



## Flash Eurobarometer 520

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

Report



Fieldwork:

**January 2023**

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Survey requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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.

Flash Eurobarometer 520 – Ipsos European Public Affairs





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(DG COMM “Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

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<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer>

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## Introduction

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This Flash Eurobarometer survey explores the opinions of companies about the independence of the judiciary across the 27 EU Member States. This 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 vital for implementing EU law and 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
- The reasons for these perceptions, both positive and negative
- Whether companies have confidence in the protection of their investments by law and courts
- The 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), and Industry (NACE categories B/D/E/F) sectors were interviewed. 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 16 January and 30 January 2023, 13 040 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-February 2022 (Flash Eurobarometer 504<sup>1</sup>). Survey data are weighted to known business population proportions. The EU27 averages are weighted according to the size of the business population of each Member State. A technical note on the methods applied to conduct the survey is appended as an annex to this report.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2290>

*Notes:*

- 1) Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between groups 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.
- 2) The report looks at the most recent year-on-year changes at EU27 and national level. The term percentage point (the abbreviation- pp) is used when comparing changes in percentages. Year-on-year differences are calculated from percentages with one decimal and are then rounded to the nearest integer.
- 3) 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 shown in the charts do not exactly add up to the totals shown in charts and tables or mentioned in the text.
- 4) In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

BE		Belgium	LT		Lithuania
BG		Bulgaria	LU		Luxembourg
CZ		Czechia	HU		Hungary
DK		Denmark	MT		Malta
DE		Germany	NL		Netherlands
EE		Estonia	AT		Austria
IE		Ireland	PL		Poland
EL		Greece	PT		Portugal
ES		Spain	RO		Romania
FR		France	SI		Slovenia
HR		Croatia	SK		Slovakia
IT		Italy	FI		Finland
CY		Rep. of Cyprus*	SE		Sweden
LV		Latvia			

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 EU MS. However, the ‘acquis communautaire’ has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the ‘CY’ category.



## Key findings

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### **About one in two companies surveyed rate the 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’. About one in three companies say that the independence of courts and judges is bad, with 23% saying it is ‘fairly bad’ and 12% that it is ‘very bad’.
- Compared to January-February 2022, there is a decrease of three percentage points in the total proportion of companies that rate their national justice system – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good.
- The proportion of companies rating the independence of courts and judges in their country as good varies considerably across Member States, ranging from 17% in Poland to 88% in Finland.
- Companies in Latvia (+16 pp) and Estonia (+12 pp) are now more likely than in January-February 2022 to rate their justice system as good. In contrast, companies in France (-14 pp) and Slovenia (-9 pp) are now less likely to do so.
- Medium-sized and large companies (in terms of number of employees), those with a high turnover and those in the services sector are more likely to rate the level of independence of the courts and judges in their country as good.

### **Close to eight in ten companies say that the status and position of judges explain their positive rating of the independence of courts and justice in their country**

- 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, 63% refer to no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests and 62% to no interference or pressure from government and politicians as a reason to explain their rating. These results have remained stable compared to January-February 2022.
- In all Member States, for a majority of companies, the status and position of judges being sufficient to guarantee their independence is the most common reason for a positive rating. Proportions range from 55% in Portugal to 89% in the Netherlands.

### **Companies are most likely to rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad because of interference from government and politicians**

- 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 (65%) say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.

**A slim majority of companies are confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts in their country**

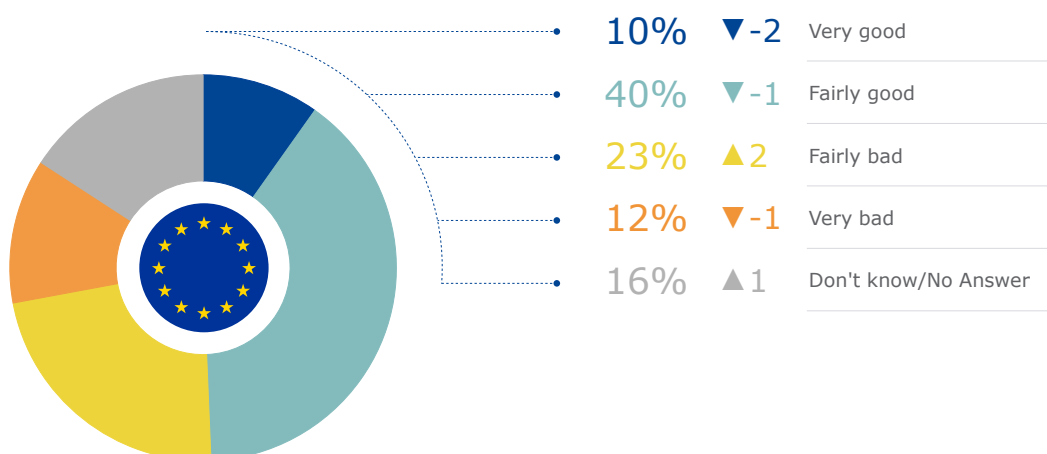
- A slim majority of companies in the EU say that they are confident that the law and courts in their country protect their investments if something goes wrong: 13% say that they are 'very confident' and 40% that they are 'fairly confident'.
- Compared to January-February 2022, the total share of companies saying they are confident that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments if something goes wrong decreased by three percentage points.
- The proportion of companies being confident that the law and courts in their country protect their investments varies considerably across Member States, ranging from 19% in Cyprus to 83% in Malta.
- Large (250 employees or more) and medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employees), those with a turnover of more than two million euros, those who operate in the service sector, and those that are foreign-owned by at least 10% are more likely to be confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong.
- Companies that are not confident about the protection of their investments explain this by frequent changes in legislation or concerns about the quality of the law-making process (62%), difficulties to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong (62%), unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court (61%) and difficulties to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice (60%).

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

### One in two companies surveyed rate the 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 23% saying it is ‘fairly bad’ and 12% that it is ‘very bad’. Close to one in six (16%) ‘do not know’ how they would rate the independence of courts and judges in their country.

**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? (% - EU27)



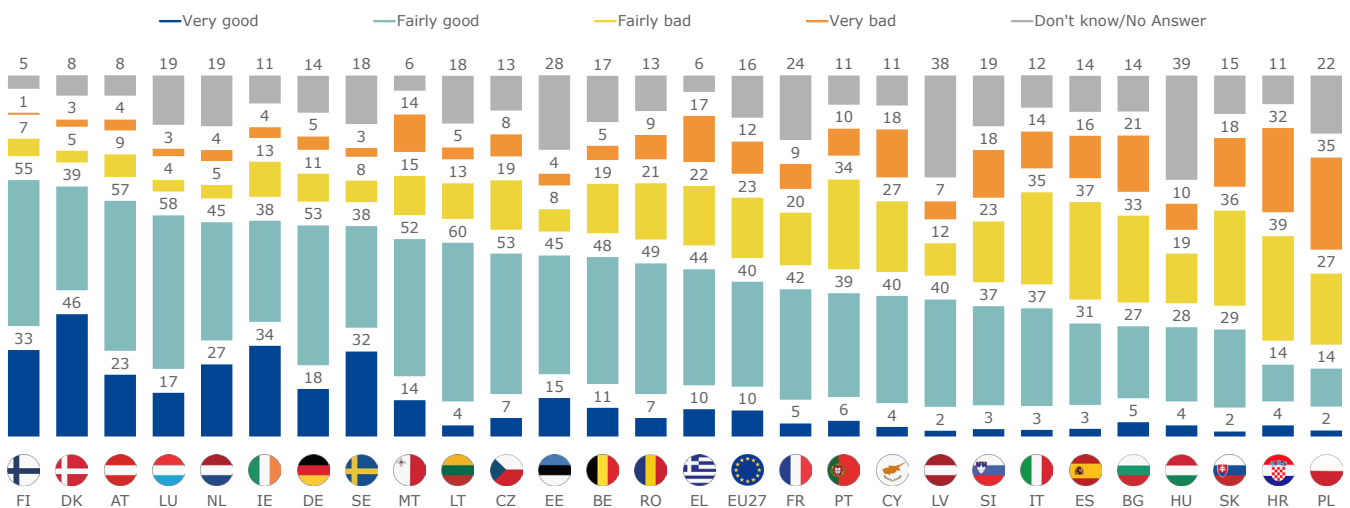
Base: all companies (n=13 040) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

Compared to January-February 2022, there is a decrease of three percentage points in the total proportion of companies rating their national justice system – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as ‘good’.

Opinion about the independence of courts and judges varies considerably across Member States. In 15 Member States, at least half of all companies surveyed rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, with those in Finland (88%) and Denmark (85%) being the most likely to say so. By contrast, 17% of companies in Poland and 18% in Croatia think the same.<sup>2</sup> In two countries – Denmark (46%) and Ireland (34%) – more than one-third of companies say the independence of their justice system is ‘very good’. In Slovakia, Latvia and Poland, just 2% 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 (71%), followed by Poland (62%). This proportion is the lowest in Finland, Denmark and Luxembourg (all 7%). More than one in three companies in Poland (35%) rate their national justice system, in terms of the independence of courts and judges, as ‘very bad’. At the other end of the scale, just 1% of companies in Finland 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? (%)<sup>3</sup>



Base: all companies (n=13 040)

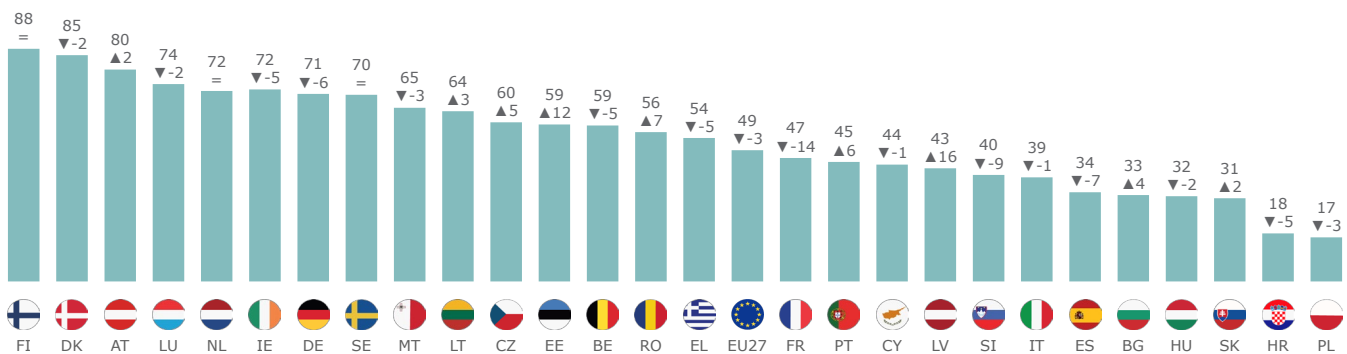
<sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

<sup>3</sup> The chart shows individual categories that have been rounded (very good, good, bad, very bad and no answer). However, the chart has been ranked according to the rounded category total good (very good + fairly good). In case countries have the same score for total good, they are ranked according to the rounded category total bad (very bad + fairly bad).

There are some (statistically significant) changes in opinion compared to January-February 2022.<sup>4</sup> Companies in Latvia (+16 pp) and Estonia (+12 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 France (-14 pp) and Slovenia (-9 pp) are now less likely to do so.

It should be noted that although there is a substantial decrease in the proportion of companies in France and Slovenia that rate the independence of their justice system as good, there is no increase in the proportion stating the opposite – that the independence of courts and judges is bad. The trend compared to January-February 2022 is caused by a significant increase in the proportion of companies in France and Slovenia stating that they 'do not know' how to rate the justice system in their country.

**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? (% **Total 'Good'**)



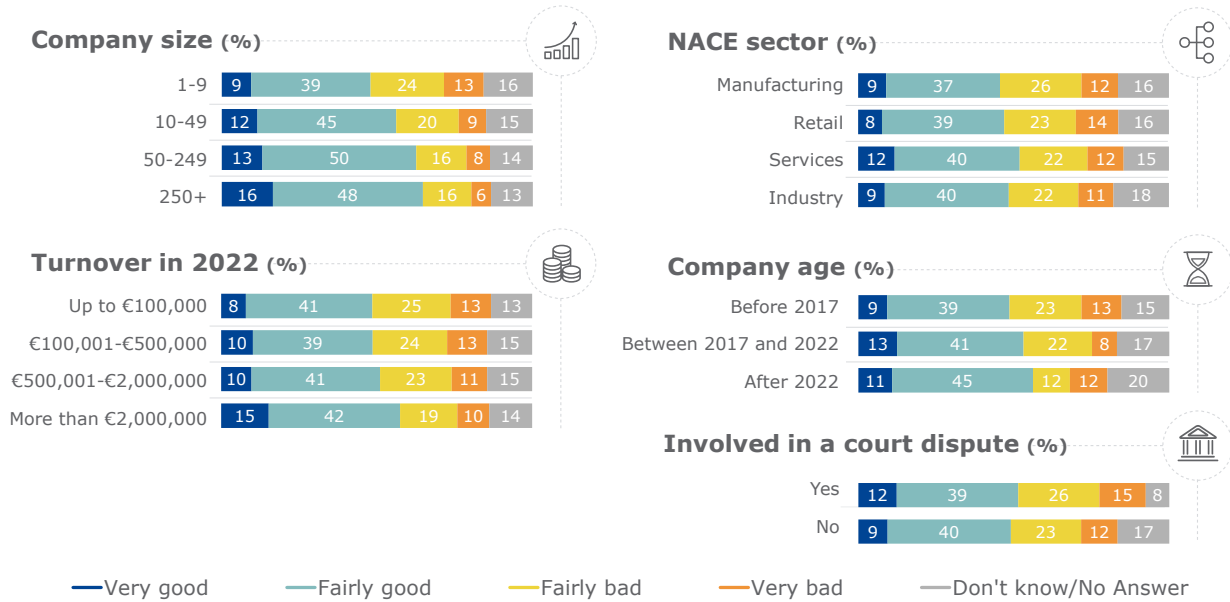
Base: all companies (n=13 040) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

The analysis in terms of company characteristics shows the following:

- Micro companies (10 employees or less) (48%) 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) (63%) and large companies (250 or more employees) (65%).
- Companies in the services sector (52%) are more likely than those in other sectors to rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as good (46%-48% 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: 58% 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.

<sup>4</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.

**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? (% by business demographics)



Base: all companies (13 040)

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

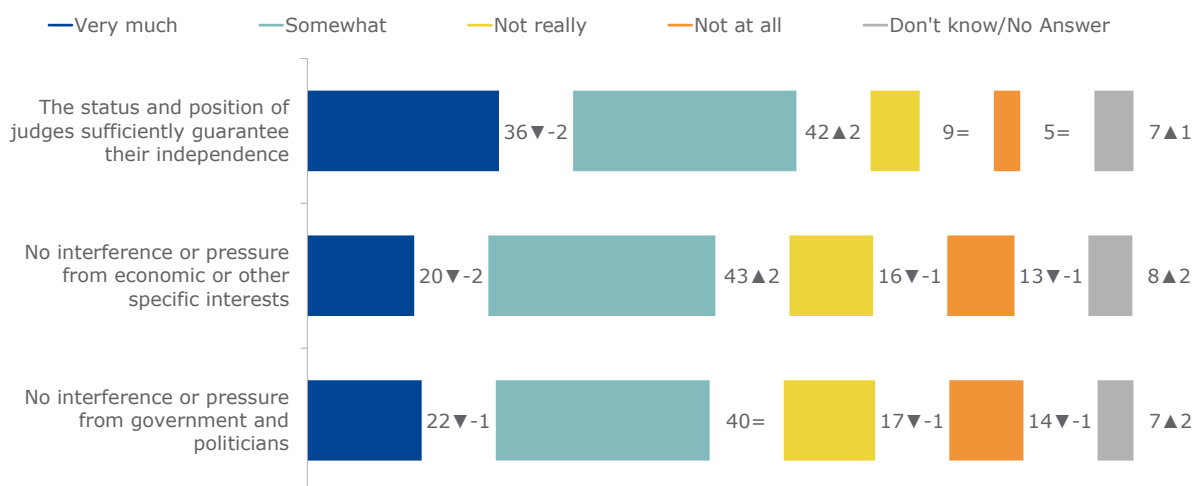
### 2.1. Positive assessments

**Close to eight in ten companies say that the status and position of judges explain their positive rating of the independence of courts and justice in their country**

Companies that rated the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as good (answering 'fairly good' or 'very good') were asked to what extent the following reasons could explain their rating: guarantees provided by the status and position of judges, no interference or pressure from governments or politicians, and no interference or pressure from economic or special interests.

Close to eight in ten companies 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 (63%) companies say a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their rating, with 20% saying this 'very much' explains it. A similar proportion (62%) say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating, with 22% saying this 'very much' explains their rating. These indicators do not show any significant change compared to those observed in January-February 2022.

**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: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

## a. Status and position of Judges

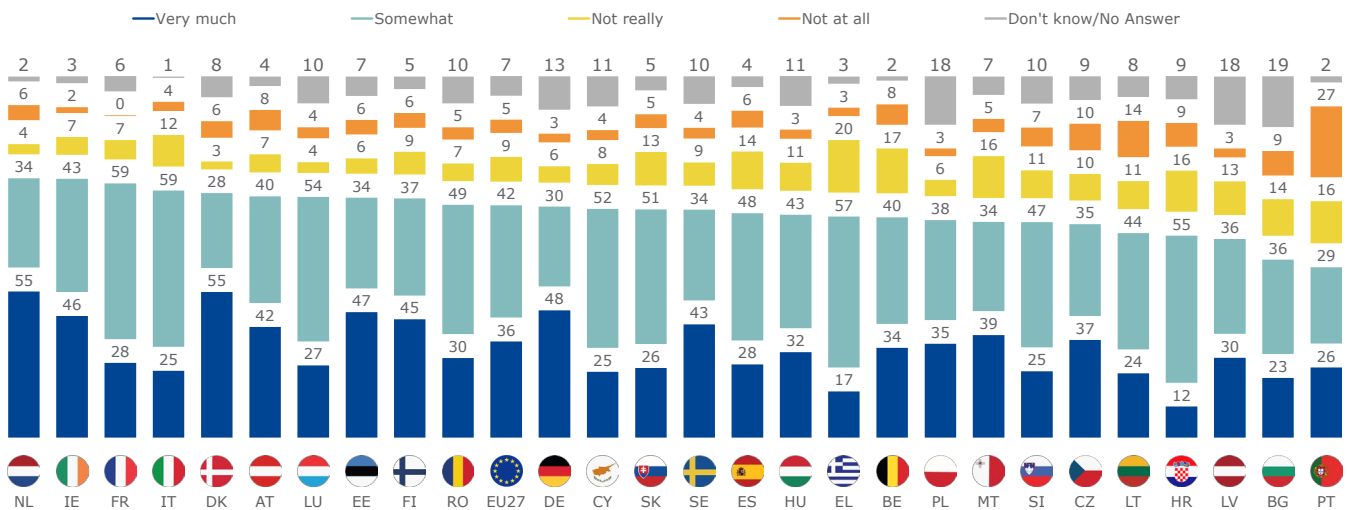
In all Member States, the majority of companies say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their positive rating of the independence of the national justice system. Proportions range from 55% in Portugal and 58% in Bulgaria,<sup>5</sup> to 87% in France, 88% in Ireland and 89% in the Netherlands.

There are two 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 and the Netherlands (both 55%). In Croatia, however, this view is shared by 12% of companies. Companies in Italy and France (both 59%) are the most likely to say the status and position of judges 'somewhat' explain their rating, while those in Denmark (28%) and Portugal (29%) are the least likely to say so.

Companies in Greece (20%) and Belgium (17%) are the most likely to say the status and position of judges do 'not really' explain their positive rating, compared to 3% in Denmark. In Portugal, 27% say this reason does not explain their rating 'at all'.

**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: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)

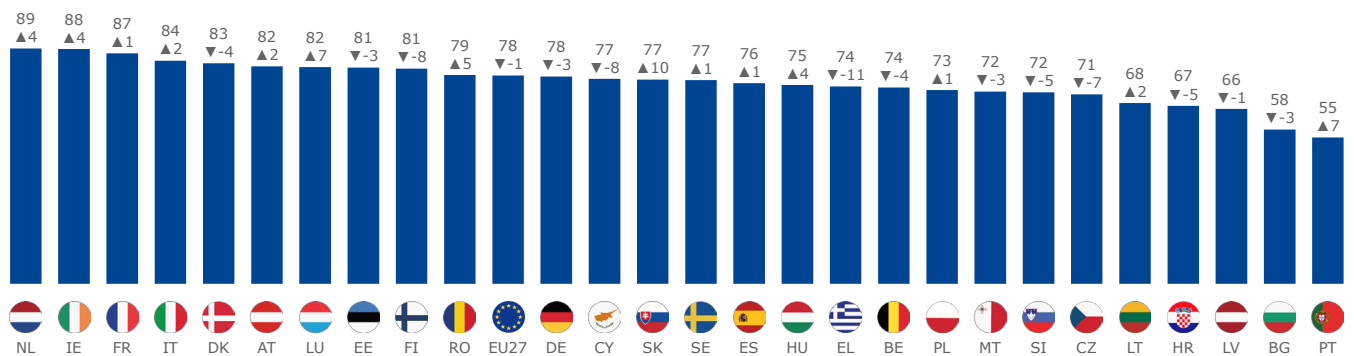
<sup>5</sup> Due to rounding, percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.



There are few significant country-level changes compared to January-February 2022.<sup>6</sup> Companies in Greece (-11 pp) and Finland (-8 pp) are now less likely to say that the judges' status and position sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their positive rating of the national independence of the justice system.

**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**  
(% Total 'Explains')



Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

<sup>6</sup> Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

## b. Political pressure

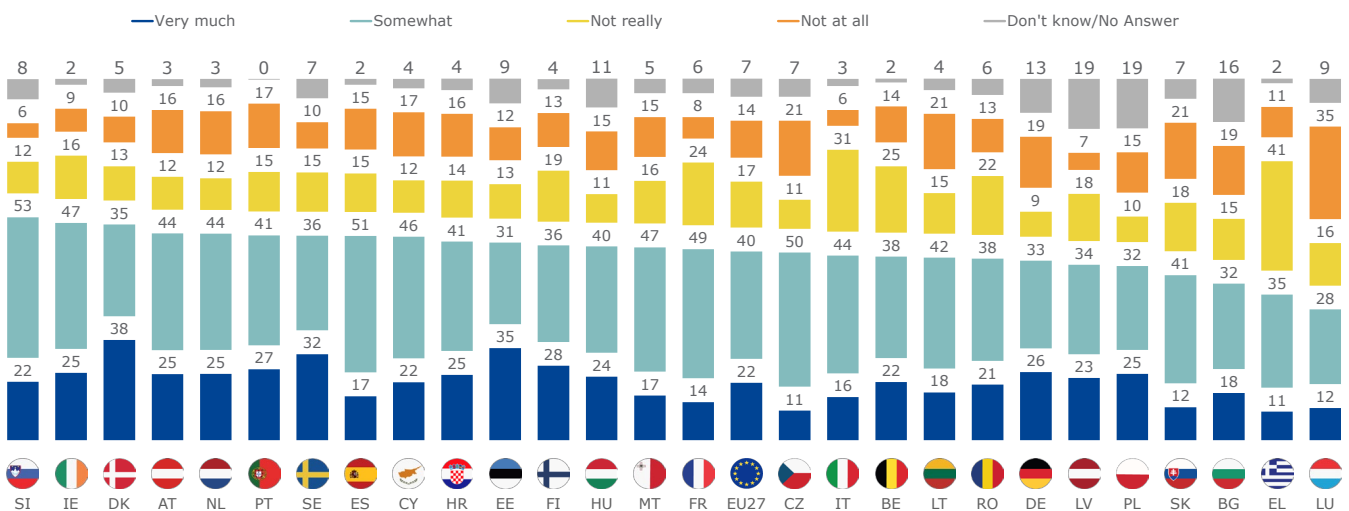
In all but two Member States, at least half of companies say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as good. Companies in Slovenia (75%), Ireland (73%) and Denmark (72%)<sup>7</sup> are the most likely to say this, while those in Luxembourg (40%) are the least likely to say so.

Companies in Denmark (38%), followed by those in Estonia (35%) and Sweden (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, 11% of companies in Czechia and Greece say the same. At least half of companies in Slovenia (53%), Spain (51%) and Czechia (50%) say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians 'somewhat' explains their rating of the justice system, while companies in Luxembourg (28%) and Estonia (31%) are the least likely to say this.

Companies in Greece (41%) and Italy (31%) 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 Germany (9%) and Poland (10%) are the least likely to say so. In Luxembourg, 35% say this reason does not explain their rating 'at all'.

**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: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)

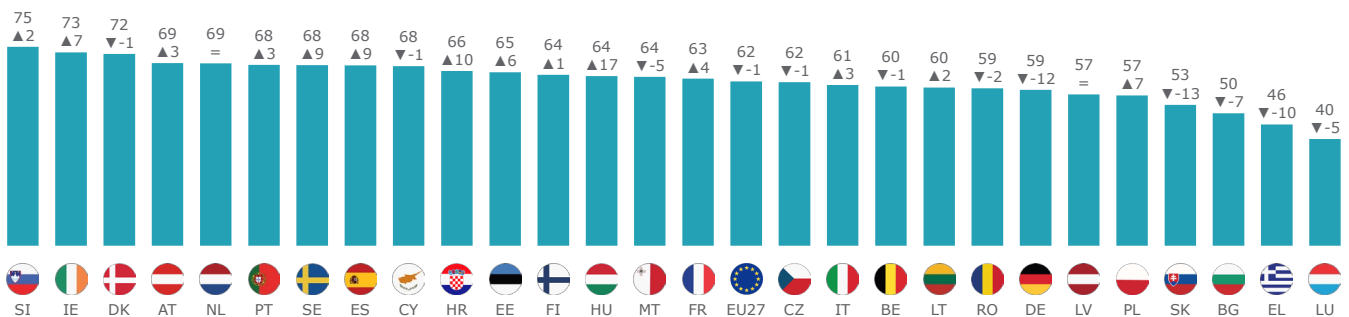
<sup>7</sup> Due to rounding, percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

Compared to the January-February 2022 survey results, the proportion of companies saying that the reason for their positive rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country is a lack of interference from government and politicians has significantly increased in Hungary (+17 pp).<sup>8</sup> In contrast, companies in Germany (-12 pp) are now less likely to say this.

In Germany, the significant decrease in the proportion of companies saying that a lack of interference from government and politicians explains their positive rating is accompanied by an increase of companies stating that they 'do not know' what defines their positive rating.

**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**  
(% Total 'Explains')



Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

<sup>8</sup> Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

### c. Economic interests

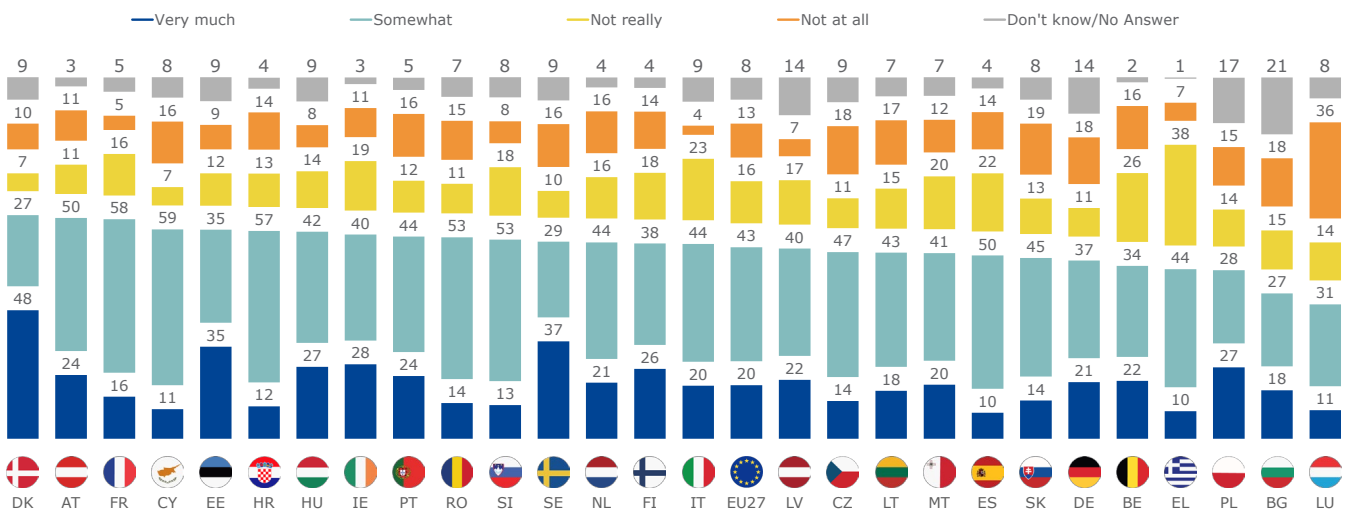
In all but two Member States (Bulgaria and Luxembourg), a majority of companies say a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains why they rate the independence of the national justice system positively. Respondents in Denmark (75%), as well as those in Austria and France (both 74%), are the most likely to say that a lack of pressure from economic or other specific interest explain their positive rating, while those in Luxembourg (42%) and Bulgaria (46%)<sup>9</sup> are the least likely to say so.

Almost one in two companies in Denmark (48%) say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their positive rating, compared to 10% in Greece and Spain. Nearly six in ten companies in Cyprus (59%), France (58%) and Croatia (57%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their rating, compared to 27% in Denmark and Bulgaria, 28% in Poland and 29% in Sweden.

Companies in Greece (38%), Belgium (26%) and Italy (23%) 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 Cyprus and Denmark (both 7%) are the least likely to say so. Companies in Luxembourg (36%) are the most likely to say this reason 'not at all' explains their rating.

**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: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)

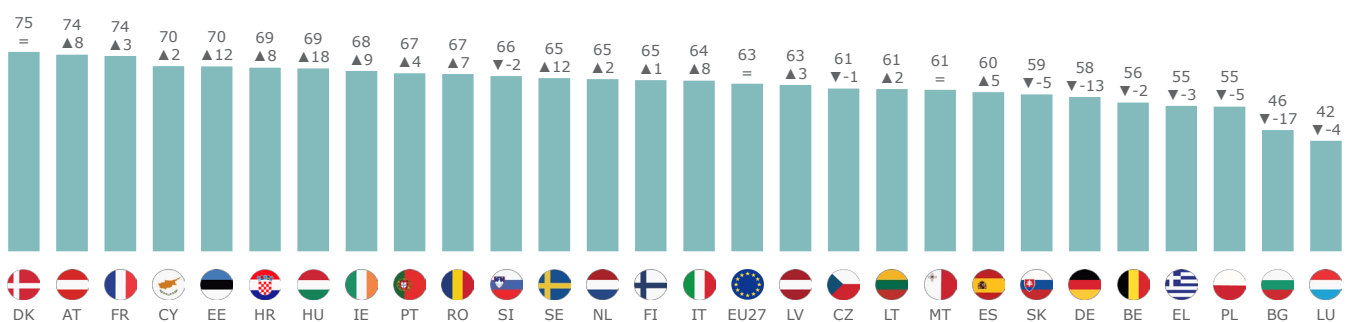
<sup>9</sup> Due to rounding, percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

Some significant changes are observed in the results compared to January-February 2022.<sup>10</sup> Notably, companies in Hungary (+18 pp), Estonia (+12 pp), Sweden (+12 pp), Ireland (+9 pp) and Austria (+8 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 Bulgaria (-17 pp) and Germany (-13 pp) are now less likely to say this.

In Germany and Bulgaria, the significant decrease in the proportion of companies saying that a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their positive rating is not associated with an increase in the proportion stating the opposite. As such, the observed difference in the trend can be explained by an increase in the proportion of companies stating that they 'do not know' what explains their positive rating.

**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**  
(% Total 'Explains')



Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)






▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

#### d. Business demographics

The analysis by business demographics for companies saying the independence of their justice system is good shows that the higher a company's turnover, the more likely they are 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: 85% say so among companies with the highest turnover (more than two million euros), compared to 76% for companies with a turnover of up to 100 000 euros.

<sup>10</sup> Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

**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): (% by business demographics)

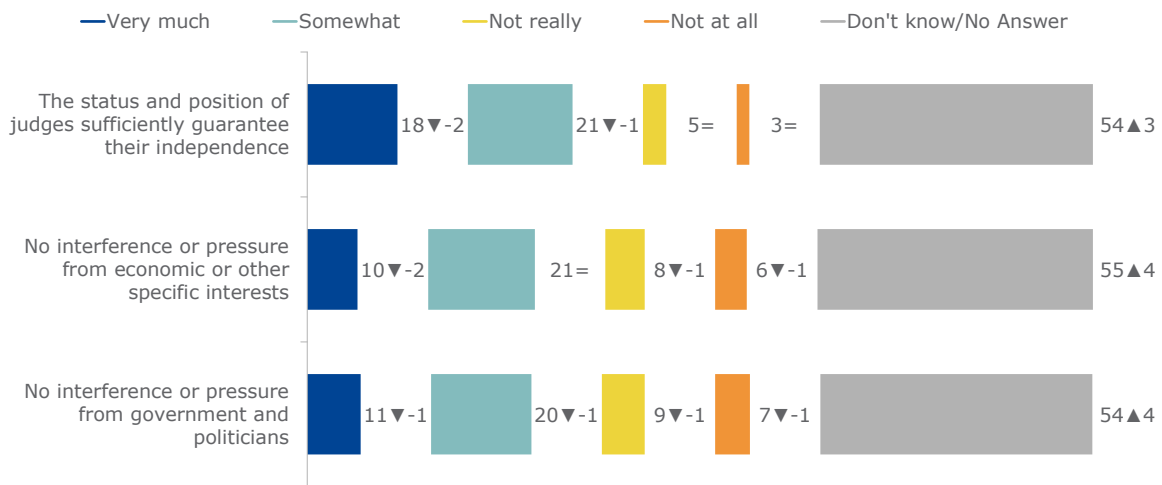
	The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence		No interference or pressure from government and politicians		No interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests	
	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)
EU27	78	14	62	31	63	29
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	79	14	62	32	63	29
10-49 employees	80	14	65	29	65	29
50-249 employees	80	11	66	26	62	30
250+ employees	77	13	58	34	62	30
 <b>Company turnover in 2020</b>						
Up to €100,000	76	19	64	30	64	28
€100,001-€500,000	79	15	63	32	65	30
€500,001-€2,000,000	82	12	64	32	61	32
More than €2,000,000	85	10	65	31	69	26
 <b>Sector of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	79	12	58	35	58	35
Retail	77	16	64	29	61	30
Services	79	14	63	30	64	27
Industry	78	15	59	36	66	27
 <b>Year of rating</b>						
Before 2017	79	14	63	32	63	30
Between 2017-2022	76	16	60	31	67	24
After 2022	88	8	62	38	69	27
 <b>Response</b>						
Yes	81	14	58	34	69	27
No	79	14	63	31	63	29

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=7 293)

### e. 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 companies (39%) say 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. One in three companies say that government and politicians' lack of interference or pressure (31%) explains their good rating; the same proportion (31%) say this about the lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests.

**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: all companies (n= 13 040) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

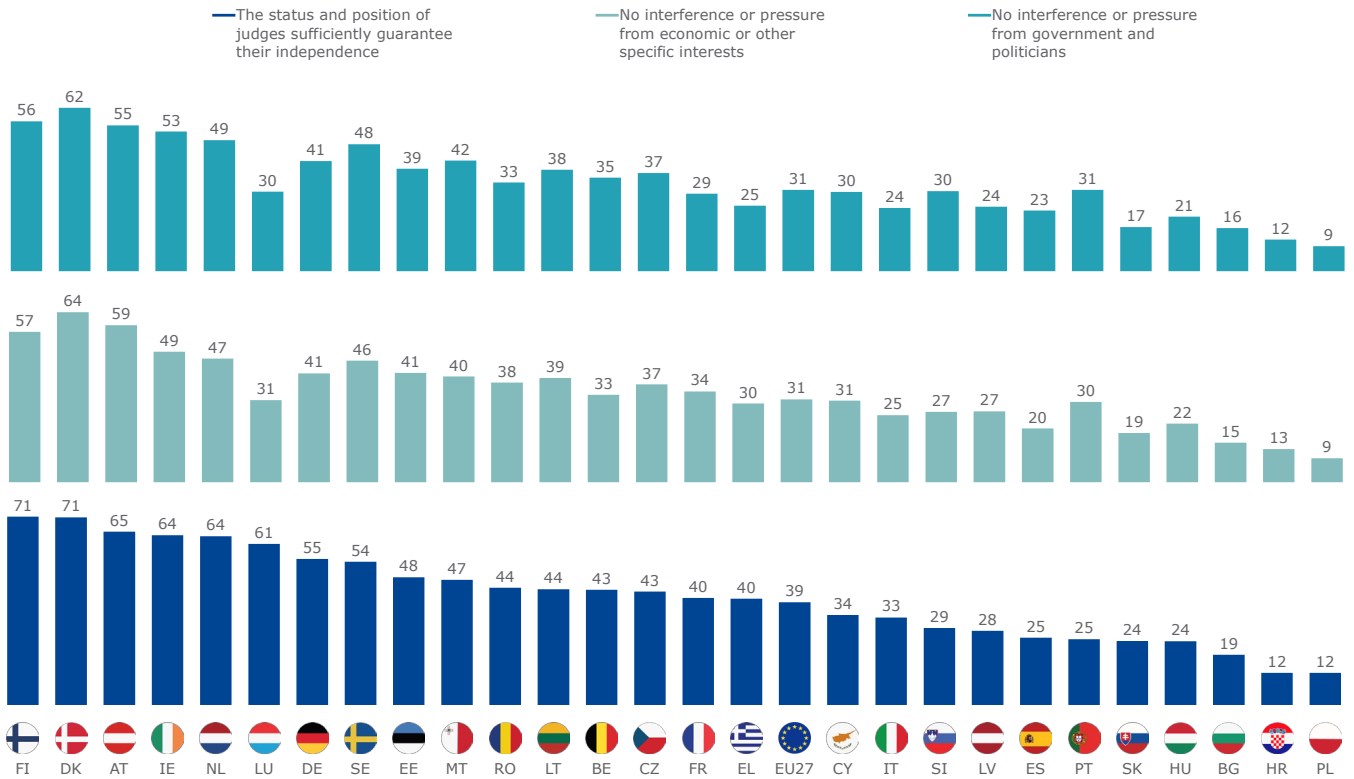
Compared to January-February 2022, the proportions of companies explaining the independence of their national justice system by the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence, the lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians or economic or other specific interest have remained stable.

The results recalculated on the full sample show that opinions vary substantially across Member States. More than two-thirds of companies in Denmark and Finland (both 71%) 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. This is compared to 12% of companies in Croatia and Poland and 19% in Bulgaria.

In three 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 (64%), Austria (59%) and Finland (57%). At the other end of the country ranking, 9% of companies in Poland, 13% in Croatia and 15% in Bulgaria say the same.

More than half of all companies in Denmark (62%), Finland (56%), Austria (55%) and Ireland (53%) 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, 9% of companies in Poland, 12% in Croatia, 16% in Bulgaria and 17% in Slovakia say the same.

**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): (% Explains 'very much' + 'somewhat')



Base: all companies (n=13 040)



## 2.2. Negative Assessments

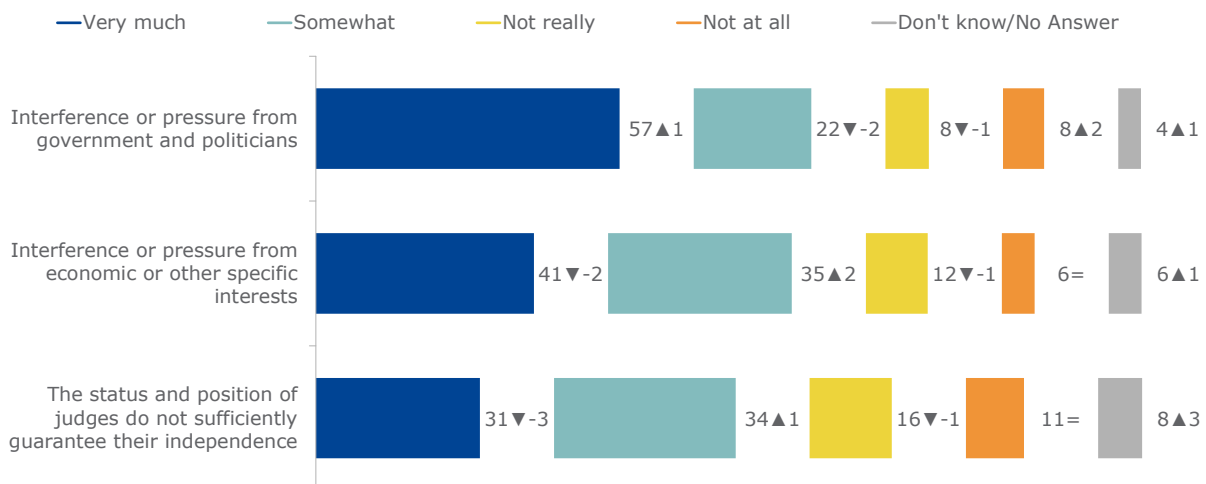
### Companies are most likely to rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad because of interference from government and politicians

Companies that rated the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad (answering 'fairly bad' or 'very bad') were asked to what extent the following reasons could explain their rating: a lack of guarantees provided by the status and position of judges, interference or pressure from governments or politicians, and interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests.

Eight in ten companies in this group 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 rating, with 41% saying this 'very much' explains it. About two-thirds of companies (65%) say the fact that the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their negative ratings, with 31% saying this 'very much' explains it.

Compared to January-February 2022, these figures have mostly remained stable.

**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: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

## a. Political pressure

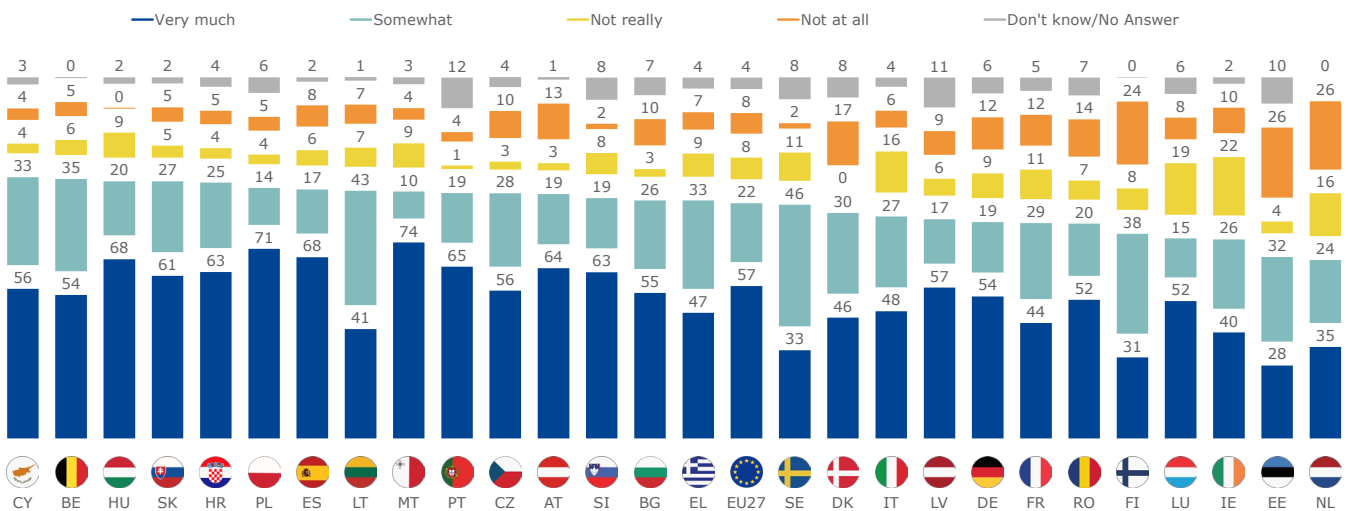
About nine in ten companies in Cyprus and Belgium (both 89%), as well as in Hungary and Slovakia (both 88%) say that interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative perception of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. At the lower end of the country ranking, 59% of companies in Estonia say the same.<sup>11,12</sup>

About seven in ten companies in Malta (74%) and Poland (71%), as well as in Spain and Hungary (both 68%) say this reason 'very much' explains their bad rating, compared to 28% in Estonia, 40% in Ireland and 41% in Lithuania. Companies in Lithuania (43%), Belgium (35%), as well as Greece and Cyprus (both 33%) are the most likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians 'somewhat' explains their rating, while those in Malta (10%), Poland (14%), Spain (17%) and Latvia (17%) are the least likely to say so.

Companies in Ireland (22%) 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 Portugal (1%), and in Bulgaria and Czechia (both 3%). A quarter of companies in Estonia (26%) say this reason does not 'at all' explain their rating. By contrast, very few say this in Hungary (0%) and Slovenia (2%).

**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: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)

<sup>11</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.

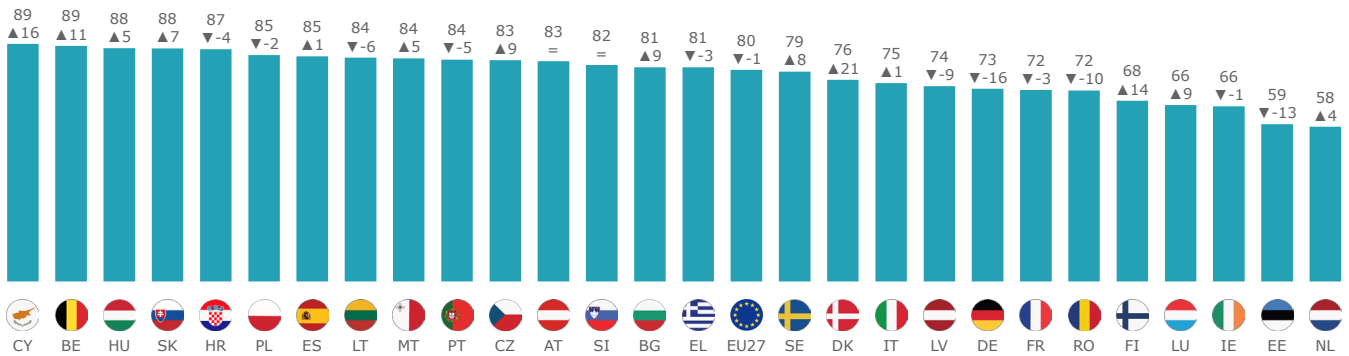
<sup>12</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes (<50): DK, FI, LU, NL and SE. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, IE, LT and MT.

Compared to January-February 2022, companies in Cyprus (+16 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.<sup>13</sup>

**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**

(% Total 'Explains')



Base: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

<sup>13</sup> Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

## b. Economic pressure

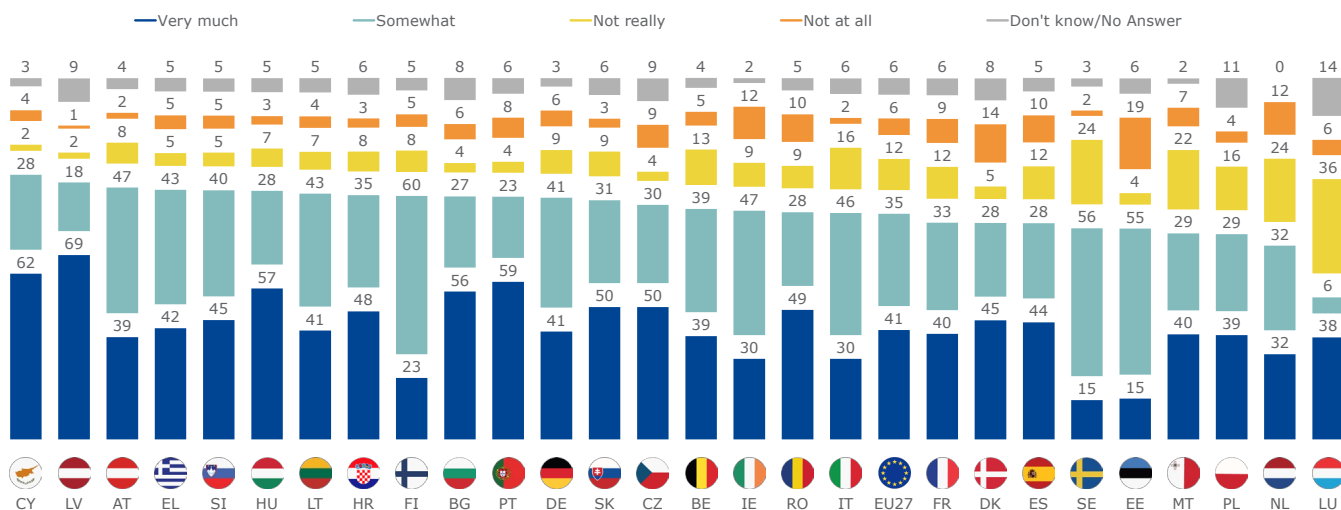
At least half of companies in each Member State say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country negatively, with proportions ranging from 68% in Poland to 91% in Cyprus.<sup>14</sup>

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 Latvia (69%), Cyprus (62%), Portugal (59%), Hungary (57%) and Bulgaria (56%). By contrast, less than two in ten companies say this in Estonia (15%). In Estonia, a majority of companies (55%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their rating; this response is also selected by nearly half of companies in Austria and Ireland (both 47%), as well as Italy (46%). Companies in Latvia (18%) and Portugal (23%) are the least likely to say this.

In Malta, 22% 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 2% say this in both Cyprus and Latvia. In Estonia, 19% say this reason does not explain their rating 'at all', compared to 1% of companies in Latvia and 2% in Austria and Italy.

**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: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)

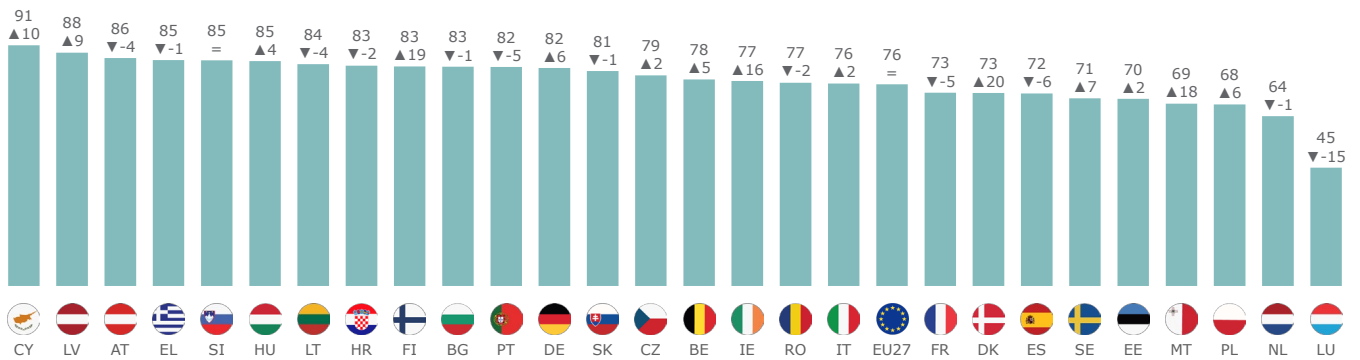
<sup>14</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes (<50): DK, FI, LU, NL and SE. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, IE, LT and MT.

Compared to January-February 2022, results across Member States have remained stable<sup>15</sup>.

**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**

(% Total 'Explains')



Base: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

<sup>15</sup> Difference observed in table Q2a.2 do not reach statistical significance; therefore, they are not discussed.

### c. Status and position of judges

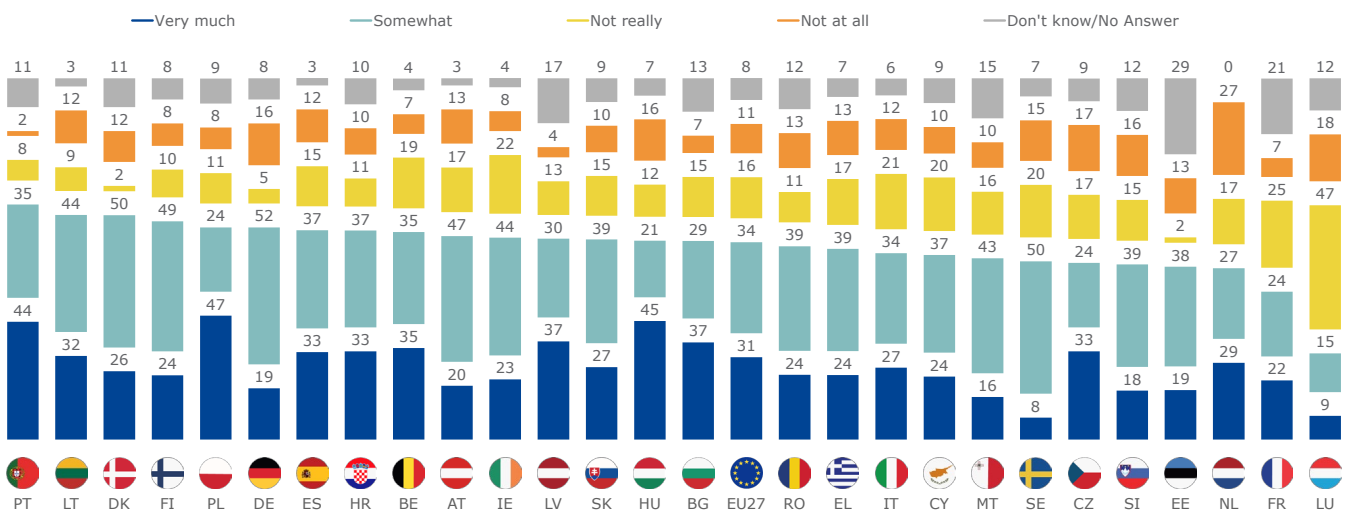
In 21 Member States, a majority of companies say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their negative rating of the justice system in their country. The proportion of companies holding this view ranges from 47% in France to 80% in Portugal.<sup>16,17</sup>

Companies in Poland (47%), Hungary (45%) and Portugal (44%) 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 Malta (16%), Slovenia (18%), and Estonia and Germany (both 19%) are the least likely to say so. About one in two companies in Germany (52%) and Austria (47%) say the status and position of judges 'somewhat' explains their negative rating of the independence of the national justice system, compared to 21% in Hungary and 24% in Czechia, France and Poland.

In France (25%), Ireland (22%), Italy (21%) and Cyprus (20%), at least two in ten 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, 2% of companies in Estonia and 5% in Germany 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 highest in Czechia (17%) and lowest in Portugal (2%).

**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 (%)**



Base: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)

<sup>16</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.

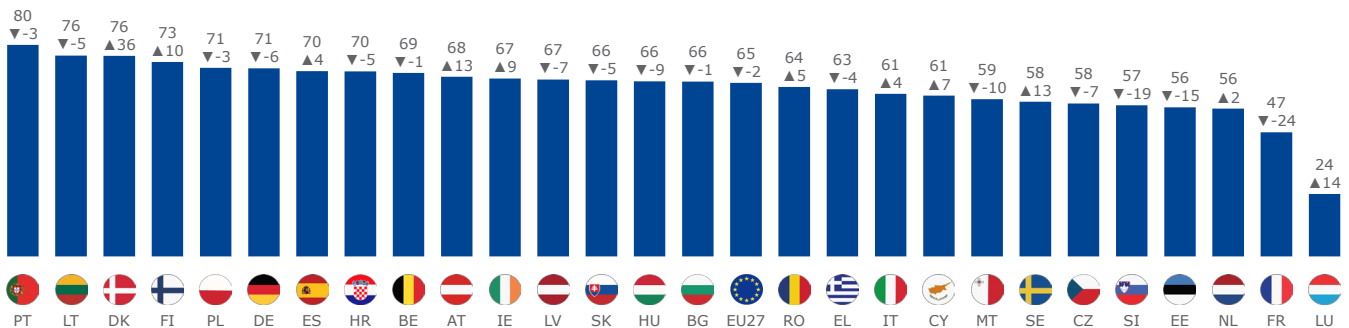
<sup>17</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes (<50): DK, FI, LU, NL and SE. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, IE, LT, and MT.

In two countries, there are significant changes compared to January-February 2022: companies in France (-24%) and Slovenia (-19 pp) are now less 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.<sup>18</sup> In France, this trend is due to the increase in the proportion of companies answering that they 'don't know' (+20 pp), while in Slovenia, the change relates to the rise in the share of companies saying that the status and position of judges explain their negative rating of the national justice system (+12 pp).

**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**

(% Total 'Explains')



Base: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022






#### d. Business demographics

The analysis of company characteristics shows the following:

- Companies in the service sector (68%) are more likely than companies in the manufacturing sector (59%) to say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their poor rating of the independence of the national justice system in their country. Companies in the service sector (82%) are also more likely than those in the industry sector (73%) to say that their negative rating of the national judicial system is explained by the interference or pressure from government and politicians.
- Companies involved in a dispute that went to court (73%) are more likely than those who did not (64%) to say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their poor rating of the independence of the national justice system in their country.

<sup>18</sup> Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

**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): (% by business demographics)

	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	65	26
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	80	16	76	18	66	26
10-49 employees	81	16	76	20	65	30
50-249 employees	82	13	72	22	68	22
250+ employees	77	15	71	23	69	22
 <b>Company turnover in 2020</b>						
Up to €100,000	81	15	79	14	63	28
€100,001-€500,000	81	16	77	19	66	27
€500,001-€2,000,000	80	16	73	22	70	22
More than €2,000,000	78	15	72	21	64	29
 <b>Sector of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	79	13	73	21	59	30
Retail	79	16	76	18	64	27
Services	82	14	78	18	68	24
Industry	73	23	73	16	65	29
 <b>Company age (establishment year)</b>						
Before 2017	80	16	77	18	65	27
Between 2021-2022	79	16	71	22	65	23
After 2022	83	4	74	24	72	15
 <b>Involved in a dispute which went to court</b>						
Yes	76	19	71	27	73	21
No	80	16	77	17	64	27

Base: companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=3 713)



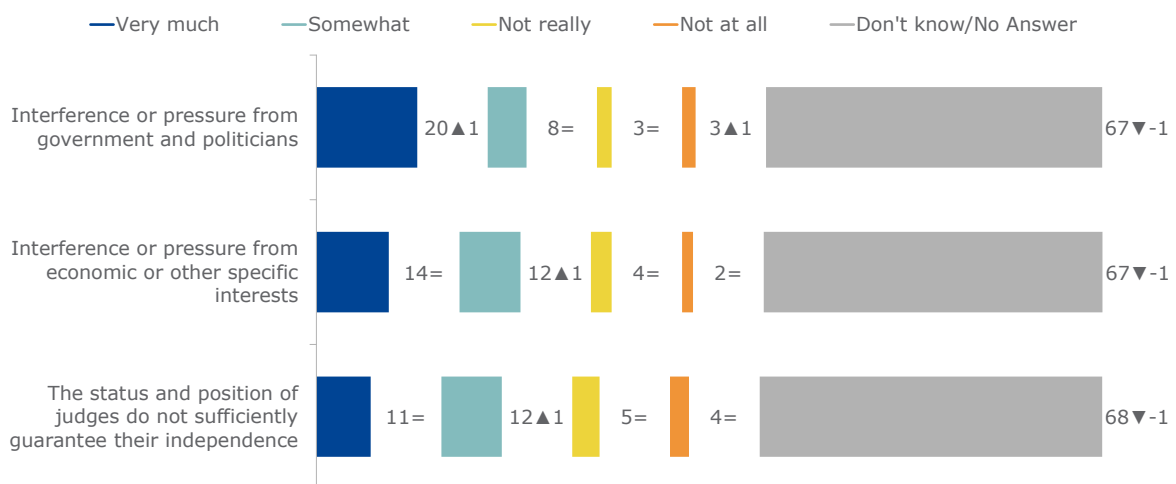
### e. Analysis based on all respondents

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 explained 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. In comparison, 26% 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 results have remained stable compared to January-February 2022.

**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)



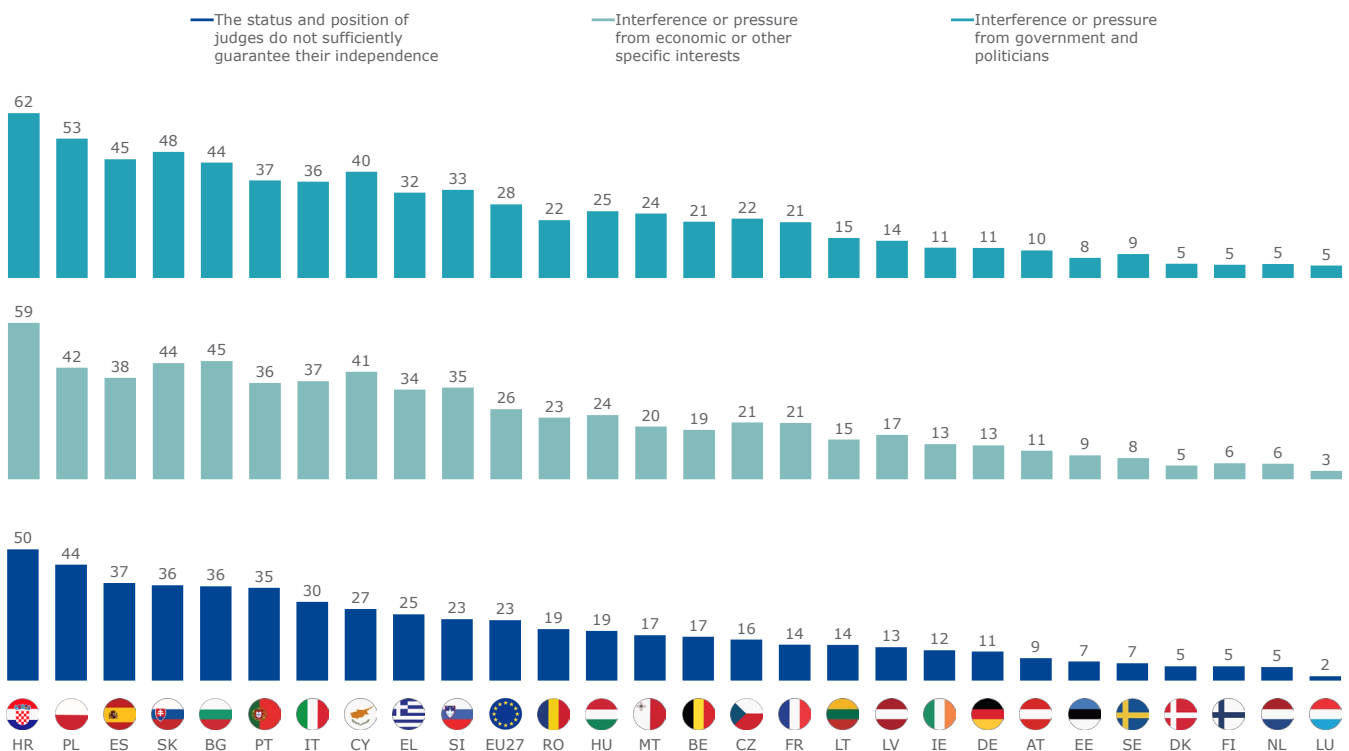
Base: all companies (n=13 040) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

The country results, based on all respondents, show that Croatia stands out with 62% of companies saying that interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. About one in two companies in Poland (53%) and Slovakia (48%) say the same. Companies in Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (all 5%) are the least likely to say this.

Croatia also stands out with 59% 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 (45%), Slovakia (44%), Poland (42%), and Cyprus (41%) say the same. In comparison, 3% of companies in Luxembourg and 5% in Denmark hold this view.

One in two companies in Croatia (50%) and more than four in ten companies in Poland (44%) 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 and 5% of companies in the Netherlands, Finland and Denmark say 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):  
(% Explains 'very much' + 'somewhat')



Base: all companies (n=13 040)

## Section 3. Investment protection

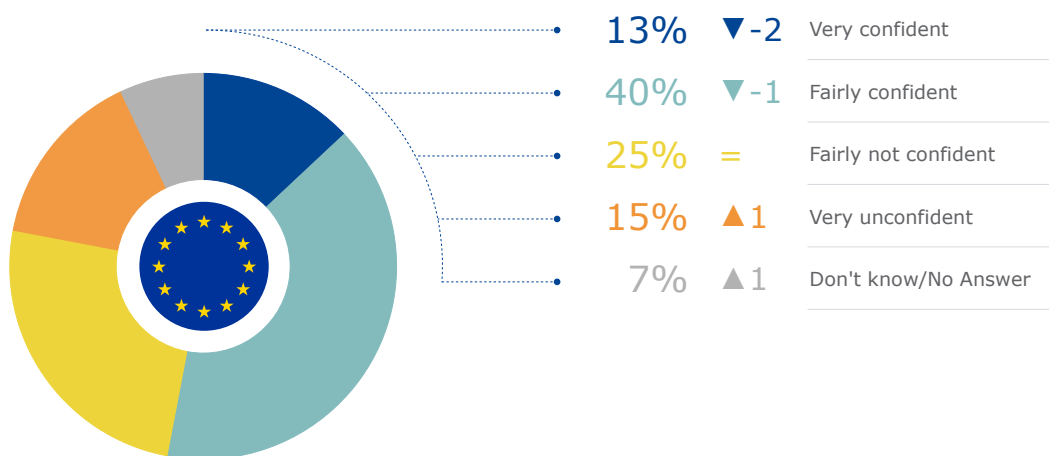
### 3.1. Confidence in investment protection

#### A slim majority of companies are confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts in their country

A slim 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: 13% 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%) of companies say they 'do not know'.

Compared to January-February 2022, the total share of companies saying they are confident that the law and courts in their country will protect their investments if something goes wrong decreased by three percentage points.

**Q3** To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in your country if something goes wrong? Would you say you are very confident, fairly confident, very unconfident or fairly unconfident? (% EU27)



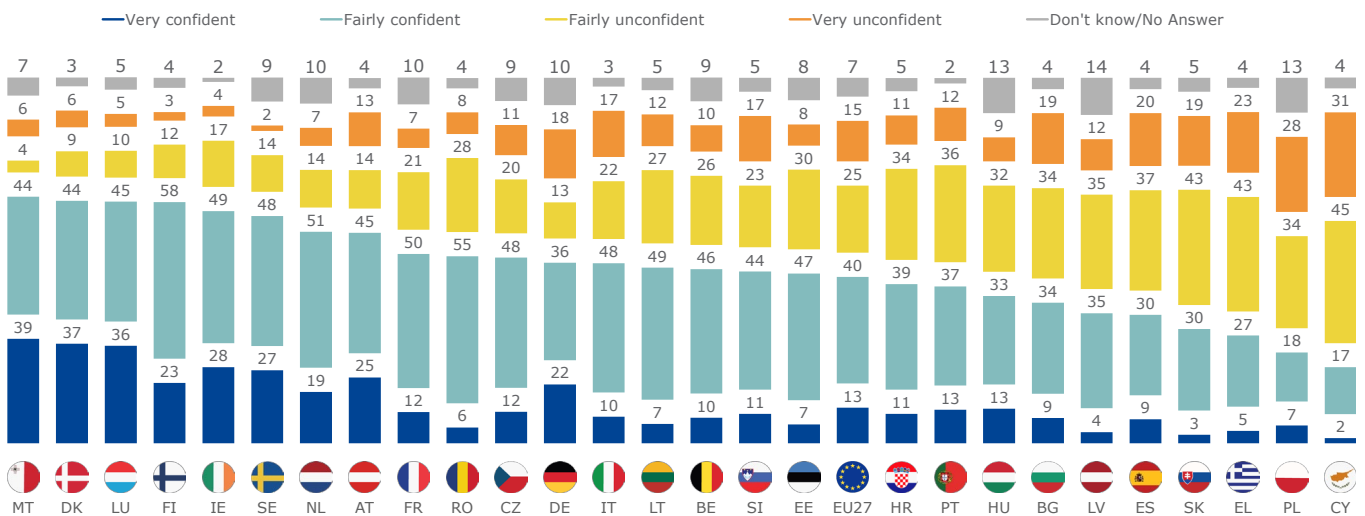
Base: all companies (n=13 040) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

In 18 Member States, at least 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 Malta (83%) and companies in Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg (all 81%) being the most likely to be confident. By contrast, 19% of companies in Cyprus and 25% in Poland feel confident about investment protection in their country.

In three countries – Malta (39%), Denmark (37%) and Luxembourg (36%) – more than one in three 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 Cyprus and 3% in Slovakia think the same.

The 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 Cyprus (77%),<sup>19</sup> followed by Greece (65%), Poland (62%) and Slovakia (61%). The proportion of companies saying they are 'very unconfident' is highest in Cyprus (31%) and Poland (28%).

**Q3** To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in your country if something goes wrong? Would you say you are very confident, fairly confident, very unconfident or fairly unconfident? (%)

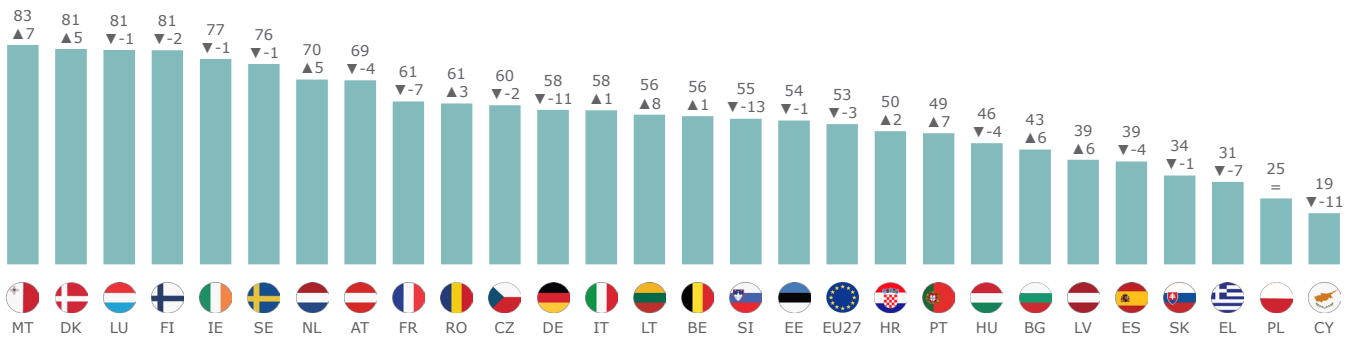


Base: all companies (n=13 040)

<sup>19</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.

Compared with January-February 2022, 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 Lithuania (+8 pp).<sup>20</sup> By contrast, the share of companies saying they are confident has decreased in Slovenia (-13 pp), Germany (-11 pp) and Cyprus (-11 pp).

**Q3** To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in your country if something goes wrong? Would you say you are very confident, fairly confident, very unconfident or fairly unconfident? (% **Total 'Confident'**)



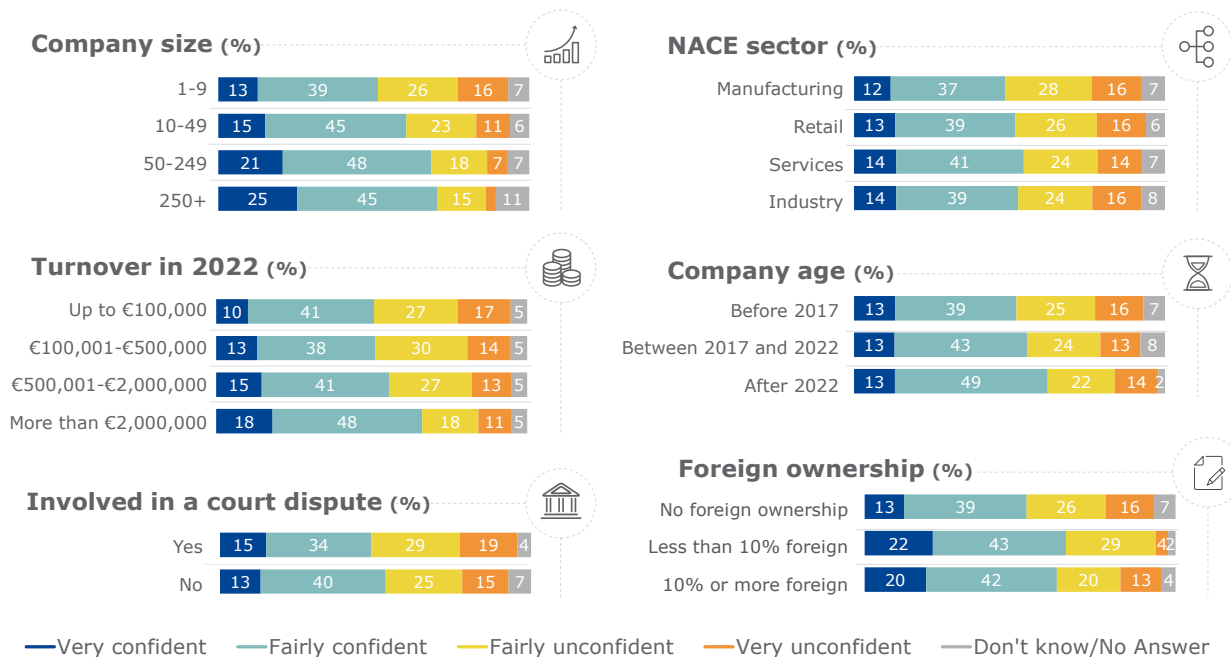
Base: all companies (n=13 040) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

<sup>20</sup> Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

The analysis of company characteristics shows the following:

- Large companies (250 employees or more) (71%) and medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employees) (69%) 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 (10 employees or less) (51%) and small companies (10 to 49 employees) (60%).
- Companies operating in the service sector (55%) are somewhat more likely than companies in the manufacturing sector (49%) 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 (66% vs 51%-56% among those with lower turnover values).
- Companies that are foreign-owned by at least 10% (62%) are more likely to be confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts in their country if something goes wrong, compared to those with no foreign ownership (52%).

**Q3** To what extent are you confident that your investments are protected by the law and courts in your country if something goes wrong? Would you say you are very confident, fairly confident, very unconfident or fairly unconfident? (% by business demographics)



Base: all companies (n=13 040)

### 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.

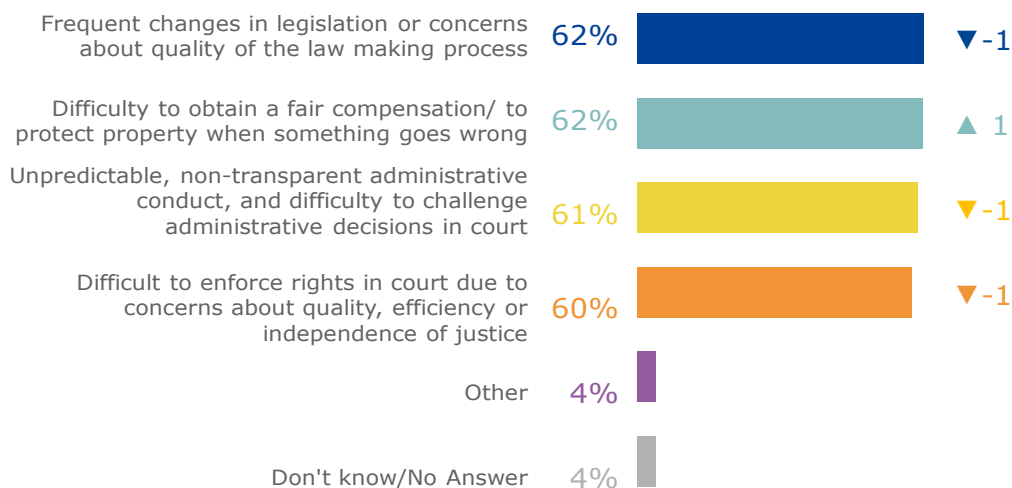
The main reasons for concern (as listed in the survey) are selected by about six in ten companies surveyed:

- frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process (62%);
- difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong (62%);
- unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court (61%); and
- difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice (60%).

Few companies (4%) *spontaneously* say that there is an 'other' 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-February 2022.

**Q4** What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection?  
(multiple answers possible)  
(% 'mentioned' EU27)



Base: companies not being confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts (n=4 438)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01-02/2022

At the country level, there is substantial variation in the prevalence with which companies not being confident about investment protection mention specific reasons for their concern about the effectiveness of investment protection.<sup>21</sup>

**'Frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process'** is the most often mentioned reason for concern in Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. In four countries, at least 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. This applies to Romania (91%), Greece (82%), Spain (81%) and Poland (80%). In contrast, this reason is mentioned by 28% of companies in Finland.

In Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, the **'difficulty to obtain a fair compensation/ to protect property when something goes wrong'** is the most frequently mentioned reason for companies' concern about the effectiveness of investment protection. Companies in Czechia and Romania (both 78%), as well as Spain (77%) and Belgium (76%), are overall the most likely to say that this reason explains their concern about investment protection. In comparison, companies in Austria (24%), Ireland (29%), as well as Bulgaria and Denmark (both 34%) are the least likely to mention this reason.

**'Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court'** is the most often mentioned reason for companies' concern about the effectiveness of investment protection in Ireland, Malta and Slovakia. The proportion of non-confident companies mentioning this reason ranges from 28% in Sweden to 80% in Slovakia and Spain.





























In Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Slovakia, the **'[difficulty in enforcing] rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency, or independence of justice'** is the most frequently mentioned reason for not being confident about investment protection. The proportion of companies not being confident citing this reason ranges from 39% in Estonia and the Netherlands to 80% in Slovakia and 84% in Spain.

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<sup>21</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.



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

		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	Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court	Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice	Other (spontaneous)	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		62	62	61	60	4	4
BE		58	76	64	50	7	4
BG		45	34	51	54	7	5
CZ		74	78	74	77	1	4
DK		49	34	41	38	27	0
DE		47	52	42	45	8	11
EE		33	47	36	40	12	9
IE		47	29	60	50	7	6
EL		82	71	64	65	2	3
ES		81	77	80	74	2	2
FR		46	52	43	40	6	1
HR		66	69	67	72	2	4
IT		43	51	53	59	2	1
CY		47	56	45	59	1	1
LV		60	47	58	45	1	8
LT		66	64	53	60	5	3
LU		41	50	46	46	5	5
HU		71	48	61	53	3	7
MT		43	66	68	65	7	4
NL		46	69	63	41	2	10
AT		47	24	48	52	5	4
PL		80	74	77	71	2	3
PT		40	47	53	56	7	7
RO		91	78	70	67	2	0
SI		60	53	42	51	7	3
SK		70	70	80	74	2	4
FI		28	55	54	30	3	10
SE		42	54	28	33	9	11







Most-frequently selected response is shown in **orange**

Base: companies not being confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts (n=4 460)

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:

- Large companies (with 250 employees or more) (80%) are more likely than micro companies (one to nine employees) (62%) to say that frequent changes in legislation or concerns about quality of the law-making process explain their concern about investment protection in their country.
- Companies in the retail sector (65%) are more likely than companies in the industry sector (65%) 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 established before 2017 (63%) are more likely than companies established between 2017 and 2022 (50%) 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 no foreign ownership are more likely to mention as explanation for their concern about investment protection the unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court (62% against 46% of those with at least 10% foreign ownership) and difficulty to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice (60% against 42% of those with at least 10% foreign ownership)

**Q4** What are your main reasons for concern about the effectiveness of investment protection?  
(multiple answers possible)  
(% 'mentioned' by business demographics)

	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	Unpredictable, non-transparent administrative conduct, and difficulty to challenge administrative decisions in court	Difficult to enforce rights in court due to concerns about quality, efficiency or independence of justice	Other (spontaneous)	Don't know/No Answer
EU27	62	62	61	60	4	4
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	62	63	62	60	4	4
10-49 employees	66	59	57	59	4	6
50-249 employees	68	59	57	63	4	4
250+ employees	80	67	73	43	2	2
 <b>Company turnover in 2020</b>						
Up to €100,000	59	60	62	61	3	5
€100,001-€500,000	70	71	67	60	4	2
€500,001-€2,000,000	68	62	60	60	3	3
More than €2,000,000	57	57	58	54	4	2
 <b>Sector of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	59	61	59	63	4	4
Retail	64	57	64	59	4	3
Services	64	64	64	60	4	5
Industry	57	65	57	57	5	5
 <b>Company age (establishment year)</b>						
Before 2015	63	63	63	61	4	4
Between 2015-2020	63	63	50	55	3	5
After 2020	68	49	36	47	23	3
 <b>Involved in a dispute which went to court</b>						
Yes	64	68	66	63	2	2
No	62	61	60	59	4	4
 <b>Foreign ownership</b>						
No foreign ownership	63	62	62	60	4	4
Less than 10% foreign	78	36	35	60	3	10
10% or more foreign	49	57	46	42	9	2

Base: companies not being confident that their investments are protected by the law and courts (n=4 075)





























## Technical specifications

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Between 16 January and 30 January 2023, Ipsos European Public affairs carried out Flash Eurobarometer 520 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 1 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.

		Number of interviews	Fieldwork dates	Universe (absolute number) <sup>1</sup>	% of EU27 universe
EU27		<b>13 040</b>	<b>16.01-30.01.2022</b>	<b>9 810 835</b>	<b>100%</b>
BE		550	16.01-27.01.2022	187 563	1.91%
BG		501	16.01-30.01.2022	162 257	1.65%
CZ		523	16.01-27.01.2022	222 413	2.27%
DK		502	16.01-27.01.2022	129 081	1.32%
DE		503	16.01-27.01.2022	1 716 583	17.50%
EE		501	16.01-27.01.2022	61 941	0.63%
IE		502	16.01-27.01.2022	129 401	1.32%
EL		501	16.01-27.01.2022	339 533	3.46%
ES		500	16.01-30.01.2022	1 347 780	13.74%
FR		500	16.01-27.01.2022	1 046 602	10.67%
HR		513	16.01-30.01.2022	113 745	1.16%
IT		539	16.01-30.01.2022	1 367 473	13.94%
CY		250	16.01-25.01.2022	40 802	0.42%
LV		504	16.01-30.01.2022	75 801	0.77%
LT		508	16.01-27.01.2022	75 678	0.77%
LU		255	16.01-27.01.2022	21 364	0.22%
HU		500	16.01-30.01.2022	231 988	2.36%
MT		256	16.01-27.01.2022	11 794	0.12%
NL		512	16.01-27.01.2022	244 221	2.49%
AT		522	16.01-30.01.2022	195 379	1.99%
PL		556	16.01-27.01.2022	726 264	7.40%
PT		521	16.01-30.01.2022	337 936	3.44%
RO		500	16.01-26.01.2022	422 370	4.31%
SI		509	16.01-26.01.2022	66 824	0.68%
SK		502	17.01-27.01.2022	120 218	1.23%
FI		502	16.01-30.01.2022	139 401	1.42%
SE		508	16.01-30.01.2022	276 423	2.82%

Note (1): Universe calculations based on Eurostat Enterprise Statistics and Business Demography, 2019

## 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.

The maximum margin of sampling error when comparing individual country results between surveys is  $\pm 8.8$  percentage points for countries with a sample size of 500 and  $\pm 6.2$  percentage points for countries with a sample size of 1 000.

### 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	$\pm 6.0$	$\pm 8.3$	$\pm 12.0$	$\pm 13.9$	$\pm 12.0$	$\pm 8.3$	$\pm 6.0$
n=100	$\pm 4.3$	$\pm 5.9$	$\pm 8.5$	$\pm 9.8$	$\pm 8.5$	$\pm 5.9$	$\pm 4.3$
n=200	$\pm 3.0$	$\pm 4.2$	$\pm 6.0$	$\pm 6.9$	$\pm 6.0$	$\pm 4.2$	$\pm 3.0$
n=500	$\pm 1.9$	$\pm 2.6$	$\pm 3.8$	$\pm 4.4$	$\pm 3.8$	$\pm 2.6$	$\pm 1.9$
n=1000	$\pm 1.4$	$\pm 1.9$	$\pm 2.7$	$\pm 3.1$	$\pm 2.7$	$\pm 1.9$	$\pm 1.4$
n=1500	$\pm 1.1$	$\pm 1.5$	$\pm 2.2$	$\pm 2.5$	$\pm 2.2$	$\pm 1.5$	$\pm 1.1$
n=2000	$\pm 1.0$	$\pm 1.3$	$\pm 1.9$	$\pm 2.2$	$\pm 1.9$	$\pm 1.3$	$\pm 1.0$

## Questionnaire

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ASK ALL

**D4 In the last two years, has your company 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

*FL504 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

*FL490 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

*FL504 Q2a*

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

FL504 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

FL504

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


FL504



## **Data annex**

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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=	89▼-1	1=
BE 	14=	84=	3=
BG 	9▼-4	90▲6	1▼-2
CZ 	8=	91▼-1	0=
DK 	11=	88▼-1	1▲1
DE 	14▼-1	83▼-2	4▲2
EE 	9=	91=	0▼-1
IE 	2▼-1	97▲2	1▼-1
EL 	12▼-1	88▲1	0=
ES 	8▼-1	92▲2	0▼-1
FR 	10▼-2	89▲1	2▲1
HR 	13▼-1	85▲1	2=
IT 	5▲1	95▼-1	0▼-1
CY 	7▼-13	91▲14	2▼-1
LV 	6=	94=	0=
LT 	13▲3	87▼-3	0=
LU 	8▼-4	84▲3	8▲1
HU 	7▼-1	92▲1	1=
MT 	23▲8	76▼-7	1▼-1
NL 	13▲7	87▼-7	1▼-1
AT 	13▲5	86▼-5	1=
PL 	19▲6	81▼-6	0=
PT 	19▲7	81▼-7	1=
RO 	8▼-1	92▲1	0=
SI 	7▼-4	92▲3	1▲1
SK 	6▼-2	94▲2	0=
FI 	5▼-3	95▲3	0=
SE 	5▼-1	95▲1	1=

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=13 040 - All companies

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

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▼-2	40▼-1	23▲2	12▼-1	16▲1
BE		11▲4	48▼-9	19▲4	5▲1	17=
BG		5▲2	27▲3	33▼-3	21▲3	14▼-5
CZ		7=	53▲5	19▼-2	8▲2	13▼-4
DK		46▲1	39▼-3	5▼-1	3▲1	8▲2
DE		18▼-11	53▲5	11▲3	5▲1	14▲2
EE		15▲6	45▲6	8▼-2	4▲1	28▼-11
IE		34▲3	38▼-8	13▲4	4▼-1	11▲2
EL		10▲1	44▼-6	22▲1	17▲4	6▲1
ES		3=	31▼-7	37▲4	16▼-3	14▲5
FR		5▼-1	42▼-14	20▲3	9▲2	24▲9
HR		4▼-2	14▼-3	39▲3	32▼-5	11▲7
IT		3▼-1	37=	35▲2	14▼-3	12▲2
CY		4▼-4	40▲3	27▲5	18▲1	11▼-5
LV		2▼-1	40▲16	12▼-9	7=	38▼-7
LT		4=	60▲2	13▼-5	5▼-2	18▲5
LU		17▼-4	58▲2	4▲2	3▲2	19▼-2
HU		4▼-2	28=	19▲1	10▼-1	39▲2
MT		14▲1	52▼-4	15=	14▲5	6▼-2
NL		27▼-1	45=	5▼-3	4▲2	19▲1
AT		23▲1	57▲1	9▼-3	4=	8▲1
PL		2=	14▼-3	27▲3	35▼-1	22▲1
PT		6▲2	39▲4	34▲5	10▼-6	11▼-5
RO		7▲2	49▲5	21▲2	9▼-4	13▼-5
SI		3=	37▼-9	23▼-1	18▲2	19▲8
SK		2▲1	29▲1	36▼-3	18▼-2	15▲3
FI		33▼-4	55▲4	7=	1▼-2	5▲2
SE		32▼-1	38▲1	8=	3=	18▲1

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

Note: Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results of this question due to very low base sizes across countries

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		57▲1	22▼-2	8▼-1	8▲2	4▲1
BE		54▲2	35▲9	6▼-7	5▼-1	0▼-3
BG		55▲6	26▲3	3▼-8	10▲2	7▼-4
CZ		56▲14	28▼-5	3▼-8	10▲2	4▼-3
DK		46▲24	30▼-4	0▼-11	17▼-12	8▲2
DE		54▼-5	19▼-11	9▲1	12▲10	6▲6
EE		28▼-11	32▼-1	4▼-8	26▲24	10▼-4
IE		40▲5	26▼-6	22▲1	10▲2	2▼-1
EL		47▼-3	33=	9▼-2	7▲4	4▲1
ES		68▼-1	17▲2	6▼-1	8▲2	2▼-2
FR		44=	29▼-3	11▼-8	12▲8	5▲3
HR		63▼-5	25▲1	4=	5▲2	4▲2
IT		48▲7	27▼-7	16▼-1	6=	4=
CY		56▼-5	33▲21	4▼-5	4▼-5	3▼-6
LV		57▼-9	17=	6▲1	9▲2	11▲6
LT		41▼-15	43▲9	7▲1	7▲5	1=
LU		52▼-1	15▲9	19▲10	8▼-2	6▼-17
HU		68▲5	20▲1	9▲5	0▼-8	2▼-3
MT		74▲12	10▼-7	9▲1	4▼-2	3▼-4
NL		35▼-4	24▲8	16▼-2	26▼-2	0=
AT		64▼-1	19▲1	3▼-4	13▲5	1▼-1
PL		71▼-5	14▲3	4▲2	5▼-1	6▲1
PT		65▼-2	19▼-4	1▼-3	4▲1	12▲6
RO		52=	20▼-10	7▲4	14▲3	7▲3
SI		63▲11	19▼-11	8=	2▼-7	8▲7
SK		61▲4	27▲3	5▼-3	5▼-3	2▼-1
FI		31▲8	38▲7	8▼-5	24▼-2	0▼-8
SE		33▼-7	46▲15	11▲2	2▼-4	8▼-6

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) n=3 713 - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad / ▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

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





























*Note: Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results of this question due to very low base sizes across countries*

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		41▼-2	35▲2	12▼-1	6=	6▲1
BE		39▲5	39=	13▼-1	5▼-3	4▼-1
BG		56▲2	27▼-3	4▼-1	6▲1	8▲1
CZ		50▼-1	30▲2	4▼-2	9=	9=
DK		45▲31	28▼-12	5▼-14	14▼-8	8▲3
DE		41▼-15	41▲21	9▼-3	6▲3	3▼-6
EE		15▼-18	55▲20	4▼-4	19▲15	6▼-14
IE		30▼-2	47▲18	9▼-9	12▲2	2▼-9
EL		42▼-15	43▲14	5▼-5	5▲3	5▲3
ES		44▼-12	28▲6	12▲3	10▲4	5▼-1
FR		40▲3	33▼-8	12▼-4	9▲4	6▲5
HR		48▼-2	35=	8▼-1	3=	6▲3
IT		30▲2	46=	16▼-2	2▼-3	6▲3
CY		62▲3	28▲7	2=	4▼-9	3▼-1
LV		69▲16	18▼-7	2▼-4	1▼-5	9▼-1
LT		41▲2	43▼-7	7▲6	4=	5▼-2
LU		38▲1	6▼-16	36▲18	6▼-5	14▲2
HU		57▲8	28▼-4	7=	3▼-4	5=
MT		40▲16	29▲2	22▼-12	7▼-7	2▲2
NL		32▲3	32▼-4	24▲3	12▼-2	0=
AT		39▼-15	47▲11	8▲1	2▲1	4▲2
PL		39▲8	29▼-2	16▼-6	4▼-1	11▲2
PT		59▼-1	23▼-4	4▲1	8▲4	6=
RO		49▲1	28▼-3	9▼-2	10▲2	5▲3
SI		45▼-5	40▲5	5=	5▼-2	5▲2
SK		50▼-3	31▲2	9▲3	3▼-5	6▲3
FI		23=	60▲19	8▼-3	5▼-8	5▼-8
SE		15▼-10	56▲17	24▲11	2▼-13	3▼-6

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) n=3 713 - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad / ▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

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

*Note: Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results of this question due to very low base sizes across countries*









		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		31▼-3	34▲1	16▼-1	11=	8▲3
BE		35▲9	35▼-10	19=	7▲3	4▼-2
BG		37=	29▼-1	15▲1	7▼-2	13▲2
CZ		33▲9	24▼-16	17▲11	17▼-4	9=
DK		26▲3	50▲33	2▼-20	12▼-13	11▼-3
DE		19▼-23	52▲17	5▼-9	16▲10	8▲4
EE		19▼-8	38▼-7	2▼-6	13▲3	29▲18
IE		23▼-4	44▲13	22▼-1	8▼-4	4▼-3
EL		24▼-4	39=	17=	13▲1	7▲3
ES		33▼-3	37▲7	15▼-2	12▲1	3▼-3
FR		22▼-13	24▼-11	25▲8	7▼-4	21▲20
HR		33=	37▼-5	11▼-1	10▲2	10▲4
IT		27▲7	34▼-3	21▼-7	12=	6▲3
CY		24▼-3	37▲10	20▲7	10▼-15	9▲1
LV		37▼-4	30▼-3	13▲1	4▼-1	17▲6
LT		32=	44▼-4	9▲3	12▲4	3▼-2
LU		9▲9	15▲5	47▲22	18▼-5	12▼-31
HU		45▼-9	21▼-1	12=	16▲8	7▲2
MT		16▼-8	43▼-2	16▼-2	10▲3	15▲10
NL		29▼-10	27▲11	17▼-1	27=	0=
AT		20▼-1	47▲14	17▼-12	13=	3▼-1
PL		47▼-2	24▼-1	11▲1	8▲1	9▲2
PT		44▲10	35▼-13	8▲1	2▼-2	11▲4
RO		24▼-3	39▲8	11▼-3	13▼-6	12▲3
SI		18▼-18	39▼-1	15▲11	16▲1	12▲7
SK		27▼-4	39▼-2	15▲3	10=	9▲2
FI		24▼-9	49▲18	10▼-3	8▼-8	8▲1
SE		8▼-7	50▲20	20▲3	15▼-2	7▼-14

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) n=3 713 - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad / ▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

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▲1	8=	3=	3▲1	67▼-1
BE		13▲3	8▲3	1▼-1	1=	76▼-5
BG		30▲3	14▲2	2▼-4	5▲1	50▼-2
CZ		15▲4	7▼-2	1▼-2	3=	74=
DK		3▲2	2=	0▼-1	1▼-1	93▲1
DE		8▲2	3▼-1	1=	2▲2	85▼-3
EE		4▼-2	4▼-1	1▼-1	3▲3	89▲1
IE		7▲2	5=	4▲1	2▲1	83▼-3
EL		19▲1	13▲2	4=	3▲2	62▼-4
ES		36▲1	9▲1	3▼-1	4▲1	48▼-3
FR		13▲2	8▲1	3▼-1	3▲3	72▼-4
HR		45▼-5	18=	3=	4▲1	32▲3
IT		23▲3	13▼-4	8▼-1	3=	53▲1
CY		25▲2	15▲10	2▼-2	2▼-2	57▼-8
LV		11▼-8	3▼-2	1=	2=	83▲9
LT		7▼-7	8▼-1	1=	1▲1	82▲7
LU		4▲2	1▲1	1▲1	1=	93▼-4
HU		19▲2	6=	3▲2	0▼-2	72▼-1
MT		21▲7	3▼-1	3▲1	1=	72▼-6
NL		3▼-1	2▲1	2=	2=	91▲1
AT		8▼-2	2=	0▼-1	2=	88▲3
PL		44▼-1	9▲2	2▲1	3▼-1	42▼-2
PT		29▼-1	8▼-2	1▼-1	2▲1	61▲4
RO		16▼-1	6▼-4	2▲1	4▲1	72▲3
SI		26▲5	8▼-4	3=	1▼-3	63▲2
SK		33▼-1	14▲1	3▼-2	3▼-2	47▲4
FI		2=	3=	1▼-1	2▼-1	93▲2
SE		4▼-1	5▲2	1=	0▼-1	90=

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		14=	12▲1	4=	2=	67▼-1
BE		9▲3	9▲2	3▲1	1=	77▼-5
BG		30▲1	15▼-2	2▼-1	3▲1	51▲1
CZ		13▼-1	8▲1	1▼-1	2=	75▲1
DK		3▲2	2▼-1	0▼-1	1▼-1	93▲1
DE		6=	6▲4	1=	1▲1	85▼-5
EE		2▼-3	7▲2	1▼-1	3▲2	88▼-1
IE		5▲1	8▲4	2▼-1	2▲1	83▼-4
EL		17▼-3	17▲7	2▼-2	2▲1	62▼-3
ES		23▼-5	15▲4	7▲2	5▲2	50▼-2
FR		12▲3	10=	4=	3▲2	73▼-4
HR		34▼-2	25▼-1	5▼-1	2=	33▲4
IT		15▲1	22=	8▼-1	1▼-2	54▲2
CY		28▲5	13▲5	1=	2▼-3	57▼-6
LV		13▼-2	4▼-3	0▼-1	0▼-2	83▲8
LT		7▼-3	8▼-5	1▲1	1=	83▲7
LU		3▲2	0=	3▲2	0=	94▼-3
HU		16▲3	8▼-1	2=	1▼-1	73=
MT		12▲6	8▲2	7▼-2	2▼-1	72▼-5
NL		3=	3▼-1	2=	1=	91▲1
AT		5▼-3	6=	1=	0=	88▲3
PL		24▲6	18▼-1	10▼-3	3▼-1	45▼-1
PT		26▼-1	10▼-2	2=	3▲2	59▲1
RO		15▼-1	8▼-2	3▼-1	3=	71▲3
SI		18▼-2	16▲3	2=	2▼-1	61=
SK		27▼-4	17=	5▲1	2▼-3	49▲6
FI		2▼-1	4=	1=	0▼-1	93▲2
SE		2▼-1	6▲2	3▲1	0▼-2	89=



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=	12▲1	5=	4=	68▼-1
BE		8▲3	8=	5▲1	2▲1	77▼-5
BG		20=	16=	8▲1	4▼-1	53▲1
CZ		9▲2	7▼-5	5▲3	5▼-1	75▲1
DK		2=	4▲2	0▼-2	1▼-1	94=
DE		3▼-2	8▲4	1▼-1	2▲2	86▼-3
EE		2▼-1	5▼-1	0▼-1	2=	91▲3
IE		4=	8▲3	4▲1	1=	83▼-3
EL		10=	15▲2	7▲1	5▲1	63▼-3
ES		17▼-1	20▲4	8▼-1	7=	49▼-3
FR		7▼-2	7▼-1	7▲3	2▼-1	77▲1
HR		24▼-1	26▼-4	8▼-1	7▲1	36▲5
IT		13▲3	17▼-2	10▼-4	6=	55▲2
CY		11=	16▲6	9▲4	5▼-5	60▼-5
LV		7▼-4	6▼-3	2▼-1	1▼-1	84▲9
LT		6▼-3	8▼-4	2=	2=	83▲7
LU		1▲1	1▲1	3▲3	1▲1	94▼-4
HU		13▼-2	6=	4=	4▲2	73=
MT		5▼-1	13▲2	5=	3▲1	75▼-2
NL		3▼-1	2▲1	2=	3=	91▲1
AT		3▼-1	6▲1	2▼-2	2=	88▲3
PL		29=	15=	7▲1	5▲1	44▼-1
PT		20▲4	16▼-6	3=	1▼-1	61▲2
RO		7▼-1	12▲2	4▼-1	4▼-2	73▲3
SI		8▼-7	16=	6▲5	6▲1	64▲2
SK		15▼-3	21▼-3	8▲1	5▼-1	51▲6
FI		2▼-1	4▲1	1▼-1	1▼-1	93▲2
SE		1▼-1	6▲2	2=	2=	89▼-1

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		22▼-1	40=	17▼-1	14▼-1	7▲2
BE		22▲2	38▼-2	25▲6	14▼-3	2▼-3
BG		18▼-8	32▲1	15▼-1	19▲2	16▲6
CZ		11▼-10	50▲8	11▼-6	21▲7	7=
DK		38▲11	35▼-12	13▼-3	10▲2	5▲1
DE		26▼-1	33▼-11	9▼-3	19▲6	13▲9
EE		35▲6	31=	13▼-1	12▼-2	9▼-3
IE		25▲3	47▲4	16▲1	9▼-8	2=
EL		11=	35▼-10	41▲10	11▲4	2▼-3
ES		17▼-10	51▲19	15▼-6	15▼-3	2=
FR		14▼-3	49▲6	24▼-2	8▼-2	6=
HR		25▲14	41▼-4	14▼-2	16▼-7	4▼-1
IT		16▲2	44▲1	31▲2	6▼-6	3▲2
CY		22▲2	46▼-3	12▼-2	17▲3	4=
LV		23▲6	34▼-6	18▲4	7▼-12	19▲9
LT		18▼-1	42▲3	15▼-3	21▲2	4▼-1
LU		12▲3	28▼-9	16=	35▲4	9▲2
HU		24▲6	40▲11	11▼-5	15▼-8	11▼-4
MT		17=	47▼-5	16▲4	15▼-1	5▲3
NL		25▼-4	44▲4	12=	16▲2	3▼-1
AT		25▲3	44=	12▲5	16▼-5	3▼-2
PL		25▲4	32▲3	10▼-13	15▲5	19▲2
PT		27=	41▲3	15▼-3	17=	0=
RO		21▼-5	38▲3	22▲11	13▼-7	6▼-3
SI		22▼-8	53▲10	12▲5	6▼-10	8▲4
SK		12▼-10	41▼-2	18▲4	21▲7	7▲2
FI		28▲3	36▼-2	19▲2	13▼-4	4▲2
SE		32▲7	36▲2	15▲3	10▼-12	7▲1

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=7 293 - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good / ▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

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		20▼-2	43▲2	16▼-1	13▼-1	8▲2
BE		22▲4	34▼-6	26▲4	16▲2	2▼-4
BG		18▼-11	27▼-6	15▲2	18▲2	21▲14
CZ		14▼-2	47=	11▼-2	18▲2	9▲1
DK		48▲2	27▼-2	7▼-3	10=	9▲3
DE		21▼-6	37▼-6	11▼-1	18▲4	14▲10
EE		35▲9	35▲3	12▼-3	9▼-1	9▼-7
IE		28▲4	40▲5	19▼-5	11▼-2	3▼-2
EL		10▼-1	44▼-2	38▲9	7▼-2	1▼-5
ES		10▼-6	50▲10	22▼-1	14▼-2	4▼-2
FR		16▼-4	58▲7	16▲1	5▼-3	5▼-1
HR		12▲7	57▲1	13▼-1	14▼-3	4▼-4
IT		20=	44▲8	23▼-5	4▼-6	9▲2
CY		11▼-11	59▲13	7▼-2	16▲3	8▼-3
LV		22▲5	40▼-2	17▲2	7▼-4	14▼-1
LT		18▲7	43▼-5	15▼-2	17▼-2	7▲2
LU		11=	31▼-4	14▲5	36▲2	8▼-2
HU		27▲9	42▲9	14▼-5	8▼-11	9▼-2
MT		20▼-1	41▲1	20▼-2	12▼-2	7▲4
NL		21▼-4	44▲6	16▲1	16▼-3	4=
AT		24▲4	50▲4	11▼-2	11▼-5	3▼-1
PL		27▼-6	28=	14▼-2	15▲8	17=
PT		24▲4	44=	12▲4	16▼-8	5=
RO		14▼-1	53▲8	11▼-3	15=	7▼-4
SI		13▼-3	53▲1	18▲6	8▼-5	8▲2
SK		14▲4	45▼-9	13=	19▲2	8▲3
FI		26▼-2	38▲3	18▼-1	14▼-1	4▲1
SE		37▲11	29▲1	10=	16▼-10	9▼-1






Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=7 293 - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good / ▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

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▼-2	42▲2	9=	5=	7▲1
BE		34▲2	40▼-7	17▲3	8▲4	2▼-3
BG		23▼-2	36=	14▼-7	9=	19▲10
CZ		37=	35▼-7	10▲2	10▲3	9▲1
DK		55▲4	28▼-8	3▼-3	6▲4	8▲3
DE		48▼-7	30▲4	6▼-4	3▼-1	13▲7
EE		47▼-11	34▲8	6▲3	6▲3	7▼-4
IE		46▲9	43▼-5	7▼-2	2▼-1	3=
EL		17▲2	57▼-13	20▲11	3▲2	3▼-1
ES		28▼-11	48▲12	14▲1	6=	4▼-2
FR		28▼-9	59▲9	7▲2	0▼-1	6▼-1
HR		12▲1	55▼-6	16▲5	9▲3	9▼-3
IT		25▲4	59▼-2	12▲2	4▼-1	1▼-3
CY		25▼-1	52▼-7	8▲7	4▼-3	11▲4
LV		30▲5	36▼-6	13▼-5	3▼-2	18▲8
LT		24▲7	44▼-5	11▼-4	14▲3	8▼-2
LU		27▲2	54▲6	4▼-1	4▼-6	10▼-1
HU		32▲1	43▲3	11▲4	3▲1	11▼-8
MT		39▲1	34▼-4	16▲4	5▼-2	7▲1
NL		55▲7	34▼-3	4▼-4	6=	2▼-1
AT		42▼-2	40▲4	7▼-5	8▲4	4▼-1
PL		35▼-4	38▲5	6▼-5	3▼-1	18▲5
PT		26▲7	29=	16▼-3	27▲4	2▼-9
RO		30=	49▲5	7▼-3	5▼-1	10▼-1
SI		25▲4	47▼-9	11▲1	7▲2	10▲3
SK		26▲11	51▼-2	13▼-7	5▼-2	5=
FI		45▼-7	37=	9▲3	6▲2	5▲2
SE		43▼-4	34▲5	9▲5	4▼-4	10▼-1

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=7 293 - Companies rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good / ▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

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		11▼-1	20▼-1	9▼-1	7▼-1	54▲4
BE		13=	22▼-3	15▲3	8▼-2	42▲2
BG		6▼-2	10▲2	5=	6▲2	73▼-2
CZ		7▼-5	30▲7	7▼-3	12▲5	44▼-4
DK		32▲9	29▼-11	11▼-2	8▲2	19▲3
DE		18▼-2	23▼-10	7▼-3	14▲3	39▲12
EE		21▲7	18▲4	8▲1	7▲1	46▼-12
IE		18▲1	34=	12=	6▼-7	29▲5
EL		6▼-1	19▼-8	22▲4	6▲2	47▲3
ES		6▼-5	17▲4	5▼-4	5▼-2	67▲7
FR		7▼-4	23▼-3	11▼-4	4▼-3	56▲14
HR		5▲2	8▼-3	3▼-1	3▼-2	83▲4
IT		6▲1	17=	12=	2▼-3	62▲2
CY		10=	20▼-2	5▼-1	7▲1	58▲1
LV		10▲5	14▲4	8▲4	3▼-2	65▼-11
LT		12=	27▲3	10▼-2	13▲2	39▼-3
LU		9▲2	21▼-7	12=	26▲2	32▲3
HU		8▲2	13▲3	3▼-2	5▼-3	71▲1
MT		11▼-1	31▼-5	11▲2	10▼-1	38▲5
NL		18▼-3	31▲3	9=	12▲1	31▼-1
AT		20▲3	35▲1	10▲4	13▼-4	22▼-4
PL		4=	5=	2▼-3	3▲1	87▲3
PT		12▲1	19▲4	7=	8▲1	55▼-6
RO		12▼-1	22▲4	12▲7	7▼-2	47▼-8
SI		9▼-6	21=	5▲1	2▼-6	63▲10
SK		4▼-3	13=	6▲1	7▲2	71▼-1
FI		25▲3	32▼-2	17▲2	11▼-4	16▲1
SE		23▲5	25▲1	10▲2	7▼-9	35=

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▼-2	21=	8▼-1	6▼-1	55▲4
BE		13▲2	20▼-5	15▲1	10▲1	43▲2
BG		6▼-2	9▼-1	5▲1	6▲1	75=
CZ		9=	28▲2	7=	11▲2	46▼-4
DK		41▲1	23▼-2	6▼-3	8=	22▲5
DE		15▼-6	26▼-7	8▼-1	12▲2	39▲13
EE		21▲9	21▲6	7=	5=	46▼-14
IE		20▲2	29▲1	13▼-5	8▼-2	30▲4
EL		6▼-1	24▼-3	21▲4	4▼-1	46▲2
ES		3▼-3	17▲1	7▼-2	5▼-2	68▲6
FR		7▼-5	27▼-4	7▼-2	3▼-3	56▲13
HR		2▲1	10▼-3	2▼-1	3▼-2	83▲4
IT		8=	17▲3	9▼-2	1▼-2	64▲2
CY		5▼-5	26▲5	3▼-1	7▲1	59=
LV		10▲5	17▲6	7▲3	3=	64▼-14
LT		12▲5	28▼-2	10▼-1	11▼-1	41▼-1
LU		8=	23▼-4	11▲4	27=	32=
HU		9▲2	13▲2	4▼-2	3▼-4	71▲2
MT		13▼-1	26▼-1	13▼-2	8▼-2	39▲6
NL		15▼-3	31▲4	11=	11▼-2	31▲1
AT		19▲4	40▲4	9▼-1	9▼-4	23▼-3
PL		5▼-2	5▼-1	2▼-1	2▲1	86▲2
PT		11▲3	20▲3	5▲2	7▼-2	57▼-5
RO		8=	30▲8	6▼-1	8▲1	48▼-9
SI		5▼-3	21▼-4	7▲1	3▼-3	63▲9
SK		5▲1	14▼-2	4=	6▲1	71▼-1
FI		23▼-2	34▲3	15▼-1	12▼-1	16=
SE		26▲8	20=	7=	11▼-7	36▼-1

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▼-2	21▼-1	5=	3=	54▲3
BE		20=	24▼-6	10▲1	5▲3	42▲3
BG		7=	12▲1	4▼-1	3=	74▼-1
CZ		22▲2	21▼-2	6▲2	6▲2	45▼-4
DK		47▲3	24▼-8	3▼-2	5▲4	22▲4
DE		34▼-8	21▲1	4▼-3	2▼-1	38▲11
EE		28▲1	20▲8	3▲2	3▲2	45▼-13
IE		33▲5	31▼-6	5▼-2	2▼-1	30▲5
EL		9=	31▼-11	11▲5	2▲1	47▲4
ES		9▼-6	16▲1	5▼-1	2▼-1	68▲6
FR		13▼-9	27▼-3	3=	0▼-1	56▲13
HR		2=	10▼-4	3=	2=	84▲4
IT		10▲1	23▼-2	5▲1	1▼-1	61=
CY		11▼-1	23▼-4	4▲3	2▼-2	61▲3
LV		13▲6	15▲4	5▲1	1=	65▼-11
LT		16▲5	28▼-2	7▼-2	9▲2	41▼-4
LU		20▲1	40▲3	3▼-1	3▼-5	33▲1
HU		10=	14=	3▲1	1=	72▼-1
MT		25▼-1	22▼-4	10▲2	3▼-1	39▲3
NL		40▲5	24▼-2	3▼-3	4=	30▼-1
AT		33▼-1	32▲4	5▼-4	6▲3	23▼-3
PL		6▼-2	6=	1▼-1	1=	87▲4
PT		12▲4	13▲2	7=	12▲3	56▼-9
RO		17▲2	27▲6	4▼-1	3=	50▼-7
SI		10=	19▼-9	4▼-1	3=	64▲9
SK		8▲4	16=	4▼-2	2▼-1	70▼-2
FI		39▼-6	32=	8▲3	5▲2	17▲1
SE		30▼-3	24▲4	6▲3	3▼-3	37▼-1

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

		Very confident	Fairly confident	Fairly unconfident	Very unconfident	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		13▼-2	40▼-1	25=	15▲1	7▲1
BE		10▲1	46=	26▼-4	10▲2	9▲1
BG		9▲2	34▲4	34▼-4	19=	4▼-2
CZ		12▼-1	48▼-1	20▼-5	11▲3	9▲4
DK		37▼-1	44▲6	9▼-3	6=	3▼-2
DE		22▼-8	36▼-3	13▼-1	18▲7	10▲5
EE		7▼-1	47▼-1	30▲1	8▲1	8▼-1
IE		28▲3	49▼-4	17▲1	4▼-1	2▲1
EL		5▲1	27▼-7	43=	23▲4	4▲3
ES		9▼-3	30=	37▲7	20▼-4	4▲1
FR		12▼-5	50▼-2	21▲5	7▲1	10▲2
HR		11▲4	39▼-3	34▼-1	11▼-3	5▲2
IT		10▲1	48=	22▼-4	17▲3	3=
CY		2=	17▼-11	45▲9	31▲3	4▼-1
LV		4=	35▲6	35▼-6	12▼-7	14▲7
LT		7▲2	49▲6	27▼-6	12▼-4	5▲2
LU		36▼-2	45=	10=	5▲2	5=
HU		13▲2	33▼-6	32▲7	9▼-1	13▼-2
MT		39▲5	44▲2	4▼-4	6▼-2	7▼-1
NL		19▲2	51▲3	14▼-7	7=	10▲2
AT		25▼-4	45▼-1	14▲1	13▲1	4▲1
PL		7▼-1	18▲1	34▼-3	28▲1	13▲3
PT		13▲3	37▲4	36▼-3	12▼-3	2▼-1
RO		6▼-1	55▲4	28▲2	8▼-3	4▼-2
SI		11▲1	44▼-14	23▲7	17▲4	5▲3
SK		3▲2	30▼-3	43▼-1	19▲2	5=
FI		23▲2	58▼-3	12▲2	3=	4▼-1
SE		27▼-4	48▲3	14▲1	2=	9=

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies

Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=13 040 - All companies





























▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)



# Flash Eurobarometer 520

## 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?

		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		61▼-3	62▼-1	62▲1	60▼-1	4▲1	4=
BE		64▼-7	58▼-10	76▲12	50▲7	7▲2	4▼-2
BG		51▼-3	45▲2	34▼-2	54▲11	7▼-3	5▲1
CZ		74▼-6	74▼-6	78▼-5	77▲6	1▲1	4▲2
DK		41▲15	49▲17	34=	38▲9	27▲15	0▼-3
DE		42▼-12	47▼-3	52▼-2	45▲4	8=	11▲2
EE		36▲1	33▼-13	47=	40▲1	12▲9	9▼-5
IE		60▲8	47▲4	29▼-5	50▼-2	7▼-3	6=
EL		64▲8	82=	71▲1	65▲3	2=	3▲3
ES		80▼-9	81▼-2	77▼-8	74▼-10	2▲1	2=
FR		43▼-25	46▼-5	52▼-4	40▼-18	6▲3	1▼-5
HR		67▼-6	66▼-1	69▲11	72▲7	2▲1	4=
IT		53▲8	43▲1	51▲1	59▲4	2=	1▼-1
CY		45▼-10	47▼-7	56▼-17	59▼-7	1▼-2	1▼-1
LV		58▼-6	60▼-6	47▲5	45▼-12	1▼-6	8▲6
LT		53▼-11	66▼-14	64▼-8	60▼-4	5▲4	3▼-1
LU		46▼-7	41▲11	50▼-8	46▼-8	5▲3	5▼-3
HU		61▲3	71▲3	48=	53▼-5	3▲2	7▲2
MT		68▼-2	43▼-20	66▲20	65▲5	7▲1	4▲1
NL		63▲12	46=	69▲5	41▲2	2=	10▼-2
AT		48▲1	47▼-3	24▼-10	52▲8	5▲1	4▲2
PL		77▲10	80▲9	74▲26	71▲13	2▲2	3▼-1
PT		53=	40▼-7	47▼-3	56▲3	7▼-1	7▲1
RO		70▼-6	91▲4	78▲2	67▲4	2=	0▼-2
SI		42▼-5	60▼-1	53▲13	51▲4	7=	3▲3
SK		80=	70▼-5	70▼-8	74▼-6	2▼-1	4▲2
FI		54▼-7	28▼-25	55▼-14	30▼-13	3▼-1	10▲8
SE		28▼-8	42▼-11	54▼-5	33▼-3	9▼-1	11▲5

Flash Eurobarometer 520 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies  
 Fieldwork: 16/01 - 30/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=4 460 - Companies having concerns about the effectiveness of investment protection / ▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 504, January 2022)

