



Monitoring the Application of EUROPEAN UNION LAW

2023 Annual Report

July 2024

Enforcing EU law: Commission action brings concrete benefits for citizens and businesses

EU law matters to people and businesses because it:



protects people's rights and freedoms;



upholds the EU's common values, such as non-discrimination, fairness, and the rule of law;



strengthens the economy and the EU's competitiveness;



promotes equal opportunities for citizens across the EU;



builds a greener and more sustainable Europe.

Ensuring the effective implementation and application of EU law is a top priority for the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties.

What does the Commission do to ensure that Member States apply EU law correctly?



Preventive action supporting Member States:

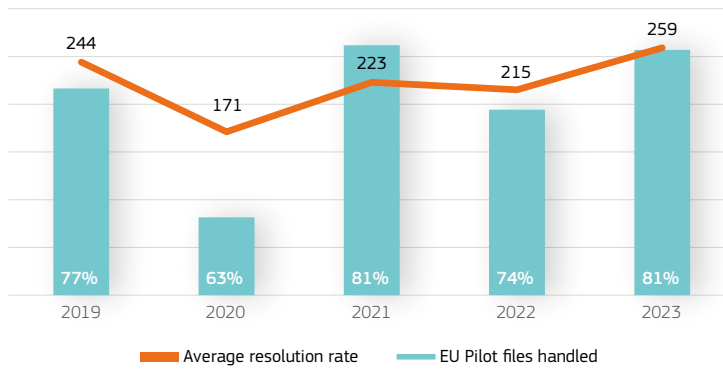
The Commission helps people and businesses enjoy the benefits of EU law by supporting Member States with its implementation and by **preventing breaches from happening in the first place**. The Commission is doing so through: issuing guidance for Member States, organising meetings with Member State authorities and providing them with funding to implement reforms.



Pre-infringement dialogue with Member States

The EU Pilot is an informal dialogue between the Commission and the Member State concerned on issues relating to potential non-compliance with EU law. It allows the Commission to resolve a number of cases without the need to move to an infringement procedure and has a high success rate.

Development of EU Pilot files handled and resolution rate

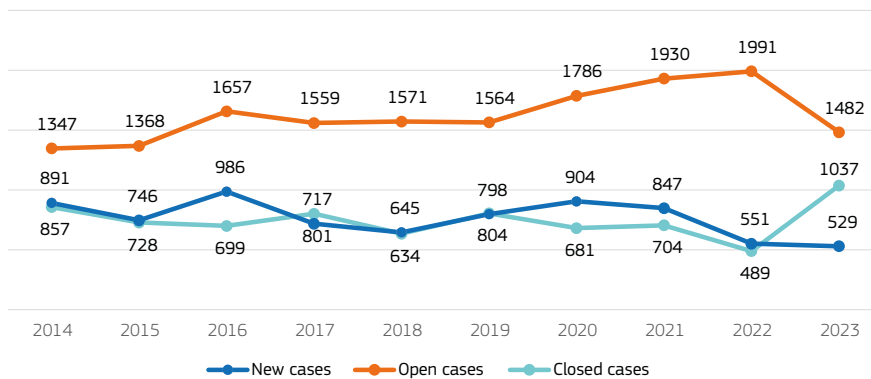


Infringement action, as a robust enforcement mechanism

Should a Member State fail to implement EU law, the Commission may take legal action by launching an **infringement procedure**.

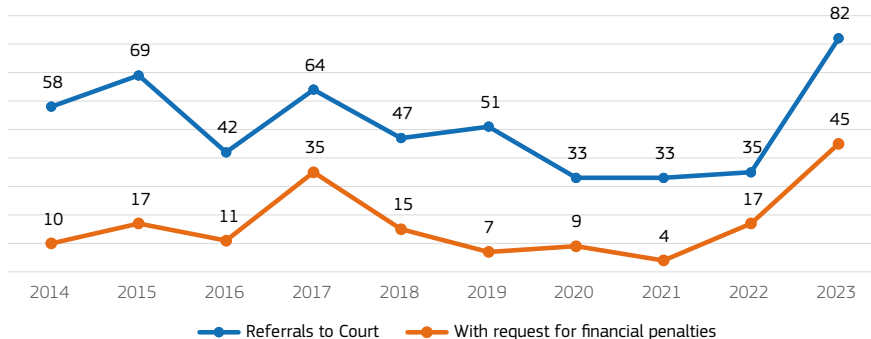
- + 1 500 infringement procedures ongoing (July 2024).
- + 1 000 infringement procedures closed in 2023, 95% of which resolved before reaching the Court of Justice of the European Union. This shows that the Commission's enforcement actions are successful.

Development of infringement cases over 10 years



- 82 infringement cases referred to the Court in 2023, including 45 requests for financial penalties.

Development of referrals to the Court and requests for financial penalties



Ensuring transparency is crucial for developing trust among citizens and businesses

The Commission is transparent about its enforcement action. It publishes detailed press package for each infringement cycle, and maintains a public **database** of all infringement decisions updated in real time and **annual reports** on monitoring the application of EU law. A 2023 **stocktaking exercise** openly identified ways to further improve the Commission's working methods as regards the enforcement of EU law.