

# Internal Market Scoreboard n°20: best-ever result but....

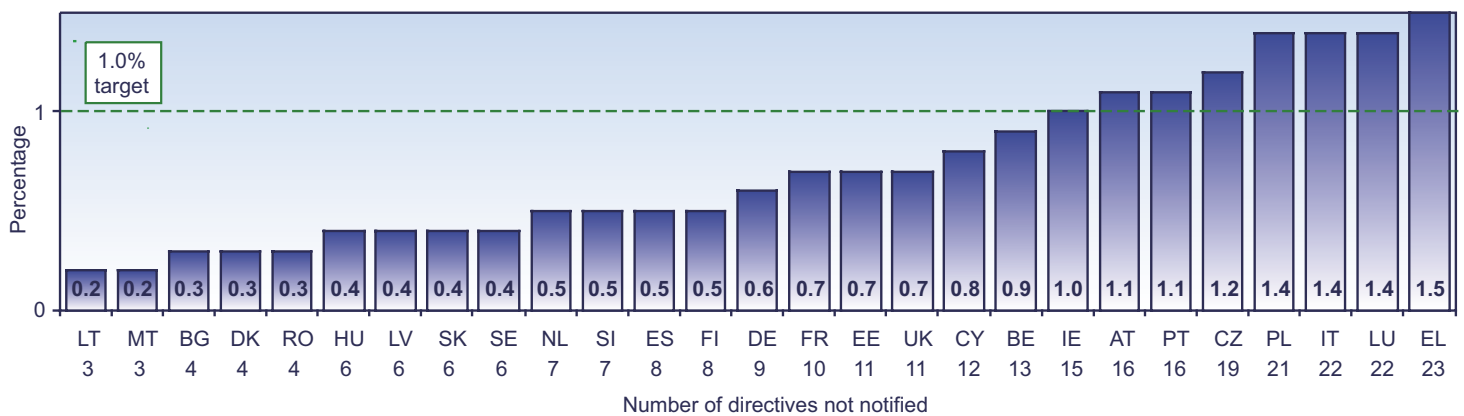


.... action needed on application on the ground

*'Member States have never performed better in writing agreed Internal Market rules into national law on time, but they need to improve the way those rules are applied in practice'. That was the message Internal Market Commissioner Barnier gave Member States at the March 2010 Competitiveness Council following the publication of the Internal Market Scoreboard.*

The Internal Market Scoreboard is the European Commission's tool for monitoring where Member States stand in terms of implementing agreed Internal Market rules at national level. It publicly compares and ranks their individual progress, while also looking at the quality and application of the rules.

On average 0.7% of Internal Market Directives for which the implementation deadline has passed are not currently written into national law, down from 1.0% in July 2009. This means that Member States are well below the 1.0% target agreed by Heads of State, which was to be achieved by 2009 at the latest.



The transposition deficit shows the percentage of Internal Market directives not yet communicated to the Commission, in relation to the total number of directives which should have been communicated by the deadline.

Twenty Member States are either at or below the target, while Lithuania and Malta were overall the best performers, being three Directives away from a perfect score. Sixteen Member States achieved or have equalled their best result so far. However, seven Member States – Austria, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Luxembourg and Greece – are still above the target and hindering further reduction of the deficit. Greece and Luxembourg are the worst offenders in this respect.

As regards application of EU law, there has been a slight reduction in the number of infringement cases, but the duration of the proceedings remains too long and Member States take on average 18 months to comply with Court of Justice rulings despite the legal obligation to take immediate action. Here, Austria and Spain account for the longest delay, taking on average approximately 25 months to comply with rulings. (See also p. 22 on infringements)

[Info](#)

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/score/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/index_en.htm)