



Single Market Scoreboard

Performance by Member State

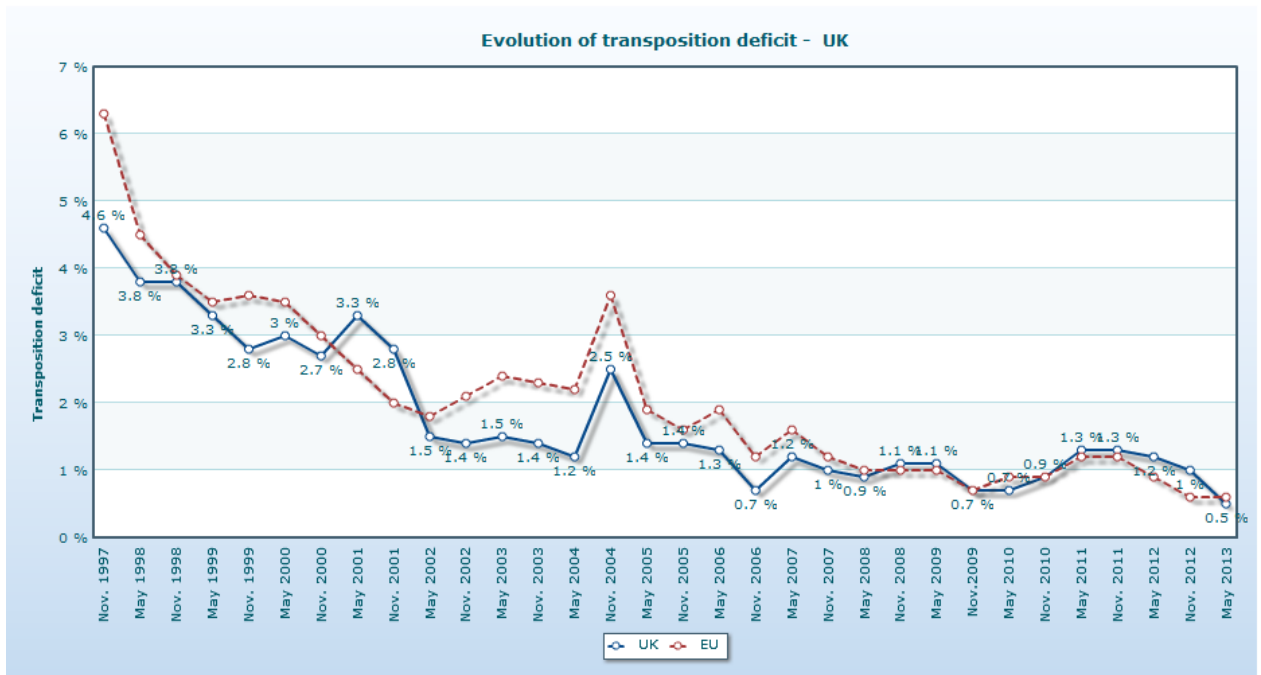
United Kingdom

(Reporting period: 2012 - 2013)

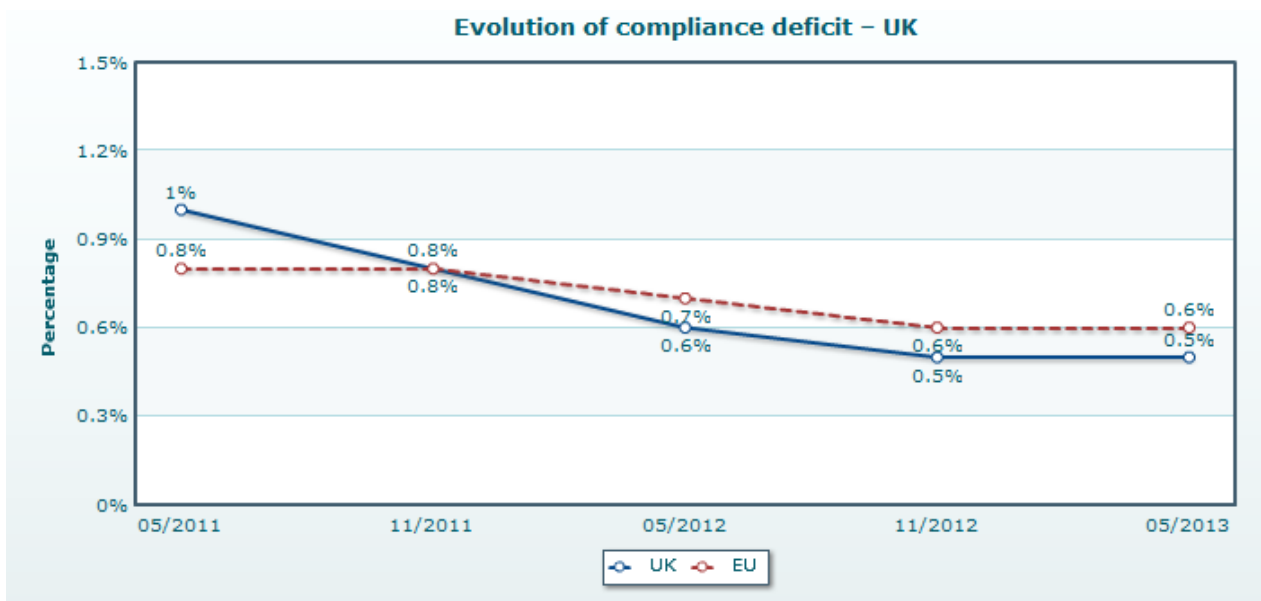


Transposition of law

With respect to directives relating to the internal market, the United Kingdom has halved its transposition deficit from 1.0 % to 0.5 % since November 2012, after decreasing its number of outstanding directives by seven. The United Kingdom has also cut its delay in transposing overdue directives considerably from an average of 13.6 months 6 months ago to an average of 8.3 months currently. In addition, there are no longer any directives which are more than two years beyond their transposition deadline, which means that the UK has complied with the "zero tolerance" target.



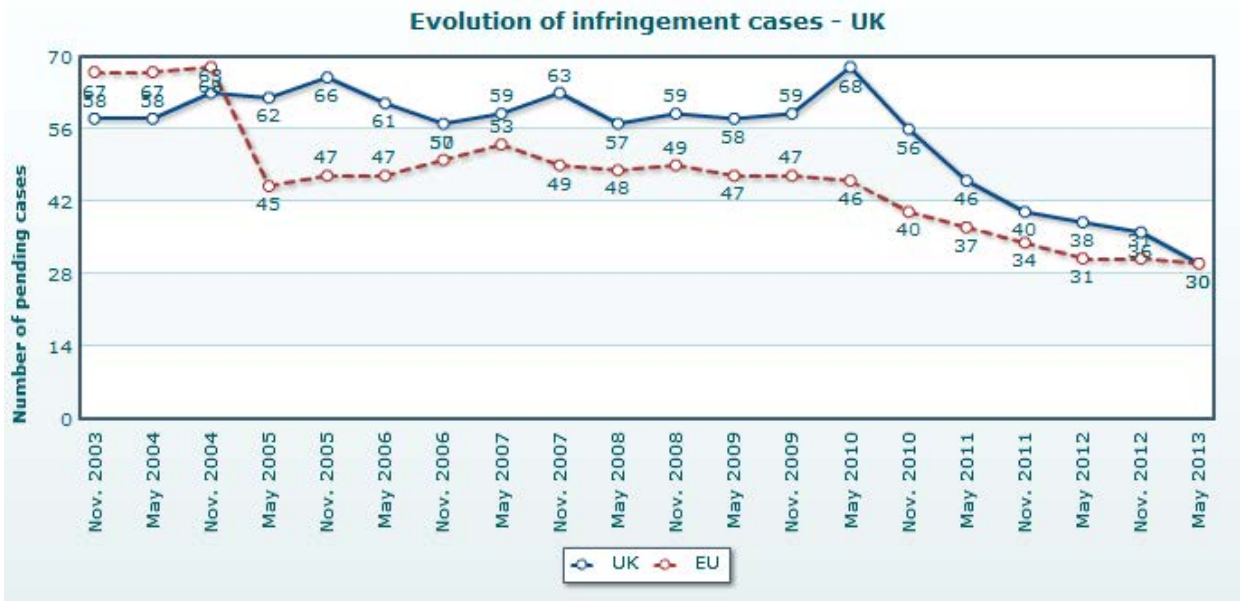
In terms of the conformity of measures communicated to the Commission, the United Kingdom compliance deficit of 0.5 % is equal to the proposal from the Single Market Act for a 0.5 % target.



Infringements

Together with Belgium, the UK has made the best progress out of all the Member States in reducing its level of pending infringement cases. There are now 30 proceedings pending which relate to the internal market, which means that the UK has met the EU average for the first time since November 2003. The time-lag between court rulings and the eventual compliance by the UK with EU law is also more favourable than the EU average, with compliance taking 16.1 months to occur, as compared to 17.6 across the EU.

On the other hand, the speed of infringement resolution in the UK is quite slow, with the average duration of cases being 31.5 months, which is more than 4 times slower than the EU average. In addition, problems remain in the area of direct taxation.



EU Pilot

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

Internal Market Information System

1. Requests accepted within one week: 67 % (EU average: 74 %)
2. Requests answered within the mutually agreed deadline: 65 % (EU average: 64 %)
3. Average time taken to reply to requests: 18 days (EU average: 22 days)

Overall the UK is performing well but there is scope for improvement in the time taken to accept requests. The National IMI coordinator has started to closely monitor activity in IMI in order to improve the country's performance.

The recent reinforcement of monitoring of the system has already resulted in an improvement in performance.

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 17 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 has recently launched the completely revamped national government portal with plenty of information for citizens and enterprises.

The country is active in the Editorial Board and contributes to some requests for information.

The UK should continue to invest in and promote Your Europe by:

- bringing their expertise to the content syndication project;
- providing information on how UK 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 UK SOLVIT centre deals with a high number of cases (212). In the reporting period (March 2012 to February 2013), the caseload stayed about the same as in the previous 12 months (117 home cases and 95 lead cases in the reporting period compared with 119 home cases and 91 lead cases). SOLVIT UK has a high resolution rate of 93 % (89 % SOLVIT EU27 average).

The UK SOLVIT centre replies fast to clients (average 6 day, target is 7 days). The overall time the UK SOLVIT centre takes to prepare a case for submission to another SOLVIT centre is good (24 days). The case handling time for cases against the UK administration has dropped from 63 to 55 days and is below the 70-day target.

Points of Single Contact

The UK Point of Single Contact is well established and is ranked among the best PSCs for almost all features.

In 2012, the UK government portals for citizens and businesses were merged; this change affected the PSC, which became a dedicated part of the new e-government site's business content. Further work was undertaken to increase the number of online procedures and enable competent authorities to input information available on the PSC into their own back-office systems.

Usage trends on the UK portal remain stable but the UK authorities hope that with the launch of the new website the traffic will increase in the upcoming months.

The implementation of a clearer distinction between requirements and procedures for permanent establishment and cross-border provision of services is recommended.