

## Issue 3/2018

### Upholding the law Statistics on Infringements Procedures, Annual Report July 2018

Since 1984, following a request made by the European Parliament, the Commission presents an Annual Report on monitoring the application of EU law during the preceding year. The European Parliament then adopts a resolution on the Commission's report.

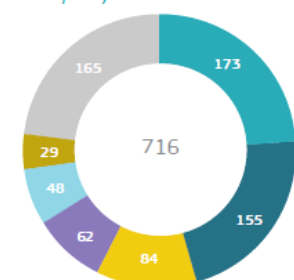
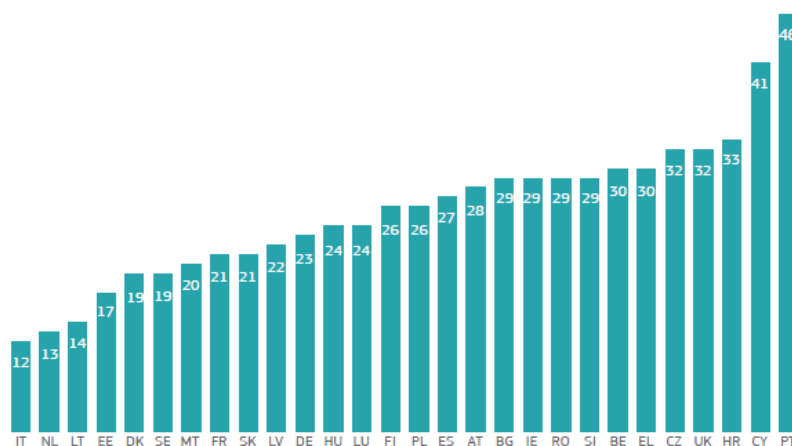
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As a matter of priority, the Commission targets problems where its enforcement action can make a real difference and provide real added value to individuals and businesses. In the division of responsibilities between the European institutions, the European Commission has general responsibility to initiate the legislative process. The Council and the European Parliament decide on the Commission's proposals. The Member States are responsible for the timely and correct application, implementation and enforcement of EU law in the national legal order. The Commission closes this circle: once its proposals are adopted as EU law, it monitors whether the Member States are applying this law correctly and takes action if they are not. The Commission should therefore act firmly and quickly when infringements obstruct the achievement of EU policy objectives. In this vein, the Commission recently set out its more strategic approach to enforcement in terms of handling infringements, in line with its commitment to be "bigger and more ambitious on big things, and smaller and more modest on small things" (Commission Communication "EU law: Better results through better application", Official Journal C 18, 19 January 2017 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2017.018.01.0010.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2017:018:TOC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2017.018.01.0010.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2017:018:TOC)

#### New infringement cases open in 2017

In 2017, the Commission launched 716 new infringement procedures. This is a 27% decrease compared to 2016 when 986 infringement procedures were launched. Furthermore, the Commission sent 275 reasoned opinions in 2017, down from 292 cases in 2016.

The graph below shows the main policy areas concerned.

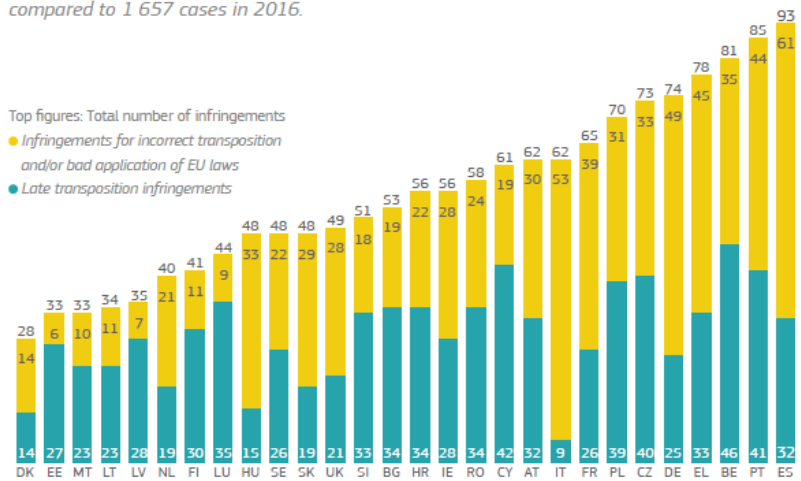


## Infringement cases open on 31/12/2017 (total)

At the end of 2017, there were a total of 1 559 open infringement cases, a 6% decrease compared to 1 657 cases in 2016.

Top figures: Total number of infringements

- Infringements for incorrect transposition and/or bad application of EU laws
- Late transposition infringements



The graph below shows the main policy areas concerned.

