



Single Market Scoreboard

Performance by Member State

Belgium

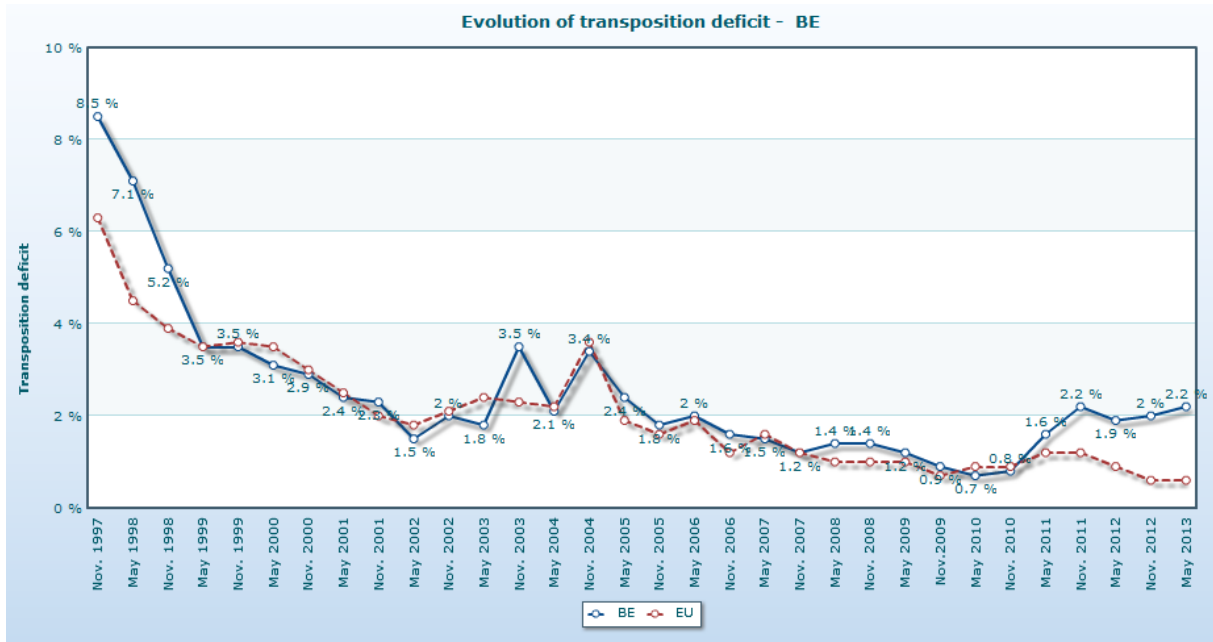
(Reporting period: 2012 - 2013)



Transposition of law

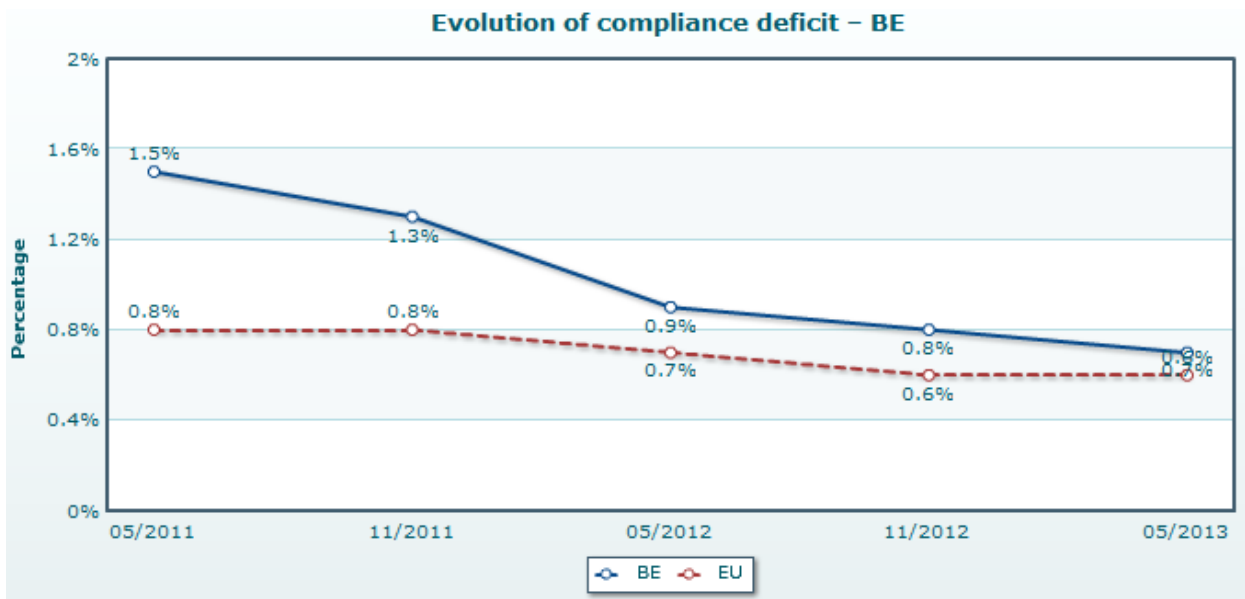
Belgium has seen another increase in its transposition backlog over the last 12 months with its deficit now standing at 2.2 %. The current figure is more than double the 1 % target agreed by the EU and the worst result for transposition of all the Member States. The May 2013 results are particularly worrying because Belgium has returned to the deficit level it achieved in November 2011, after having initially improved its performance over the previous year.

Belgium again missed the "zero tolerance" target in failing to transpose five directives, which are now more than two years overdue. There are currently 30 directives which have not been communicated, mainly in the sectors of environment and transport.



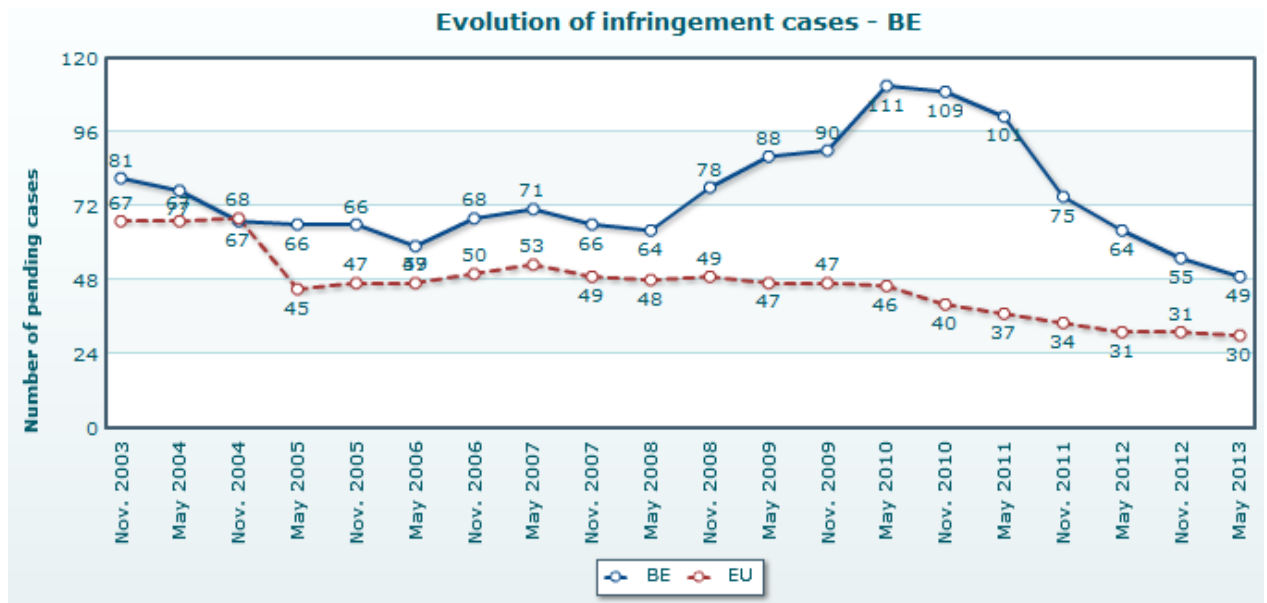
Belgium takes an extra 15.3 months on average to transpose directives after the deadline has expired, which is the longest transposition delay amongst the EU Member States and well above the EU average of eight months.

With regard to the conformity of the transposition measures communicated to the Commission, Belgium has improved its compliance deficit from 1.5 % to 0.7 % over the past two years.



Infringements

The number of Belgian pending cases relating to the internal market has continued to fall since November 2010 and the introduction of the EU-Pilot programme shortly after this. Since the last Scoreboard was conducted (Scoreboard No. 26 of November 2012), the level of pending cases has fallen by six, which makes Belgium, together with the UK and Greece the joint-best performer in terms of resolving cases. While direct taxation remains the main source of Belgian cases (18 out of 49), these cases have also fallen by six since November 2012. While still remaining well above the EU average of 30 pending infringement cases, Belgium has improved its standing among EU Member States in that it is no longer the Member State with the highest number of pending cases.



Nevertheless Belgian cases at 33.6 months in duration take almost a year longer to be resolved than the EU average of 27 months. On the other hand, Belgium scores better than average on the time-lag between court rulings and compliance with EU law, which falls below the EU average of 17.6 months at a period of 13.8 months.

EU Pilot

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

Internal Market Information System

1. Requests accepted within one week: 69 % (EU average: 74 %)
2. Requests answered within the mutually agreed deadline: 67 % (EU average: 64 %)
3. Average time taken to reply to requests: 16 days (EU average: 22 days)

Belgium's speed in answering requests is well above the EU average and it does rather well in respecting the mutually agreed deadlines. However, the speed in accepting requests is below the EU average and could be improved. Although Belgium is very active in sending requests in the Posting of workers area, to date it has not sent any requests in the area of Services. More awareness-raising could lead to requests being sent in this area of IMI.

EURES

Three regional Public Employment Services are responsible for providing EURES services in their respective region, Actiris in Brussels, Le Forem in Wallonia and VDAB in Flanders. The performance indicators are presented as an average for the three regions even if there may be differences between them.

There are currently 39 EURES advisers in Belgium. The overall performance could be improved, in particular with regard to the quality of the PES job vacancy exchange with EURES.

Your Europe

Belgium provides multilingual information for citizens and enterprises on a national portal, and is cooperating very well with the Commission services as regards Your Europe.

Belgium should continue to invest in and promote Your Europe by:

- providing information on how Belgium applies single market rules when asked for via the Editorial Board member;
- attending the Editorial Board meetings organised twice a year;
- raising awareness about Your Europe within the national administrations;
- promoting Your Europe via national websites, information offices and events.

SOLVIT

The Belgium SOLVIT centre deals with a high number of cases (124) relative to the size of the country. In the reporting period (March 2012 to February 2013), the caseload was higher than in the previous 12 months (56 home cases and 68 lead cases in the reporting period compared with 55 home cases and 58 lead cases). SOLVIT Belgium has a good resolution rate of 89 % (89 % SOLVIT EU27 average).

The Belgian SOLVIT centre is fast in responding to clients (average 4 days, target is 7 days). The overall time the Belgian SOLVIT centre takes to prepare a case for submission to another SOLVIT centre is good (18 days). The case handling time for cases against the Belgian administration has risen from 55 to 67 days but is still below the 70-day target.

Points of Single Contact

The Belgian Point of Single Contact consists of a central PSC website, and nine so-called "enterprise counters", which have online portals and physical offices.

Belgium has an average performing PSC, with a below-average performance for the completion of electronic procedures.

In 2012, some work was undertaken to improve the integration of the central portal with nine "enterprise counters". This work should be continued.

Further changes should be made to improve the completion of the procedures electronically and provide for a clearer distinction between requirements and procedures for permanent establishment and those for cross-border provision of services.