2=
RO		7▲1	51▼-3	31▲4	9▲1	2▼-2
SI		11=	54▲10	17▼-7	14▼-3	5=
SK		2▼-1	31=	44▲2	19▲1	4▼-1
FI		23▲1	59▲1	14▲1	2▼-1	2▼-2
SE		31▲4	46▼-3	12▼-2	5▲3	6▼-3
ME		7	44	26	10	13
MK		7	29	31	25	8
AL		9	36	31	16	9
RS		14	36	23	13	14

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=12 851 (EU27) & n=1 770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

## Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Q4 What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection?  
[MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

		Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court	Frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law making process	Difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong	Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice	Other	Don't know/ No Answer
EU27		63▲2	62=	59▼-3	62▲2	4=	4=
BE		74▲10	67▲10	77▲1	58▲8	5▼-2	5▲1
BG		59▲7	41▼-4	41▲7	54=	4▼-3	3▼-2
CZ		72▼-2	81▲7	78▲1	72▼-6	2▲1	3▼-1
DK		42▲1	38▼-10	22▼-12	31▼-7	14▼-13	3▲2
DE		34▼-8	51▲4	48▼-4	47▲3	5▼-3	11▲1
EE		59▲24	60▲27	67▲20	49▲9	2▼-10	5▼-4
IE		56▼-4	48▲2	39▲9	41▼-10	3▼-4	7▲1
EL		68▲4	84▲2	72▲1	66▲1	1▼-1	0▼-2
ES		81▲1	79▼-2	80▲2	83▲9	2=	0▼-2
FR		73▲30	61▲15	68▲16	63▲23	3▼-3	5▲4
HR		71▲3	70▲4	58▼-10	61▼-11	1▼-1	4=
IT		58▲5	45▲2	41▼-11	57▼-2	1▼-2	1=
CY		49▲4	38▼-9	65▲9	63▲4	4▲3	1=
LV		40▼-18	47▼-12	30▼-17	36▼-9	9▲8	10▲2
LT		58▲6	67▲2	57▼-7	64▲5	4=	3▲1
LU		45▼-1	34▼-7	53▲3	64▲18	7▲2	3▼-2
HU		67▲6	63▼-9	52▲4	52▼-2	4▲1	8▲2
MT		72▲4	60▲17	49▼-17	57▼-8	11▲4	0▼-4
NL		48▼-14	43▼-3	71▲3	44▲3	2▲1	14▲4
AT		47=	52▲4	26▲3	56▲4	5▲1	0▼-4
PL		75▼-2	67▼-14	53▼-21	59▼-12	5▲3	4=
PT		54=	43▲3	48▲1	61▲5	16▲9	4▼-3
RO		71▲1	88▼-2	72▼-6	64▼-3	4▲2	1▲1
SI		46▲4	60▼-1	53▼-1	59▲9	8▲1	2▼-1
SK		76▼-4	75▲6	76▲7	72▼-2	1=	2▼-2
FI		46▼-8	42▲14	50▼-5	27▼-3	5▲1	11▲1
SE		37▲9	35▼-8	40▼-14	45▲13	16▲8	9▼-2
ME		63	62	59	62	4	4
MK		66	39	62	61	2	3
AL		64	58	58	59	3	4
RS		46	42	42	48	3	3

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the individual country results, due to low base size in some countries (<100)

Flash Eurobarometer 541 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 14/2-5/3/2024 - (%) Base: n=4 441 (EU27) & n=770 (ME+MK+AL+RS) - Companies having concerns about the effectiveness of investment protection

▼▲ Evolution 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 520, January 2023)

