

Single Market Scoreboard

Performance per Member State

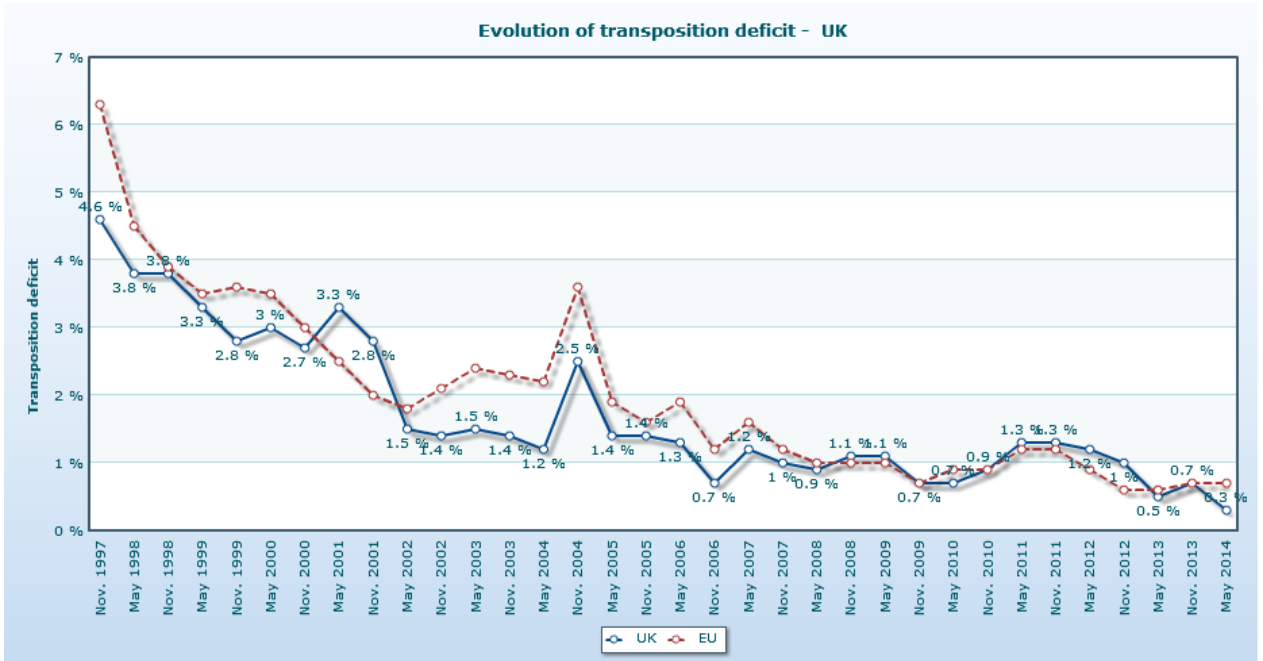
United Kingdom

(Reporting period: 2013 - 2014)

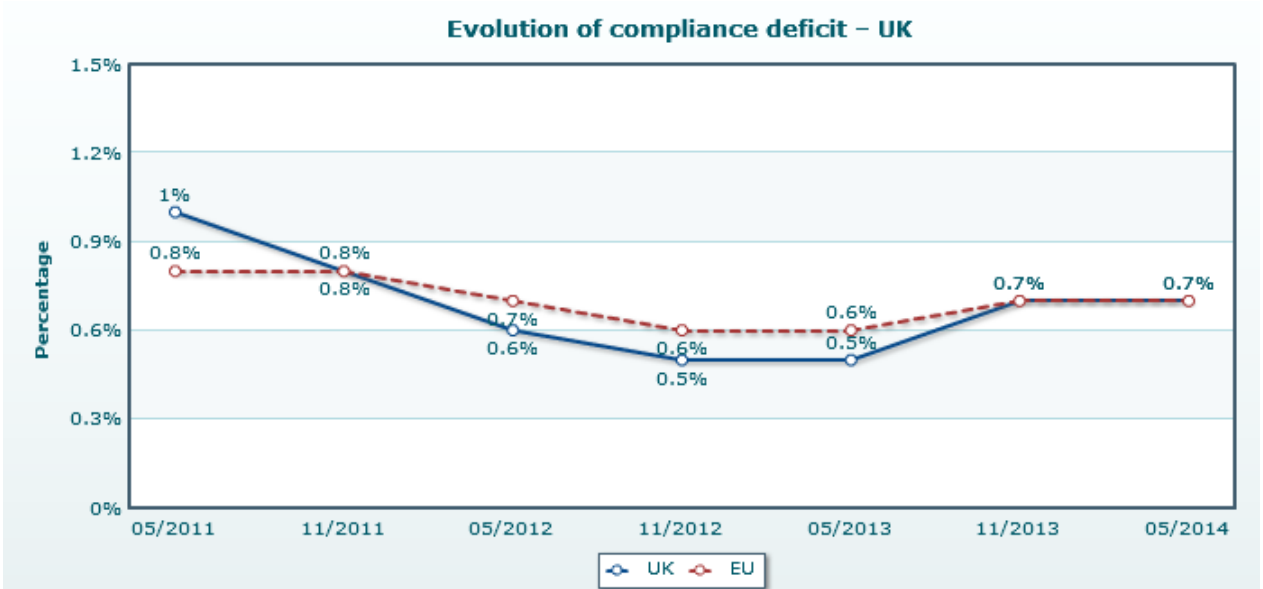


Transposition of law

The UK's transposition deficit relating to the Single Market is at 0.3 % (four directives), which is a significantly smaller deficit than previously (0.7 %). This deficit is both in line with the EU average of 0.7 % and the deficit target of 1.0 % set by the Member States. Two directives concern social policy. It takes the UK 4.8 extra months on average to transpose directives, which is significantly faster than the EU average of 7.5 months, but one month longer than during the last assessment.



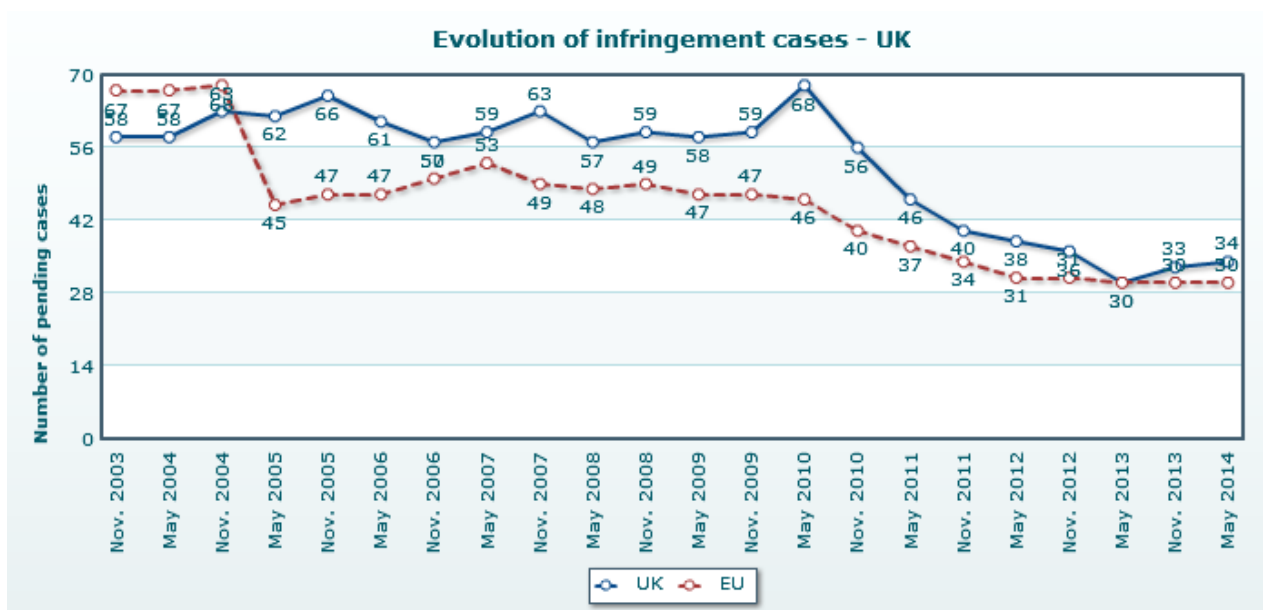
The UK's compliance deficit, i.e. the number of directives alleged as being incorrectly transposed, is at a constant 0.7 %, which equals the EU average, but is significantly above the deficit target proposed by the Single Market Act (0.5 %).



Infringements

With 34 pending cases relating to Single Market legislation the United Kingdom exceeds the average of 30 cases across the EU, but does not belong to the group of Member States with the highest number of infringement proceedings. The United Kingdom shows, however, a slight upwards trend having one more infringement proceedings pending than during the last assessment. The most problematic areas are taxation (8 cases) and water protection (5 cases).

The average duration of pending infringement proceedings in the United Kingdom is 29.1 months, which is one month above the EU average of 27.7 months but significantly better than the last score (32.6 months). Concerning its compliance with Court rulings on infringements the United Kingdom scores comparatively well with a compliance period of only 5.3 months, which is 14 months shorter than the EU average (18.3 months) and nine months shorter than during the last Scoreboard. This is a particularly good result considering that the United Kingdom had six such cases within the last five years and complied quickly for all of them (between 1.8 to 9.7 months).

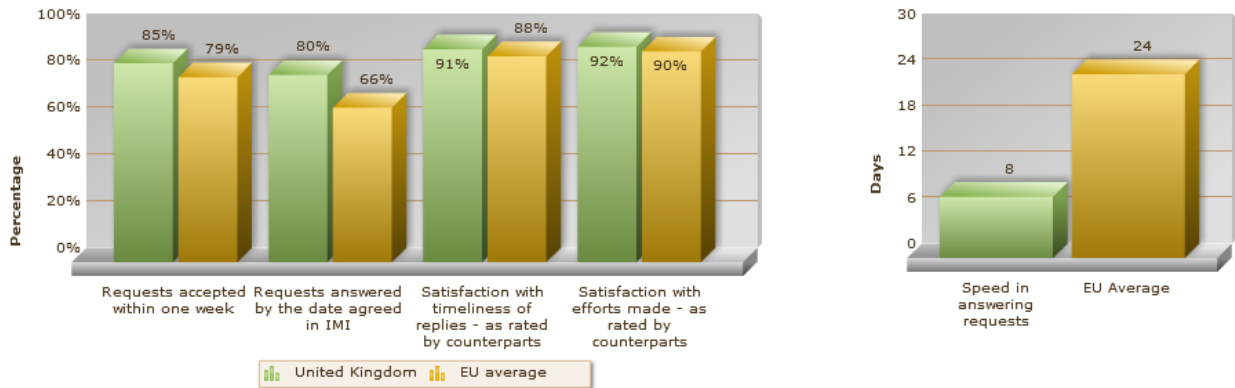


EU Pilot

The average response time of the United Kingdom is currently outside the 70-day benchmark in EU Pilot.

Internal Market Information System

- The UK is performing very well in IMI, especially given that UK authorities receive a relatively high number of requests.
- UK authorities' performance has improved significantly since the last Scoreboard, and now is well above the EU average.



EURES

Jobcentre Plus, which is part of the Department for Work and Pension is the EURES member organisation responsible for providing EURES services in England, Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland EURES services are provided by the Department for Employment and Learning (DELNI). There are currently 13 EURES Advisers in the United Kingdom. The overall performance could be improved, both with regard to the quality of the PES job vacancy exchange with EURES and the number of EURES Advisers.

Your Europe

The UK provides information for citizens and enterprises on a national government portal. The country was represented at both Editorial Board meetings, but did not, however, provide most of the requested information and did not report any promotional activities. The score is therefore orange compared to green during the previous reporting period.

The UK should resume its previous cooperation with the Commission services as regards Your Europe by:

- providing information on how the UK applies single market rules when requested via the Editorial Board member;
- attending the Editorial Board meetings organised twice a year;
- raising awareness about Your Europe within the national administrations and among potential end users;
- linking national websites to Your Europe.

SOLVIT

- **Caseload – one of the five centres with highest caseload** (together with Spain, France, Italy and Germany)
Submitted cases – 140(114 in 2012)
Received cases – 192 (77 in 2012)
- **Resolution rate – 94 %**
- **Handling time (Home centre)**
Reply in 7 days – 80 % – good
Cases prepared in 30 days – 86 % – good
- **Handling time (Lead centre)**
Cases closed in 10 weeks – 75 % – good
- **Staffing**
Continuity – very good
*Sufficient for current caseload? SOLVIT UK delivered an **outstanding performance** in 2013, but reliance on a **single staff member** raises concerns about sustainability over time.*
However, this staff member has now been integrated into the UK Single Market Centre (UKSMC) team, which should increase SOLVIT UK's capacity.

Points of Single Contact

Point of Single Contact – UK Welcomes

Performance level – high (one of the best).

Results from 2013 user testing

- *Information* – plentiful, easy to find and user-friendly.
- *Online procedures* – available, although not for everything.
- *Accessibility for businesses from other countries* – needs improving (no distinction between procedures for setting up in-country and service provision from abroad. And all information in English only).

Usage trend (compared with 2012)

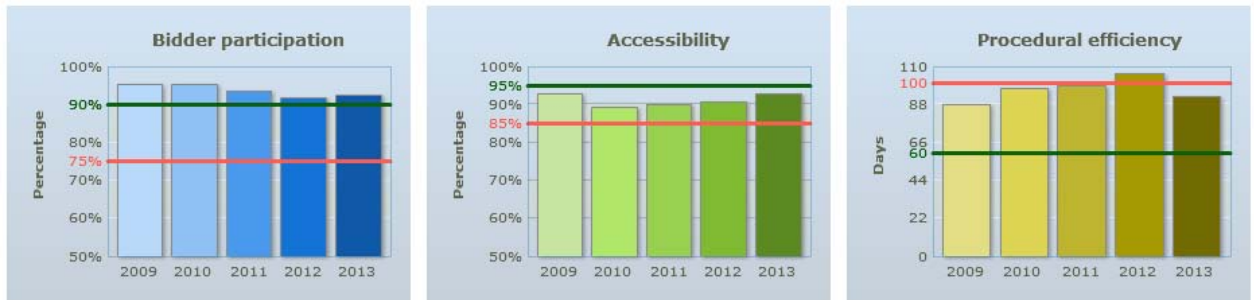
- Big increase in requests for assistance.
- Big increase in procedures launched through the site.

Planned improvements (2014) – more online procedures with better functionality and review/update of the information.

Public procurement

In 2013, the reporting year,

- the **bidder participation** score was satisfactory. Overall, between 2009 and 2013, the score was also satisfactory.
- the **accessibility** score was average. Overall, between 2009 and 2013, the score was also average.
- the **procedural efficiency** score was average. Overall, between 2009 and 2013, the score was also average.



The colored lines mark the thresholds for **satisfactory** performance (green) and **unsatisfactory** performance (red). The scores in between are regarded as an **average** performance.

Postal Services

In the Study on the Main developments in the postal sector (2010 - 2013) carried out by WIK Consult, the European countries are grouped into three clusters. Criteria for this categorisation are the absolute gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and the accession date to the European Union:

- Western Member States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Sweden and UK;
- Southern Member States: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain;
- Eastern Member States: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Croatia.

This methodology was also followed in the Scoreboard.

Evolution of domestic prices in PPPs

In the UK, domestic price levels have increased significantly in the last years – the cost of a 20 g letter was 0.63 purchasing power parities (PPPs) in 2012 compared to 0.45 PPPs in 2009, with the UK now amongst the most expensive of the Western Member States for this area.

Cross-border price developments in PPPs

Cross-border PPP price levels showed a marked increase over the review period, from 0.76 PPPs in 2009 to 1.11 PPPs in 2012. This puts the UK at the high end of the spectrum of the Western Member States for cross border prices.

Transit time performance:

Steady progress towards reaching targets was made over the review period. The transit time performance levels attained by the UK are in line with the average for Western countries, with results of 91.7 % in 2012.