



## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

Report



Fieldwork:

**March-April 2021**

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

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Flash Eurobarometer 490 – Ipsos European Public Affairs





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(DG COMM “Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

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## Introduction

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This Flash Eurobarometer survey explores 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 on 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 parameter of effective justice systems. Effective justice systems are essential for implementing EU law and for 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.

For this Flash Eurobarometer, a representative sample of 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 was 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 29 March and 20 April 2021, 12,832 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 2020 (Flash Eurobarometer 484<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://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/ResultDoc/download/DocumentKy/90540>

*Notes:*

- 1) Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between groups may be statistically significant. Thus, only differences that are statistically significant (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 national and EU level. The term percentage point is used when comparing two different percentages (the abbreviation is pp). Year-on-year differences are calculated from percentages with one decimal and are then rounded to the nearest integer.
- 3) Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts and tables do not always exactly add up to the totals 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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### **49% of companies rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good**

- About one in two (49%) companies rate their country's justice system, in terms of the independence of courts and judges, as good, with 9% saying it is 'very good'. About one third (35%) say the independence of courts and judges in their country is bad, with 12% saying it is 'very bad'.
- Compared to 2020, there has been a three-point decrease in the proportion of companies that rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good.
- The proportion that rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good varies considerably across Member States, ranging from 86% in Finland to 16% in Croatia.
- Companies in Malta (+ 20pp), Estonia (+18 pp) and Slovakia (+15 pp) are now much more likely to have a positive perception than in 2020, while those in Sweden, France (both -10 pp), Romania and Poland (both -9 pp) are now much less likely to do so.
- Larger companies, those with a high turnover, those in the services sector and those that have been involved in a court dispute over the last two years are more likely to rate the level of independence of the courts and judges in their country as good.

### **80% of 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 say the independence of the courts and judges in their country is good are most likely to give this rating because the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence (78%), followed by a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians (64%) or from economic or other specific interests (63%). Compared to 2020 these figures are broadly the same.
- In 25 countries, the status and position of judges being sufficient to guarantee their independence is the most common reason for a positive rating.
- Companies with a turnover of more than 500,000 euros are more likely than those with a lower turnover to say that the status and position of judges explains their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country.

### **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 (79%), followed by the interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (74%).
- More than six in ten (65%) say the fact that the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.

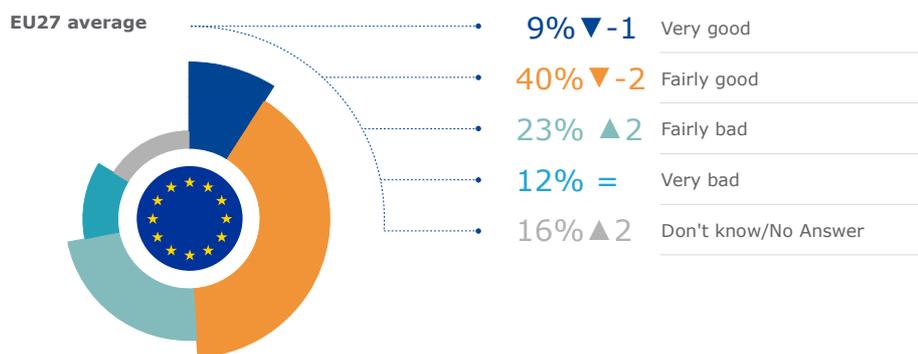
- Compared to 2020, companies are now more likely to say the fact that the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their bad rating (+7 pp).
- In 15 countries (out of 25 with a sufficient sample size for analysis), interference or pressure from government or politicians is the most common reason for rating the independence of the national judiciary as bad.
- Companies in the manufacturing or services sectors are the most likely to say that the interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their poor rating. Companies with a turnover of less than 100,000 euros are least likely to say that their poor rating is explained by the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence or by the interference or pressure from government and politician.

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

### 49% of companies surveyed rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good

About one in two companies rate the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good: 9% say it is ‘very good’ and 40% that it is ‘fairly good’. About one third say the independence of courts and judges is bad, with 23% saying it is ‘fairly bad’ and 12% that it is ‘very bad’. Almost one in six (16%) reply they do not know.

**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)



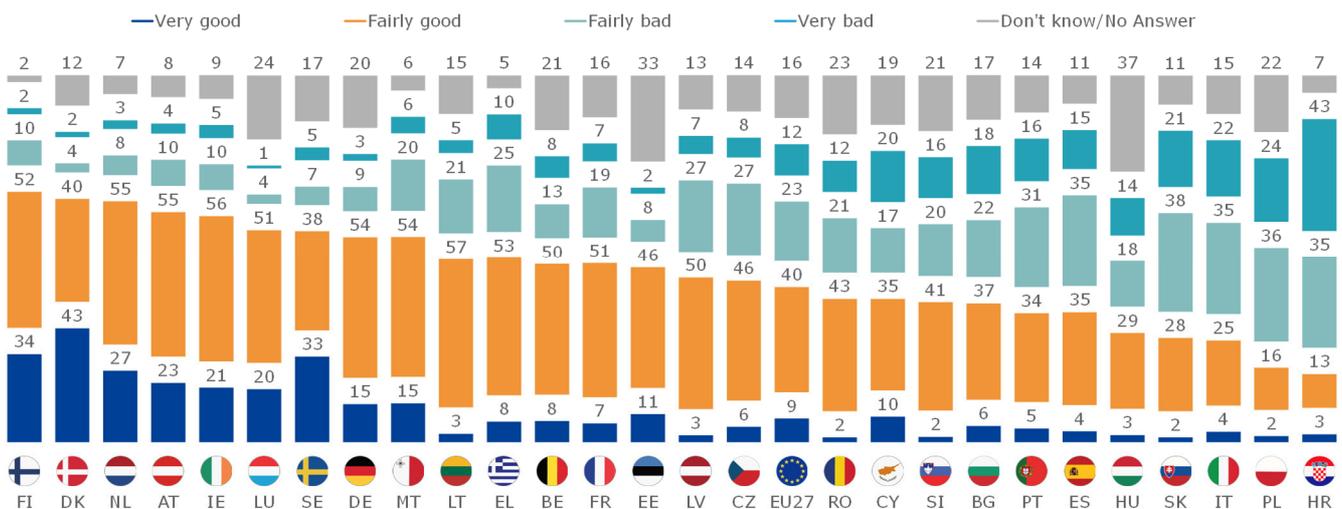
Base: all companies (n=12,832) ▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

Opinion are slightly less positive than in 2020. There is a decrease of three percentage points in the proportion of companies that rate 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 16 countries, at least half of all companies rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, with those in Finland (86%), Denmark (83%) and the Netherlands (82%) being the most likely to do so. By contrast, 16% of companies in Croatia and 18% in Poland think the same. There are three countries where at least one third of companies say the independence of their justice system is 'very good': Denmark (43%), Finland (34%) and Sweden (33%). Just 2% of companies in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia rate their justice system as 'very good'. Just 2% of companies in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia rate their justice system as 'very good'.

The proportion of companies that rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad is the highest in Croatia (78%), followed by Poland (60%), Slovakia (59%) and Italy (57%). This proportion is the lowest in Denmark and Luxembourg (both 5%), followed by Estonia and the Netherlands (both 11%). 43% of companies in Croatia say their national justice system, in terms of the independence of courts and judges, is 'very bad'. At the other end of the scale, just 1% of companies in Luxembourg 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>2</sup>

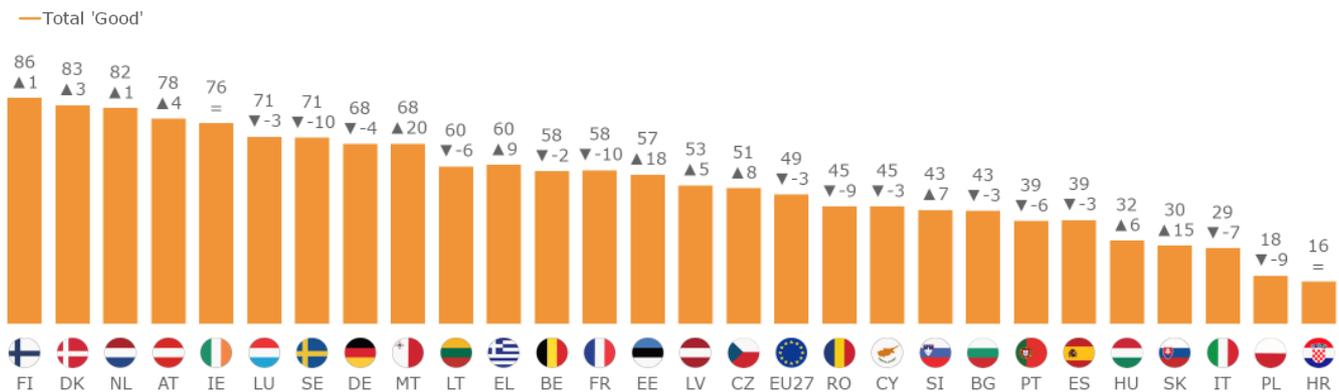


Base: all companies (n=12,832)

<sup>2</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 + good).

There are some substantial changes in opinion compared to 2020, in both positive and negative directions. For instance, companies in Malta (+20 pp), Estonia (+18 pp) and Slovakia (+15 pp) are now much more likely to rate their justice system – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good. In contrast, companies in France and Sweden (both -10 pp), and Poland and Romania (both -9 pp) are now much less likely to do so.

**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')



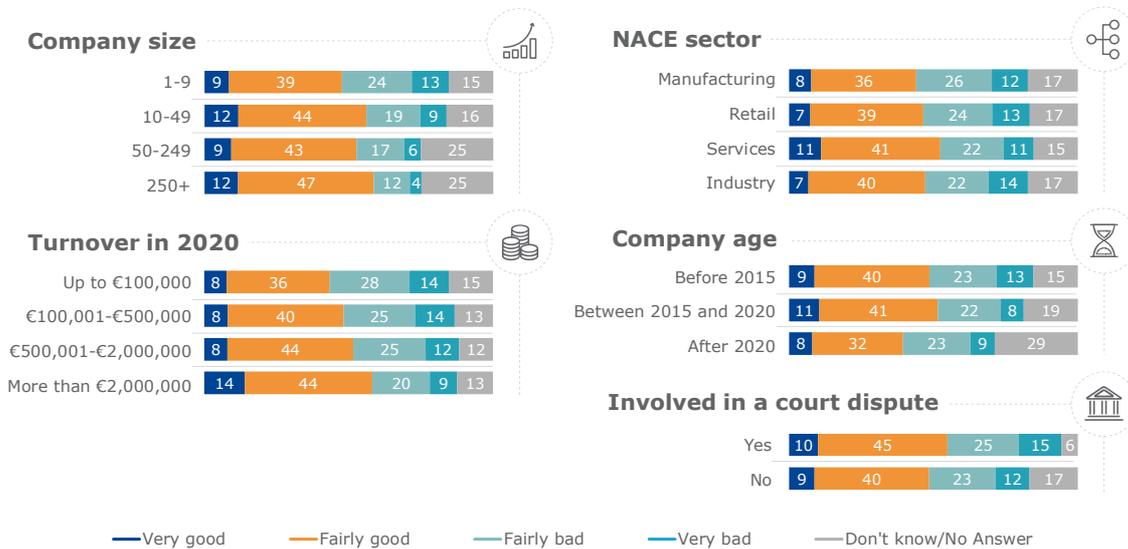
Base: all companies (n=12,832) ▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

The analysis of company characteristics shows the following:

- Compared to micro companies (with nine or less employees), small companies (with between 10 and 49 employees) are somewhat more likely to rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good (56% vs 48%). There also is a larger share of companies with 250+ employees rating the independence as good, but due to the smaller sample size for this segment, this difference did not reach statistical significance.
- Companies in the services sector are more likely than those in other sectors to rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as good (52%, compared to 44%–47% in other 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% with the highest turnover (more than two million euros) say so, compared to 44% with a turnover of up to 100,000 euros.
- Those that have been involved in a dispute that went to court<sup>3</sup> are more likely to say the justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges is good, compared to those that have not been involved in such a dispute (55% vs 49%). There is no significant difference in the proportion rating the independence as bad, but those that have not been involved in a dispute are more likely to say they do not know (17% vs. 6%).

<sup>3</sup> D4 In the last two years, has your company been involved in any dispute which has gone to court?

**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=12,832)

## Section 2: Main reasons among companies for the perceived independence of the national justice systems

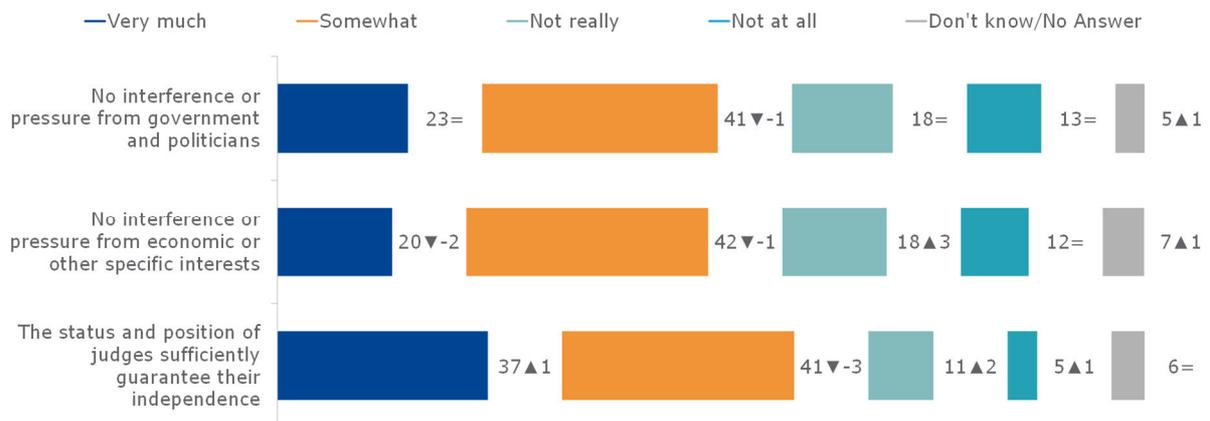
### 1. Positive assessments

#### 78% of 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 their national justice system – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good (answering ‘fairly good’ or ‘very good’) were asked about the extent to which the status of judges, a lack of interference or pressure from governments or politicians or from economic or special interests explains their rating.

About four in five (78%) companies say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their positive rating, with 37% saying this ‘very much’ explains it. More than six in ten (64%) say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating, with 23% saying this ‘very much’ explains it. A similar proportion (63%) of 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. Compared to 2020, these figures are broadly 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): (% - EU27)



Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

## a. Status and position of judges

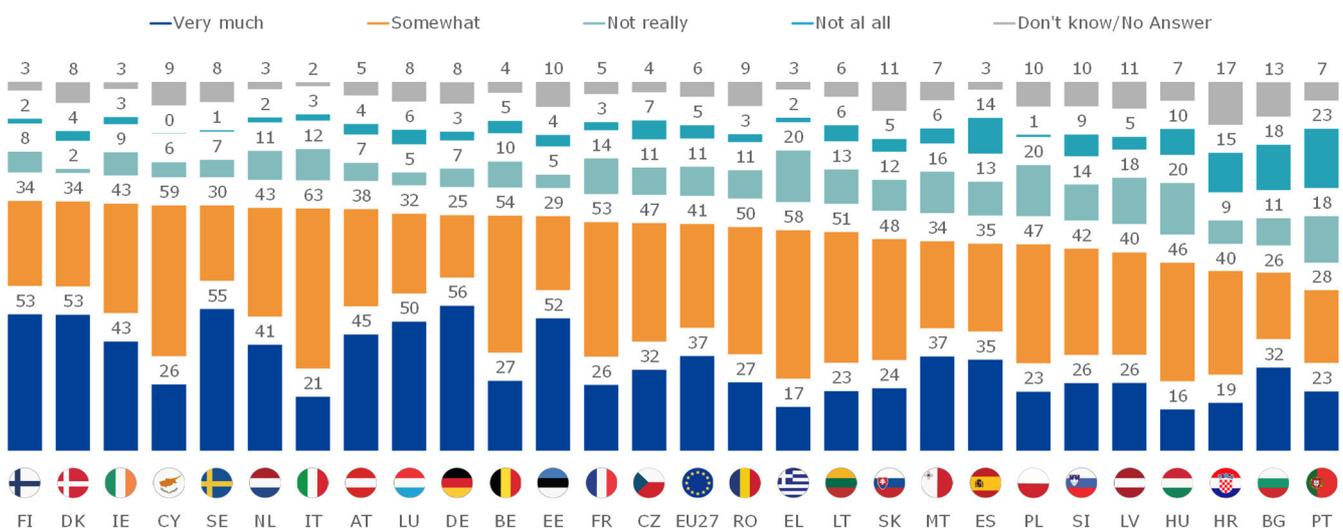
In all Member States, a majority of companies say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their positive rating.<sup>4</sup> Proportions range from 52% in Portugal, 58% in Bulgaria and 59% in Croatia, to 86% in Ireland and 87% in Finland and Denmark.

There are five countries where a majority of companies say this 'very much' explains their good rating: Germany (56%), Sweden (55%), Denmark, Finland (both 53%) and Estonia (52%). This compares to 16% in Hungary and 17% in Greece. Companies in Italy (63%), Cyprus (59%) and Greece (58%) are the most likely to say the status and position of judges 'somewhat' explain their rating, while those in Germany (25%) and Bulgaria (26%) are the least likely to do so.

Companies in Greece, Hungary and Poland (all 20%) are the most likely to say the status and position of judges do 'not really' explain their positive rating, compared to 2% in Denmark and 5% in Estonia and Luxembourg. In Portugal, 23% 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 (%)**



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for HR and PL, due to low base sizes (<100)

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

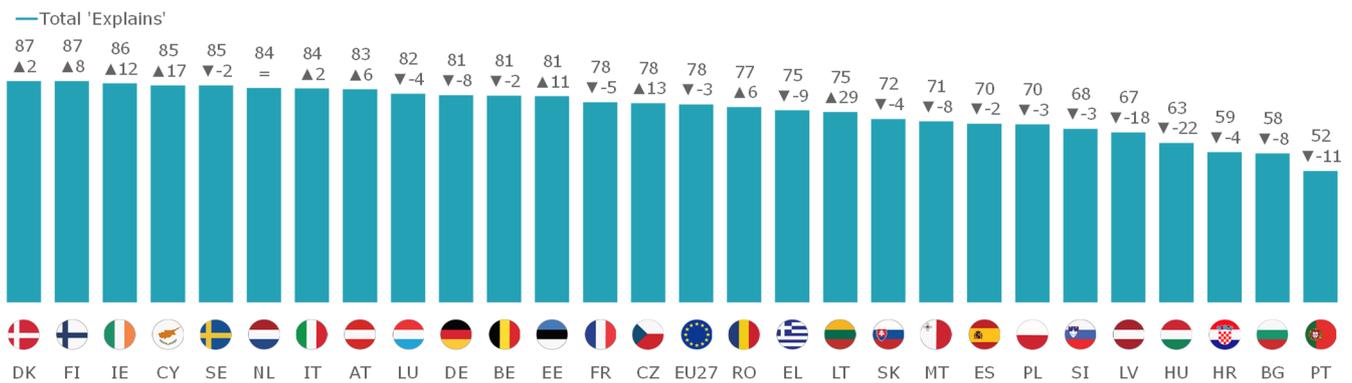
<sup>4</sup> Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for Croatia and Poland, due to low base sizes (<100).

There are some large country-level changes compared to 2020, both positive and negative. Companies in Lithuania (+29 pp), Cyprus (+17 pp), Czechia (+13 pp), Ireland (+12 pp) and Estonia (+11 pp) are now much more likely to say the status and position of judges explain their positive rating.<sup>5</sup> In contrast, companies in Hungary (-22 pp), Latvia (-18 pp) and Portugal (-11 pp) are now much less likely to say this reason explains their positive rating.

**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')



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the year-on-year trends due to low base sizes (<100): HR and PL for the current data and BG, CY, CZ, EE, HR, HU, LV, MT, PT, SI, SK and LV for the data of 2020.

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

<sup>5</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes in 2020: SK (30) and HR (32). Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes in one or both years (50-99): BG, CY, CZ, EE, HU, LV, MT, PL, PT, SI and LV.

## b. Political pressure

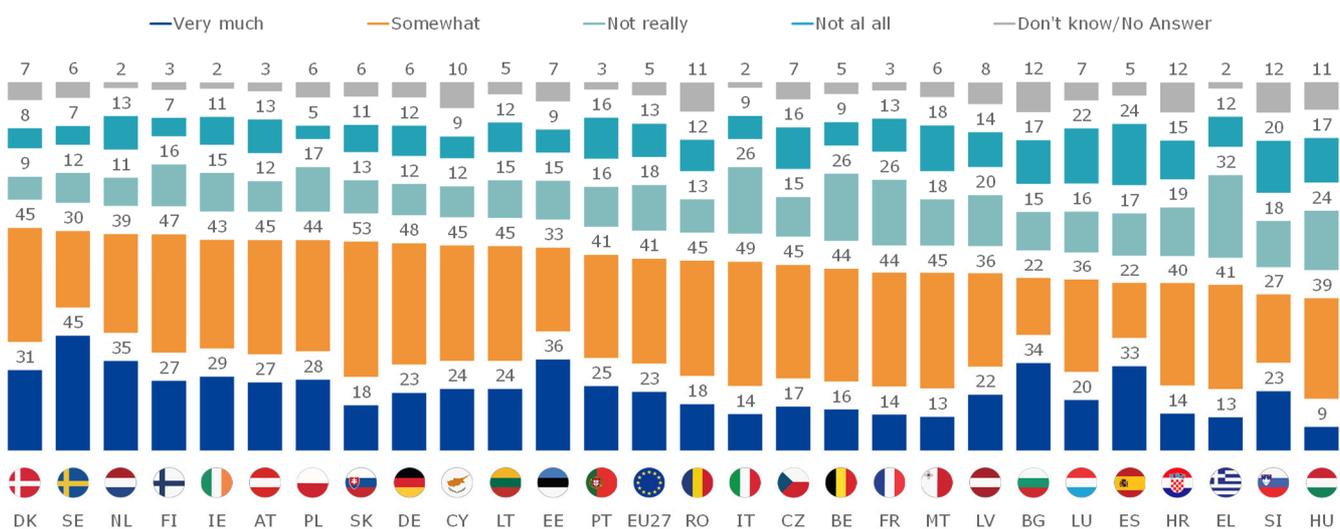
In all but two countries, more than half of companies say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good.<sup>6</sup> Companies in Denmark (76%), Sweden (75%), the Netherlands and Finland (both 74%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Hungary (48%) and Slovenia (50%) are the least likely to do so.

Companies in Sweden (45%), followed by those in Estonia (36%), the Netherlands (35%), Bulgaria (34%) and Spain (33%), are the most likely to say this reason 'very much' explains their good rating of the level of independence of courts and judges. At the other end of the scale, 9% in Hungary and 13% in both Greece and Malta say the same. About half of companies in Slovakia (53%), Italy (49%) and Germany (48%) say a lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians 'somewhat' explains their rating, while those in Bulgaria and Spain (both 22%) are the least likely to say this.

Companies in Greece (32%), Belgium, France and Italy (all 26%) 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 courts and judges, while those in Denmark (9%) and the Netherlands (11%) are the least likely to do so. More than one in five companies in Spain (24%) and Luxembourg (22%) say this reason does not explain their rating at all, compared to 5% in Poland and 7% in Finland and Sweden.

**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 (%)**



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for HR and PL, due to low base sizes (<100)

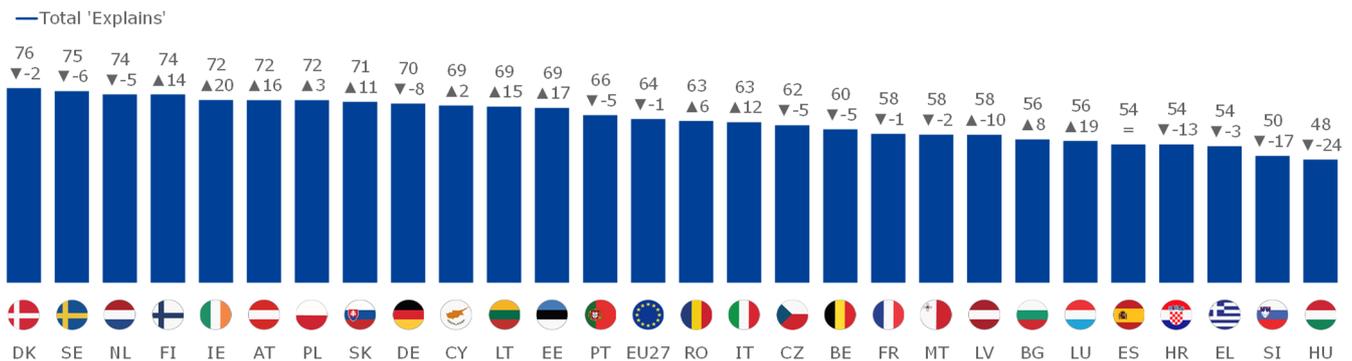
Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

<sup>6</sup> Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for Croatia and Poland, due to low base sizes (<100).

There are some large shifts compared to 2020 in the proportion of companies that say 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. The largest increases are observed among companies in Ireland (+20 pp), Luxembourg (+19 pp) and Estonia (+17 pp).<sup>7</sup> In contrast, companies in Hungary (24 pp), Slovenia (-17 pp) and Latvia (-10 pp) are now less likely to say this.

**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')



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the year-on-year trends due to low base sizes (<100): HR and PL for the current data and BG, CY, CZ, EE, HR, HU, LV, MT, PT, SI, SK and LV for the data of 2020.

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

<sup>7</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes in 2020: SK (30) and HR (32). Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes in one or both years (50-99): BG, CY, CZ, EE, HU, LV, MT, PL, PT, SI and LV.

### c. Economic interests

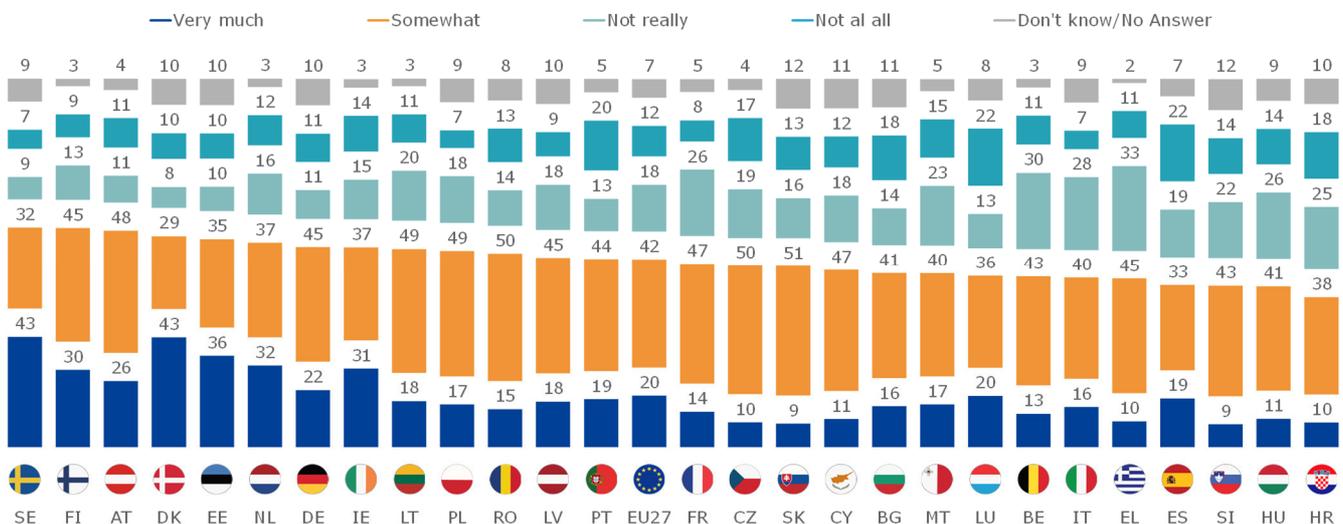
In all but one Member State, a majority of companies say a lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges positively, the exception being Croatia.<sup>8</sup> Respondents in Finland, Sweden (both 75%) and Austria (74%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Hungary, Slovenia and Spain (all 52%), and Croatia (47%) are the least likely to say this reason explains their rating.

More than four in ten companies in Denmark and Sweden (both 43%) say this reason 'very much' explains their rating, compared to 9% in both Slovakia and Slovenia. One in two companies in Slovakia (51%), Czechia and Romania (both 50%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their rating, compared to 29% in Denmark, 32% in Sweden and 33% in Spain.

Companies in Greece (33%), Belgium (30%) and Italy (28%) 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 Denmark (8%) and Sweden (9%) are the least likely to say so. Companies in Luxembourg and Spain (both 22%) are the most likely to say this reason does not explain their rating at all, compared to 7% in Italy, Poland and Sweden.

**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 (%)**



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for HR and PL, due to low base sizes (<100)

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

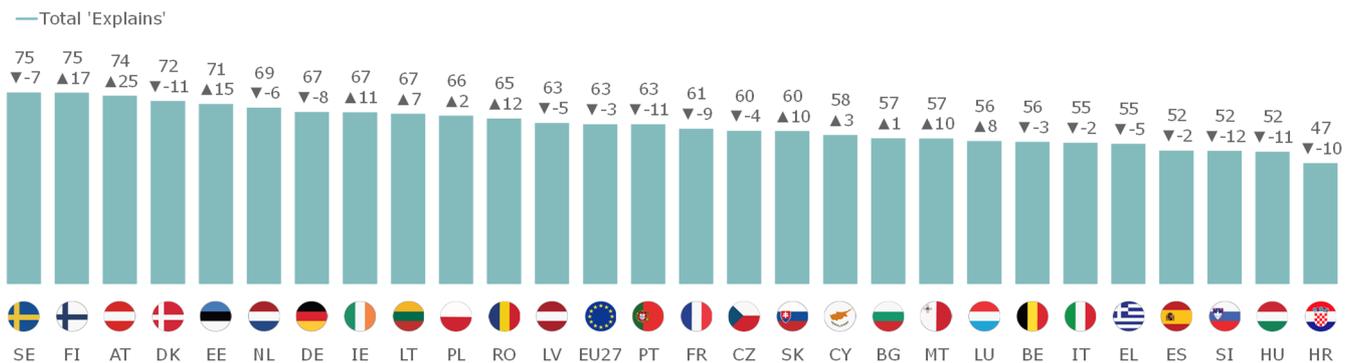
<sup>8</sup> Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for Croatia and Poland, due to low base sizes (<100).

Once again there are some significant changes in the results compared to 2020.<sup>9</sup> In particular, companies in Austria (+25 pp), Finland (+17 pp) and Estonia (+15 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 Slovenia (-12 pp), Denmark, Hungary and Portugal (all -11 pp) are now much less likely to say this.

**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')



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the year-on-year trends due to low base sizes (<100): HR and PL for the current data and BG, CY, CZ, EE, HR, HU, LV, MT, PT, SI, SK and LV for the data of 2020.

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

#### d. Business demographics

The analysis of company characteristics for companies that say the independence of their justice system is good illustrates the following:

- Companies with a turnover of more than 500,000 euros are more likely than those with a lower turnover to say that the status and position of judges explains their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country (83% vs 75%-77%).
- For the remaining company characteristics (number of employees, activity sector, year of establishment and recent involvement in a court dispute), no significant differences could be detected.

<sup>9</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes in 2020: SK (30) and HR (32). Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes in one or both years (50-99): BG, CY, CZ, EE, HU, LV, MT, PL, PT, SI and LV.

**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)

	No interference or pressure from government and politicians		No interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests		The status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence	
	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)
EU27	64	31	63	30	78	17
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	64	31	62	31	77	17
10-49 employees	64	31	64	32	81	14
50-249 employees	67	29	61	33	78	18
250+ employees	51	44	78	19	84	11
 <b>Company turnover in 2020</b>						
Up to €100,000	67	28	64	30	75	20
€100,001-€500,000	63	33	63	30	77	17
€500,001-€2,000,000	65	33	67	30	83	15
More than €2,000,000	64	32	66	29	83	12
 <b>Sector of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	58	37	65	31	76	20
Retail	65	31	63	32	76	17
Services	65	30	63	30	78	17
Industry	66	30	60	27	81	13
 <b>Company age (establishment year)</b>						
Before 2015	64	32	62	32	78	16
Between 2015-2020	67	27	65	25	76	17
After 2020	78	16	56	39	78	18
 <b>Involved in a dispute which went to court</b>						
Yes	61	36	66	31	80	17
No	65	31	62	31	78	17

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as good (n=6,286)

### e. Analysis based on all respondents

The chart below shows the results of this question when using the whole sample of companies that took part in the survey. Close to four in ten companies (38%) 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. Close to a third (32%) say the lack of interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their good rating, while a similar 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=12,832) ▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

Compared to 2020, companies are now slightly less likely to say their positive rating is explained by the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence (-4 pp) or the lack of interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (-4 pp).

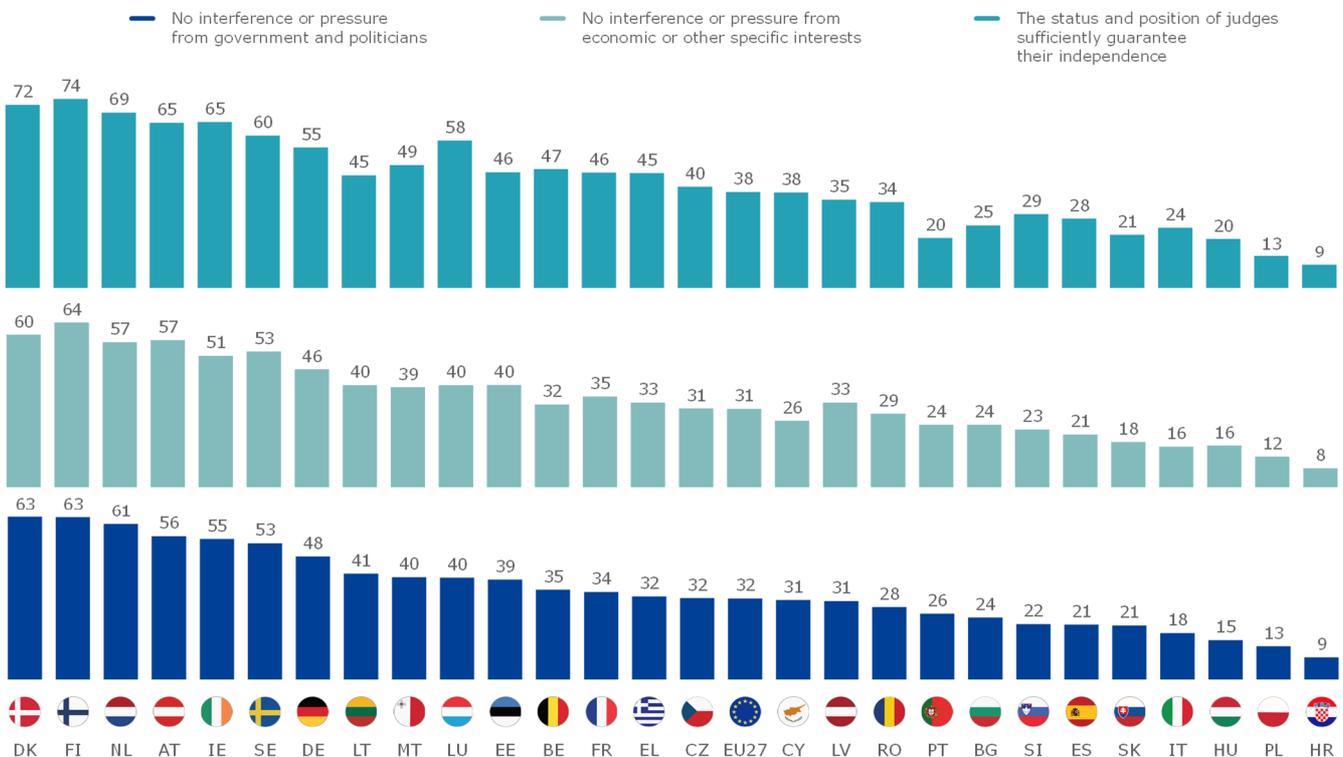
At national level, the results recalculated on the full sample show that opinion diverges substantially across Member States.

At least two thirds of companies in Finland (74%), Denmark (72%) and the Netherlands (69%) 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 compares to 9% of companies in Croatia, 13% in Poland and 20% in both Hungary and Portugal that say the same.

There are six countries where at least half of all companies 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 as good: Finland (64%), Denmark (60%), Austria, the Netherlands (both 57%), Sweden (53%) and Ireland (51%). At the other end of the scale, 8% of companies in Croatia, 12% in Poland and 16% in both Hungary and Italy say the same.

More than half of all companies in Denmark, Finland (both 63%), the Netherlands (61%), Austria (56%), Ireland (55%) and Sweden (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% in Croatia, 13% in Poland and 15% in Hungary also say this.

**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=12,832)

## 2. Negative assessments

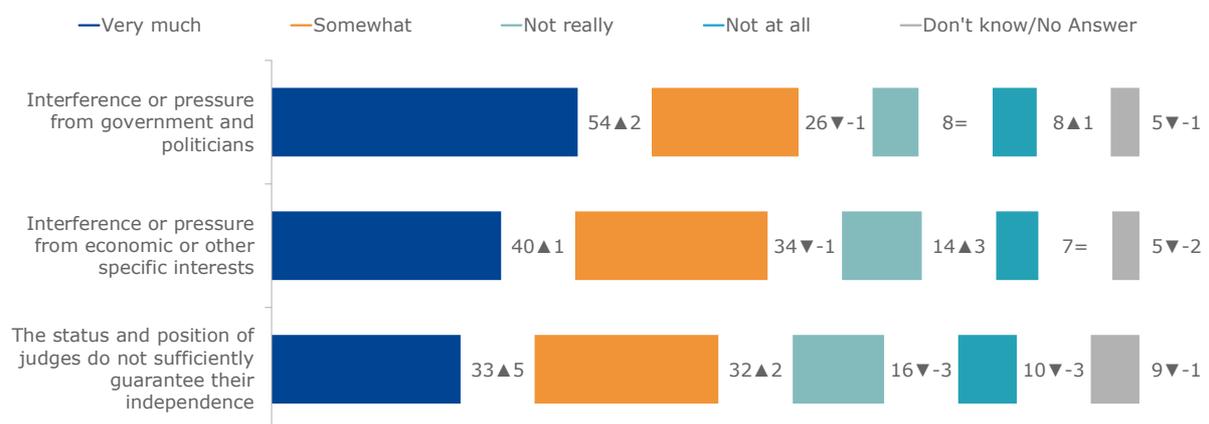
### Companies are most likely to rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad because of interference from government and politicians

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 their rating could be explained by the following reasons: the lack of guarantees provided by the status and position of judges, interference or pressure from governments or politicians, or interference or pressure from economic or special interests.

About eight in ten of this group of companies (79%) 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 slightly more than half (54%) saying this very much explains their rating. Almost as many (74%) say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their rating, with 40% saying this very much explains it. More than six in ten (65%) say the fact that the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, with 33% saying this very much explains it.

Compared to 2020, companies are now more likely to say the fact that the status and position of judges does not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their rating (+7 pp). Results for the other reasons are 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 as bad (n=4,472)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

## a. Political pressure

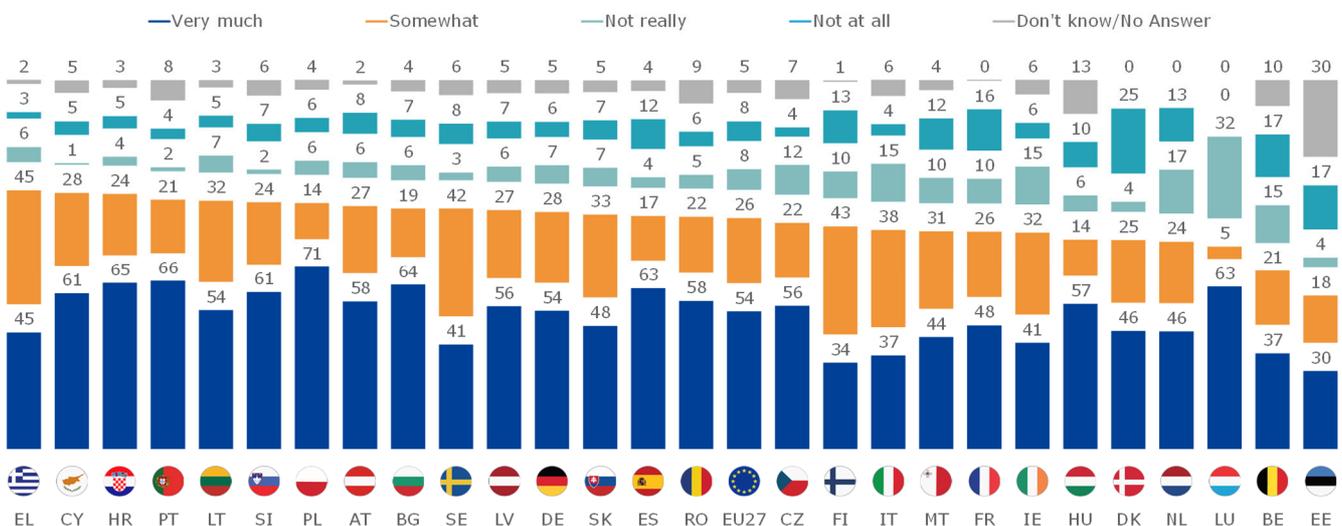
About nine in ten companies in Greece (90%), Cyprus and Croatia (both 89%) say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative perception of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.<sup>10</sup> At the other end of the scale, 49% of companies in Estonia say the same; this proportion is also low in Belgium (59%)

At least two thirds of these companies in Poland (71%), Portugal (66%) and Croatia (65%) say this reason 'very much' explains their bad rating, compared to 30% in Estonia, 34% in Finland and 37% in both Belgium and Italy. Companies in Greece (45%), Finland (43%) and Sweden (42%) are the most likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians 'somewhat' explains their rating, while those in Hungary, Poland (both 14%) and Spain (17%) are the least likely to do so.

Companies in the Netherlands (17%), Belgium, Ireland and Italy (all 15%) 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 1% of companies say this in Cyprus and 2% in both Portugal and Slovenia. One in six companies in Belgium and Estonia (both 17%) say this reason does not explain their rating at all. By contrast, 3% of companies in Greece and 4% in Czechia, Italy and Portugal say the same.

**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 (%)**



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low

base sizes (<100): AT, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LU, MT, NL, SE

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as bad (n=4,472)

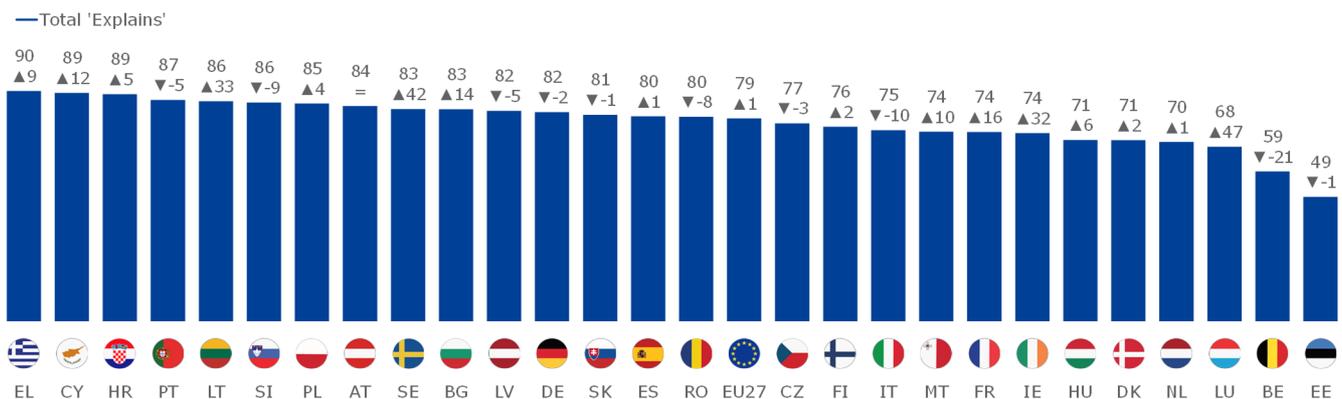
<sup>10</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes: DK (27) and LU (12). Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, FI, IE, MT, NL and SE.

Due to low sample size in one or more years, only a limited number of countries are included in the discussion of the differences between 2020 and 2021.<sup>11</sup>

In some countries, companies are now much more likely than in 2020 to say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges, with the largest increases seen in France (+16 pp), Bulgaria (+14 pp) and Cyprus (+12 pp). The most notable declines are observed in Italy (-10 pp), Slovenia (-9 pp) and Romania (-8 pp).

**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')



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the year-on-year trends due to low base sizes (<100): AT, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LU, MT, NL, SE for the current data and AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EL, EE, FI, HU, IE, LT, LV, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI for the data of 2020.

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as bad (n=4,472)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

<sup>11</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes in one year or both years (<50): AT, BE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LT, LU, NL, and SE. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes in one year or both years (50-99): BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, HU, LV, MT, PT, RO and SI.

## b. Economic interests

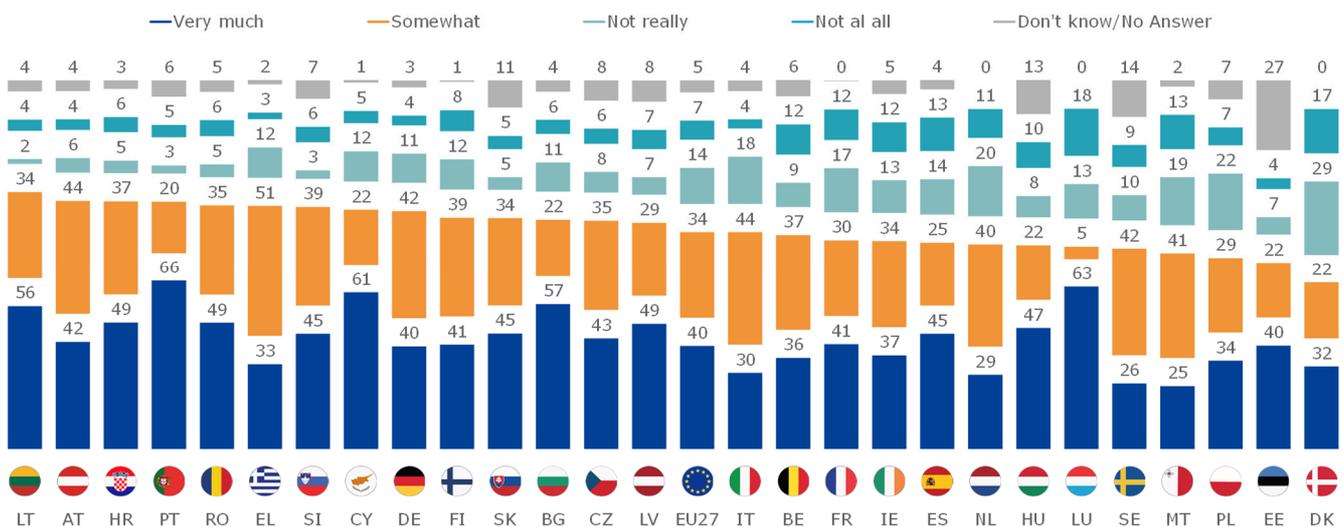
At least half of this group of companies in each Member State say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country negatively, with proportions ranging from 62% in Estonia, 64% in Poland and 66% in Malta, to 86% in Austria, Croatia and Portugal and 90% in Lithuania.<sup>12</sup>

In four countries, more than half of companies say this reason 'very much' explains their rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country: Portugal (66%), Cyprus (61%), Bulgaria (57%) and Lithuania (56%). By contrast, less than one in three say this in Malta (25%), Sweden (26%), the Netherlands (29%) and Italy (30%). In six countries, four in ten or more say this reason 'somewhat' explains their rating: Greece (51%), Austria, Italy (both 44%), Germany, Sweden (both 42%) and Malta (41%), while companies in Bulgaria, Estonia, Cyprus and Hungary (all 22%) are the least likely to say this.

In Poland (22%) and the Netherlands (20%), at least one in five 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 Lithuania and 3% in both Portugal and Slovenia. More than one in ten companies in Malta, Spain (both 13%), Belgium, France, Ireland (all 12%) and the Netherlands (11%) say this reason does not explain their rating at all, as opposed to 3% of companies in Greece and 4% in Austria, Lithuania, Germany 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 (%)**



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (<100): AT, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LU, MT, NL, SE

<sup>12</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes: DK (27) and LU (12). Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, FI, IE, MT, NL and SE.

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as bad (n=4,472)

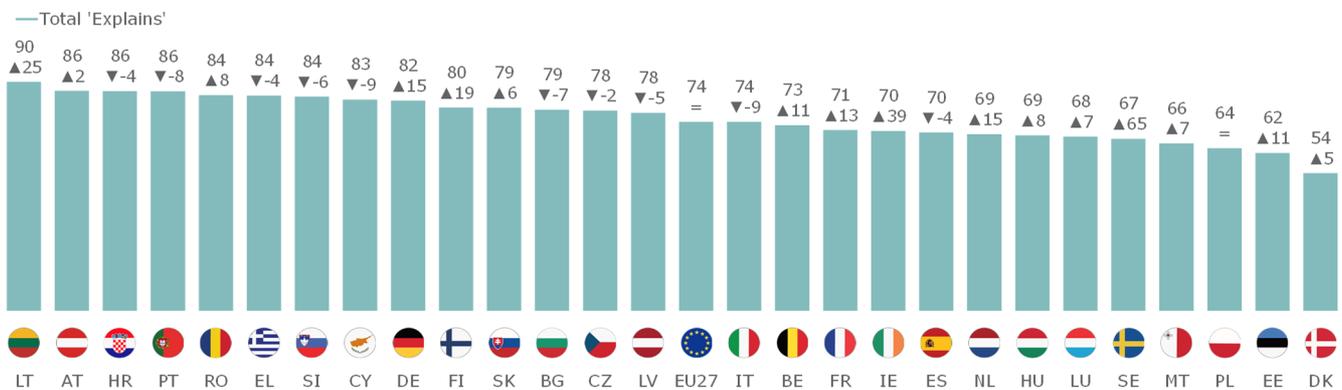
Due to low sample sizes in one or both years, only a limited number of countries are included in the discussion of developments since 2020.<sup>13</sup>

Country level trends compared to 2020 are mixed. Companies in Germany (+15 pp) and France (+13 pp) are now more likely to say that the interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their negative rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. By contrast, companies in Cyprus and Italy (both -9 pp) are now less likely to think this way.

**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')



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the year-on-year trends due to low base sizes (<100): AT, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LU, MT, NL, SE for the current data and AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EL, EE, FI, HU, IE, LT, LV, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI for the data of 2020.

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as bad (n=4,472)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

<sup>13</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes in one year or both years (<50): AT, BE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LT, LU, NL, and SE. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes in one year or both years (50-99): BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, HU, LV, MT, PT, RO and SI.

### c. Status and position of judges

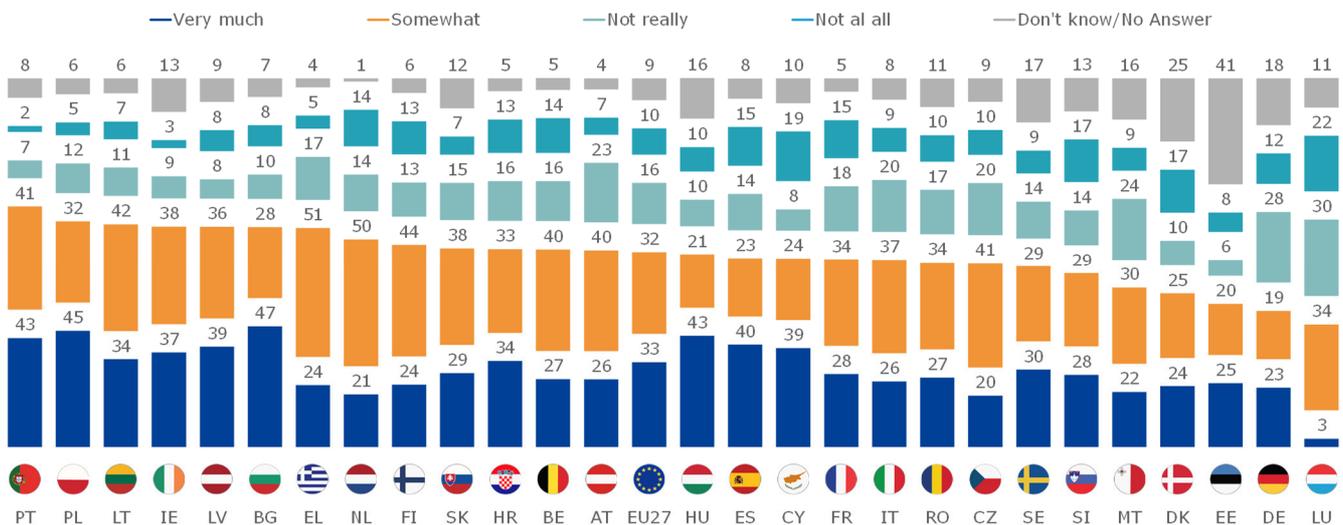
In 23 Member States, a majority of companies that rate the level independence of court and judges as bad say the fact that the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their bad perception of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.<sup>14</sup> Proportions range from 42% in Germany, 45% in Estonia and 51% in Malta to 76% in Lithuania, 77% in Poland and 83% in Portugal.

Companies in Bulgaria (47%), Poland (45%), Portugal and Hungary (both 43%) are the most likely to say this 'very much' explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, while those in Czechia (20%), the Netherlands (21%) and Malta (22%) are the least likely to do so. Half of companies in Greece (51%) and the Netherlands (50%) say the status and position of judges 'somewhat' explain their rating, compared to 19% in Germany, 20% in Estonia and 21% in Hungary who say the same.

In Germany (28%), Malta (24%) and Austria (23%), around a quarter of companies say the status and position of judges does 'not really' explain their negative rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country. In contrast, 6% of companies in Estonia, 7% in Portugal, and 8% in both Cyprus and Latvia say this. Companies in Cyprus (19%) and Slovenia (17%) are the most likely to say this reason does not explain their rating at all, while those in Portugal (2%) and Ireland (3%) are the least likely to do so.

**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 (%)**



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (<100): AT, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LU, MT, NL, SE

<sup>14</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes: DK (27) and LU (12). Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (50-99): AT, CY, DE, EE, FI, IE, MT, NL and SE.

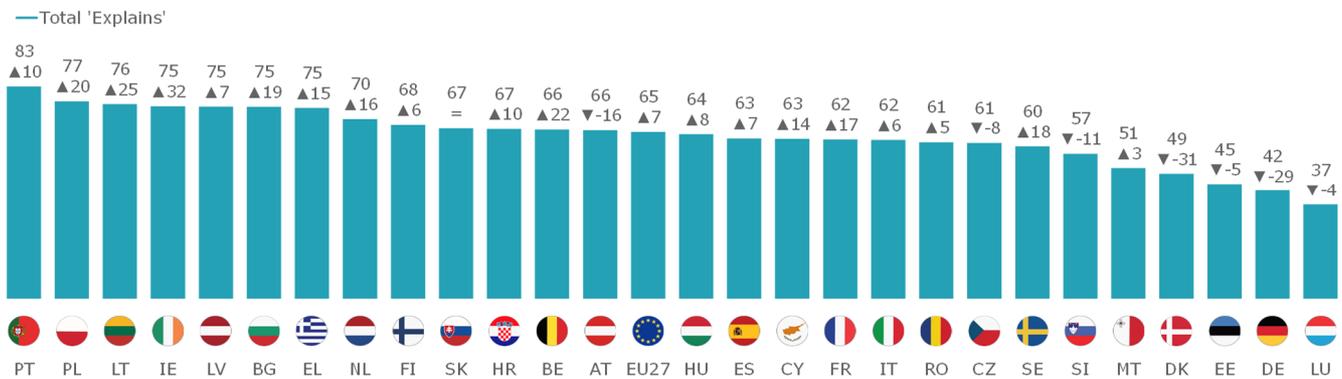
Base: companies rating the independence of justice as bad (n=4,472)

Due to low sample size in one or both years, only a limited number of countries are included in the discussion of developments since 2020.<sup>15</sup>

There are some significant changes in some countries compared to 2020. For example, companies in Poland (+20 pp), Bulgaria (+19 pp) and France (+17 pp) are now much more 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. By contrast, companies in Germany (-29 pp) and Slovenia (-11 pp) are now much less likely to say this.

**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')



Caution should be exercised when interpreting the year-on-year trends due to low base sizes (<100): AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LU, MT, NL, SE for the current data and AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EL, EE, FI, HU, IE, LT, LV, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI for the data of 2020.

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as bad (n=4,472)

▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

<sup>15</sup> The following countries have been excluded from the discussion due to very low base sizes in one year or both years (<50): AT, BE, DK, EE, FI, IE, LT, LU, NL, and SE. Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes in one year or both years (50-99): BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, HU, LV, MT, PT, RO and SI.

#### **d. Business demographics**

The analysis of company characteristics shows the following:

- Companies in the manufacturing (79%) and services (76%) sectors are more likely than companies in the industry sector (67%) to say that the interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their poor rating.
- Companies with a turnover of up to 100,000 euros are less likely to say that their poor rating is explained by the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence (59% vs 69%-72% for companies with a turnover of more than 100,000 euros). Compared to companies with a turnover of more than 100,000 but less than 2 million euros, companies with a turnover of up to 100,000 euros are also less likely to say that the interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their bad rating (74% vs 81%-84%).
- For the remaining company characteristics (number of employees, year of establishment and recent involvement in a court dispute), no significant differences could be detected.

**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)

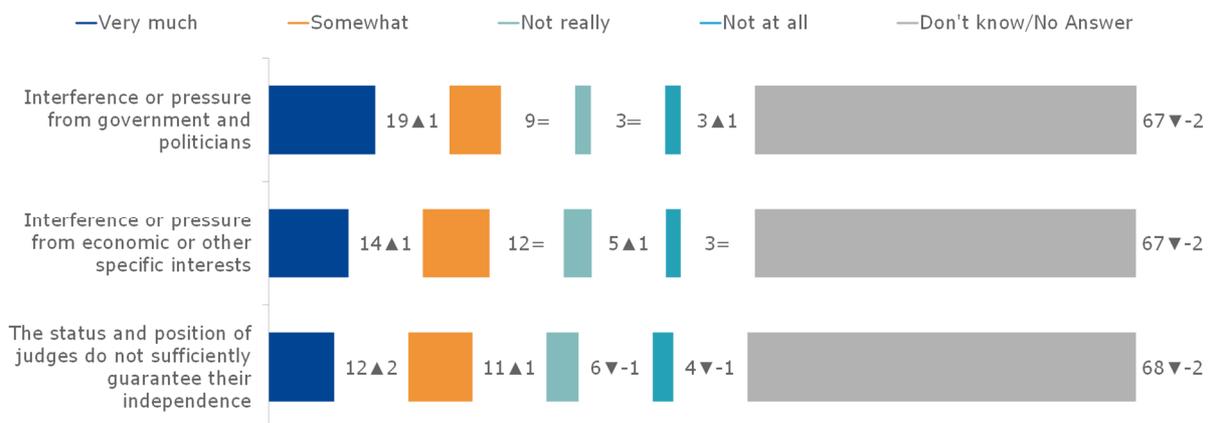
	Interference or pressure from government and politicians		Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests		The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence	
	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)	Explains (total)	Does not explain (total)
EU27	79	16	74	21	65	26
 <b>Company size</b>						
1-9 employees	80	16	74	21	65	27
10-49 employees	77	18	74	21	68	24
50-249 employees	83	13	72	22	72	22
250+ employees	84	13	73	21	75	21
 <b>Company turnover in 2020</b>						
Up to €100,000	74	18	74	19	59	28
€100,001-€500,000	81	16	76	20	69	26
€500,001-€2,000,000	84	13	74	22	72	23
More than €2,000,000	80	16	68	28	72	23
 <b>Sector of activity</b>						
Manufacturing	80	14	79	19	69	20
Retail	81	15	73	20	69	22
Services	78	17	76	21	63	29
Industry	79	15	67	28	60	31
 <b>Company age (establishment year)</b>						
Before 2015	79	16	74	21	65	26
Between 2015-2020	83	13	76	21	69	26
After 2020	76	24	57	36	62	32
 <b>Involved in a dispute which went to court</b>						
Yes	76	19	71	24	69	26
No	80	15	74	21	65	26

Base: companies rating the independence of justice as bad (n=4,472)

### e. Analysis based on all respondents

The chart below illustrates the results of this question taking into account all companies that took part in the survey. More than a quarter (28%) say the interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they think that the level independence of courts and judges in their country is bad, and almost as many (26%) say this about interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests. Slightly fewer (23%) say 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. The latter proportion is a three-percentage-point increase compared to 2020. The other results are unchanged compared to last year.

**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)



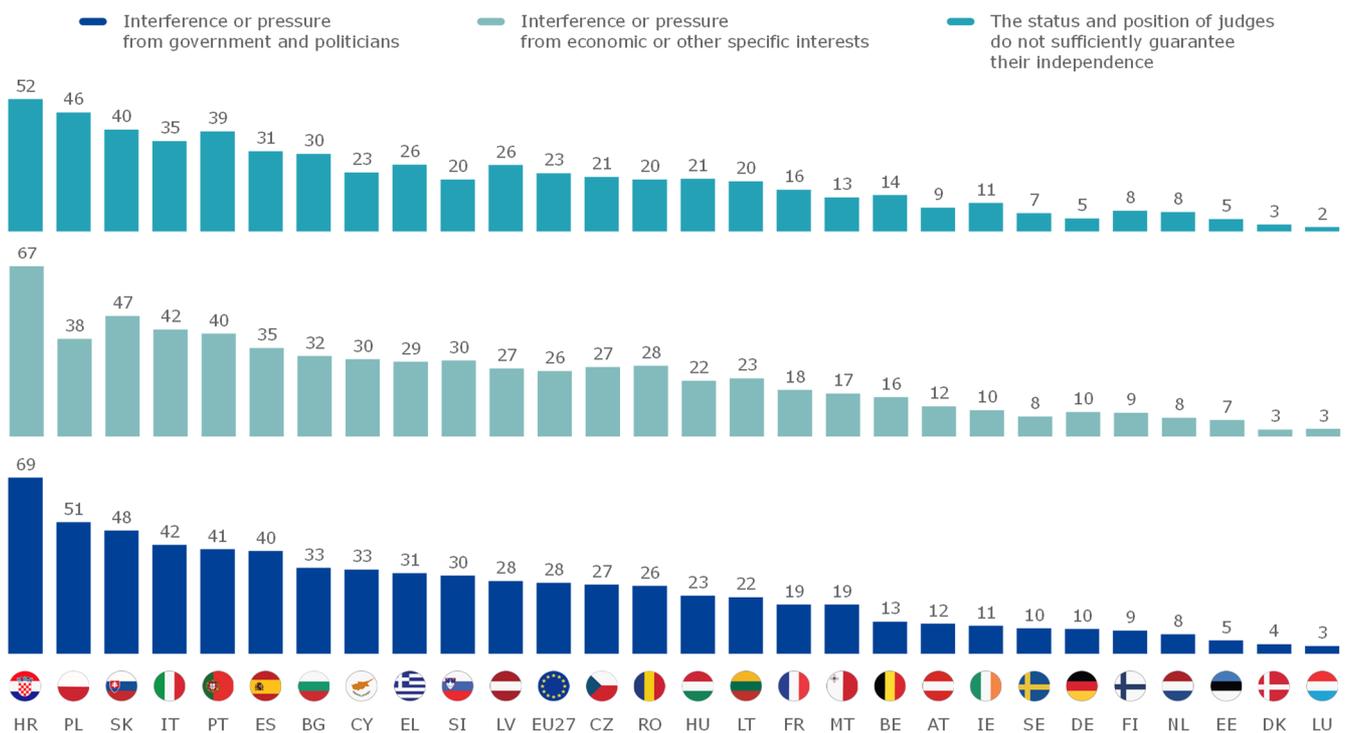
Base: all companies (n=12,832) ▼▲ Evolution 03-04/2021-01/2020

The country results, based on all respondents, show that Croatia stands out with 69% of companies that say that interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. In Poland and Slovakia, about one in two companies say the same. Companies in Luxembourg (3%), Denmark (4%) and Estonia (5%), on the other hand, are the least likely to say this.

Croatia is also the only country where two-thirds (67%) of all companies say that the 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 Slovakia (47%), Italy (42%) and Portugal (40%) say the same; this compared to 3% of companies in Denmark and Luxembourg.

About one in two companies in Croatia (52%) and a somewhat lower number in Poland (46%) say that the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee 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 scale, 2% of companies in Luxembourg, 3% in Denmark and 5% in Estonia 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=12,832)

## Technical specifications

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Between 29 March and 20 April 2021, Ipsos European Public Affairs carried out the Flash Eurobarometer 490 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>12 832</b>	<b>29.3.2021-20.4.2021</b>	<b>10 056 425</b>	<b>100%</b>
BE		505	29.3.2021-13.4.2021	185 883	1.85%
BG		520	29.3.2021-15.4.2021	183 744	1.83%
CZ		504	29.3.2021-20.4.2021	222 996	2.22%
DK		501	29.3.2021-13.4.2021	125 485	1.25%
DE		505	29.3.2021-13.4.2021	1 587 531	15.79%
EE		500	30.3.2021-8.4.2021	58 878	0.59%
IE		503	29.3.2021-16.4.2021	118 083	1.17%
EL		507	29.3.2021-9.4.2021	387 337	3.85%
ES		503	31.3.2021-14.4.2021	1 324 683	13.17%
FR		504	31.3.2021-13.4.2021	1 164 204	11.58%
HR		504	30.3.2021-14.4.2021	102 233	1.02%
IT		500	30.3.2021-14.4.2021	1 388 545	13.81%
CY		252	30.3.2021-8.4.2021	34 895	0.35%
LV		500	29.3.2021-9.4.2021	73 068	0.73%
LT		500	29.3.2021-9.4.2021	78 120	0.78%
LU		255	29.3.2021-13.4.2021	20 447	0.20%
HU		500	29.3.2021-13.4.2021	439 609	4.37%
MT		252	29.3.2021-8.4.2021	18 079	0.18%
NL		507	29.3.2021-8.4.2021	245 746	2.44%
AT		504	29.3.2021-7.4.2021	202 662	2.02%
PL		503	29.3.2021-16.4.2021	722 462	7.18%
PT		1015	29.3.2021-8.4.2021	325 291	3.23%
RO		1022	29.3.2021-13.4.2021	409 869	4.08%
SI		1043	29.3.2021-13.4.2021	66 855	0.66%
SK		1020	29.3.2021-20.4.2021	132 728	1.32%
FI		1031	29.3.2021-12.4.2021	136 330	1.36%
SE		1003	29.3.2021-12.4.2021	300 662	2.99%

Note (1): Universe calculations based on Eurostat Enterprise Statistics and Business Demography, 2018

## 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.

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.

### 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	
<b>D1X</b>	<b>In the last two years, has your company been involved in any dispute which has gone to court?</b>	
	(DO NOT READ OUT, ONE ANSWER ONLY)	
	Yes	1
	No	2
	Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	3
	<i>FL484 D4</i>	
	ASK ALL	
<b>Q1</b>	<b>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?</b>	
	(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
	<i>FL484 Q1</i>	
	ASK q2a IF Q1=3 OR 4	
<b>Q2a</b>	<b>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):</b>	
	(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER PER LINE) (RANDOMISE ITEMS 1 TO 3)	
<b>Q2a_1</b>	<b>Interference or pressure from government and politicians</b>	
<b>Q2a_2</b>	<b>Interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests</b>	
<b>Q2a_3</b>	<b>The status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence</b>	
	(RESPONSE SCALE)	
	Very much	1
	Somewhat	2
	Not really	3
	Not at all	4
	Don't know/No Answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	5
	<i>FL484 Q2a</i>	

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

*FL484 Q2b*

## **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▼-3	88▲2	2▲1
BE 	11▼-11	87▲11	2=
BG 	7▼-1	92=	1▲1
CZ 	8▼-8	92▲8	0=
DK 	9▼-6	90▲6	1=
DE 	10▼-15	83▲8	8▲7
EE 	11▲3	88▼-4	1▲1
IE 	3▲2	96=	1▼-2
EL 	15=	84▲1	1▼-1
ES 	8▼-2	92▲2	1=
FR 	15▼-3	83▲2	2▲2
HR 	13▼-5	85▲3	3▲2
IT 	4▲2	96▲2	0▼-4
CY 	9▼-12	91▲15	0▼-4
LV 	6▲1	94▼-1	0=
LT 	12▲3	88▼-3	0=
LU 	11▼-6	81▼-1	8▲7
HU 	8▲1	93=	0▼-1
MT 	17▲9	82▼-9	1=
NL 	14▲4	85▼-4	1=
AT 	13▲5	86▼-4	1=
PL 	15▼-4	85▲4	0=
PT 	15▲10	84▼-8	1▼-1
RO 	9▼-4	91▲5	0▼-1
SI 	8▼-6	92▲6	0=
SK 	6▼-2	93▲3	1▼-1
FI 	7=	93=	0=
SE 	6▲4	94▼-4	0=

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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		9▼-1	40▼-2	23▲2	12=	16▲2
BE		8▼-4	50▲3	13▼-4	8▲1	21▲4
BG		6▲4	37▼-7	22▼-4	18▲6	17=
CZ		6=	46▲8	27▼-4	8▼-9	14▲5
DK		43▲4	40▼-1	4▼-5	2▼-2	12▲4
DE		15▼-4	54▼-1	9▼-7	3▼-1	20▲12
EE		11▲2	46▲16	8=	2▼-1	33▼-16
IE		21▼-6	56▲7	10▲7	5▼-3	9▼-5
EL		8▲3	53▲6	25=	10▼-3	5▼-6
ES		4▼-3	35▲1	35▲10	15▼-1	11▼-7
FR		7▲4	51▼-14	19▼-1	7▼-1	16▲12
HR		3▲1	13▼-1	35▼-7	43▲7	7=
IT		4▲1	25▼-8	35▲7	22▲1	15▼-1
CY		10▼-2	35▼-1	17▼-7	20▲6	19▲3
LV		3=	50▲6	27▼-13	7=	13▲8
LT		3=	57▼-6	21▲8	5▼-1	15▼-1
LU		20▲4	51▼-7	4▲1	1▼-1	24▲3
HU		3▼-5	29▲10	18▼-2	14▲4	37▼-8
MT		15▲8	54▲12	20▼-4	6▼-7	6▼-10
NL		27▼-10	55▲11	8▲1	3▲2	7▼-5
AT		23=	55▲4	10▲4	4▲3	8▼-11
PL		2▼-3	16▼-6	36▲13	24▲5	22▼-8
PT		5▲4	34▼-10	31▲8	16▼-1	14▼-1
RO		2▼-2	43▼-7	21▼-6	12▲6	23▲8
SI		2▼-3	41▲10	20▼-9	16=	21▲2
SK		2▲1	28▲14	38▲5	21▼-16	11▼-3
FI		34▲9	52▼-7	10▲2	2=	2▼-4
SE		33▼-6	38▼-3	7▲3	5▲3	17▲4

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		54▲2	26▼-1	8=	8▲1	5▼-1
BE		37▼-27	21▲6	15▲5	17▲17	10▼-1
BG		64▲24	19▼-10	6▼-3	7▼-1	4▼-11
CZ		56▲8	22▼-12	12▼-4	4▲2	7▲5
DK		46▼-3	25▲4	4▼-8	25▲16	0▼-9
DE		54▲3	28▼-5	7▲4	6▲1	5▼-3
EE		30=	18▼-1	4▲4	17▼-4	30▲1
IE		41=	32▲32	15▼-7	6▼-26	6▲1
EL		45▲7	45▲2	6▲2	3▼-9	2▼-2
ES		63▲1	17=	4▼-2	12▲5	4▼-4
FR		48▲17	26▼-1	10▼-13	16▲3	0▼-6
HR		65▼-4	24▲9	4▼-1	5=	3▼-4
IT		37▼-13	38▲3	15▲7	4=	6▲3
CY		61▲4	28▲8	1▼-8	5▼-1	5▼-3
LV		56▼-12	27▲7	6▼-3	7▲6	5▲2
LT		54▲28	32▲6	7▼-1	5▼-13	3▼-20
LU		63▲62	5▼-15	32▲11	0▼-39	0▼-20
HU		57▲13	14▼-7	6▲1	10▼-12	13▲5
MT		44▲5	31▲6	10▼-4	12▼-5	4▼-2
NL		46▲30	24▼-30	17▲2	13▼-2	0=
AT		58▼-24	27▲24	6▲6	8▼-8	2▲2
PL		71▲9	14▼-5	6=	6▼-2	4▼-2
PT		66▼-8	21▲3	2▲2	4▲4	8▼-1
RO		58▲12	22▼-20	5▲2	6▼-2	9▲8
SI		61▼-14	24▲5	2▼-1	7▲7	6▲3
SK		48▼-23	33▲22	7▲3	7▲4	5▼-6
FI		34▼-1	43▲3	10▼-3	13=	1▲1
SE		41▲2	42▲40	3▼-16	8▲8	6▼-34

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (<100): AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, , EEFI, IE,LU, MT, NL, SE

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021 / Base: n=4472 - If Fairly bad or Very bad at Q1 / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		40▲1	34▼-1	14▲3	7=	5▼-2
BE		36▼-5	37▲16	9▼-10	12▼-3	6▲1
BG		57▲3	22▼-10	11▲4	6▲1	4▲1
CZ		43▲4	35▼-7	8▼-2	6▲1	8▲3
DK		32▲2	22▲3	29▼-22	17▲17	0▼-1
DE		40▲2	42▲13	11▼-5	4▼-2	3▼-8
EE		40▲11	22=	7▲7	4▼-26	27▲8
IE		37▲26	34▲13	13▼-30	12▼-10	5▲1
EL		33▼-4	51=	12▲8	3▼-1	2▼-2
ES		45▼-3	25▼-2	14=	13▲9	4▼-4
FR		41▲18	30▼-6	17▼-3	12▼-6	0▼-4
HR		49▼-2	37▼-2	5▲2	6▲3	3▼-2
IT		30▼-9	44=	18▲13	4▼-2	4▼-2
CY		61▼-4	22▼-5	12▲12	5▲2	1▼-5
LV		49▼-14	29▲10	7▼-2	7▲3	8▲3
LT		56▲27	34▼-2	2▼-5	4▼-13	4▼-7
LU		63▲62	5▼-55	13▲13	18▼-1	0▼-20
HU		47▲17	22▼-9	8▼-5	10▼-3	13▲1
MT		25=	41▲7	19▼-1	13▲7	2▼-13
NL		29▼-10	40▲25	20▲4	11▼-4	0▼-15
AT		42▲8	44▼-6	6▲6	4▲4	4▼-12
PL		34▲2	29▼-2	22▲4	7▼-4	7=
PT		66▲1	20▼-9	3=	5▲5	6▲3
RO		49▲28	35▼-20	5▼-3	6▼-2	5▼-3
SI		45▼-16	39▲10	3=	6▲6	7=
SK		45▼-6	34▲12	5▼-1	5▼-2	11▼-4
FI		41▲5	39▲14	12▼-16	8▲8	1▼-11
SE		26▲26	42▲40	10▼-29	9▼-11	14▼-26

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (<100): AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, , EEFI, IE,LU, MT, NL, SE

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021 / Base: n=4472 - If Fairly bad or Very bad at Q1 / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		33▲5	32▲2	16▼-3	10▼-3	9▼-1
BE		27▲2	40▲20	16▼-15	14▼-6	5▼-2
BG		47▲18	28▲1	10▼-8	8▲2	7▼-13
CZ		20▼-7	41▼-1	20▲5	10▲2	9=
DK		24▼-34	25▲3	10▲9	17▲7	25▲15
DE		23▼-5	19▼-24	28▲15	12▼-1	18▲15
EE		25▲15	20▼-20	6▼-3	8▼-13	41▲20
IE		37▲26	38▲6	9▲8	3▼-38	13▼-2
EL		24▲17	51▼-2	17▼-1	5▼-6	4▼-8
ES		40▲11	23▼-4	14▼-8	15=	8▲1
FR		28▲4	34▲14	18▼-11	15▼-5	5▼-1
HR		34▲5	33▲5	16▲1	13▼-6	5▼-5
IT		26=	37▲7	20=	9▼-3	8▼-4
CY		39▲20	24▼-5	8▼-8	19▼-5	10▼-1
LV		39▲7	36=	8▼-4	8▲1	9▼-4
LT		34▲8	42▲18	11▼-7	7▼-11	6▼-8
LU		3▲3	34▼-7	30▲11	22▲2	11▼-9
HU		43▲17	21▼-9	10▼-7	10▼-12	16▲11
MT		22▲11	30▼-8	24▼-6	9=	16▲3
NL		21▲20	50▼-4	14▼-1	14▼-16	1▲1
AT		26▼-24	40▲8	23▲5	7▲7	4▲4
PL		45▲9	32▲11	12▼-6	5▼-7	6▼-7
PT		43▲1	41▲9	7▲1	2▼-7	8▼-4
RO		27▲18	34▼-13	17▼-5	10▼-4	11▲4
SI		28▼-12	29▲2	14▼-1	17▲14	13▼-3
SK		29▼-10	38▲10	15▲2	7▼-4	12▲3
FI		24▼-12	44▲18	13=	13▼-11	6▲5
SE		30▼-10	29▲27	14▼-5	9▼-10	17▼-2

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for the following countries, due to low base sizes (<100): AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, , EEFI, IE,LU, MT, NL, SE

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021 / Base: n=4472 - If Fairly bad or Very bad at Q1 / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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		19▲1	9=	3=	3▲1	67▼-2
BE		8▼-7	5▲1	3▲1	4▲4	81▲2
BG		26▲11	8▼-3	2▼-1	3=	62▼-7
CZ		19▼-3	8▼-8	4▼-3	1=	68▲14
DK		3▼-3	1▼-1	0▼-1	1=	95▲6
DE		6▼-4	3▼-3	1=	1=	89▲7
EE		3=	2=	0=	2▼-1	93▲1
IE		6▲2	5▲5	2=	1▼-3	86▼-4
EL		16▲1	16▼-1	2=	1▼-3	66▲3
ES		31▲6	9▲2	2▼-1	6▲3	52▼-11
FR		13▲4	7▼-1	3▼-4	4▲1	74=
HR		50▼-4	19▲7	3▼-1	4=	25▼-3
IT		21▼-3	22▲5	8▲5	3=	47▼-6
CY		22▲1	10▲3	0▼-3	2=	65▼-1
LV		19▼-13	9=	2▼-2	2▲2	67▲13
LT		14▲9	8▲3	2=	1▼-2	75▼-10
LU		3▲3	0▼-1	2▲1	0▼-2	95▼-1
HU		18▲5	5▼-2	2=	3▼-3	72▼-1
MT		11▼-3	8▼-1	3▼-2	3▼-3	75▲9
NL		5▲4	3▼-2	2▲1	1=	89▼-3
AT		8▲2	4▲4	1▲1	1=	86▼-7
PL		43▲16	8=	3▲1	3=	42▼-18
PT		31▲1	10▲3	1▲1	2▲2	57▼-7
RO		19▲4	7▼-6	2▲1	2▼-1	70▲2
SI		22▼-12	9=	1▼-1	2▲2	67▲10
SK		29▼-22	19▲12	4▲2	4▲2	43▲7
FI		4▲1	5▲1	1=	2=	88▼-2
SE		5▲3	5▲5	0▼-1	1▲1	89▼-8

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021

Base: n=12832 - All / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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▲1	12=	5▲1	3=	67▼-2
BE		8▼-2	8▲3	2▼-3	3▼-1	80▲3
BG		23▲3	9▼-3	5▲2	2▲1	62▼-2
CZ		15▼-3	12▼-8	3▼-2	2=	68▲13
DK		2▼-2	1▼-1	2▼-5	1▲1	95▲7
DE		5▼-3	5▼-1	1▼-2	0▼-1	89▲6
EE		4▲1	2=	1▲1	0▼-3	92▲2
IE		5▲4	5▲3	2▼-3	2▼-1	86▼-4
EL		12▼-3	18▼-2	4▲3	1▼-1	66▲3
ES		22▲3	12▲2	7▲1	7▲5	52▼-11
FR		11▲4	8▼-2	4▼-1	3▼-2	74▲1
HR		38▼-2	28▼-1	4▲2	5▲2	25▼-1
IT		17▼-2	25▲4	10▲8	2▼-1	46▼-8
CY		22▼-2	8▼-2	4▲4	2▲1	64▼-1
LV		17▼-13	10▲1	2▼-2	3=	68▲13
LT		14▲9	9▲2	1▼-1	1▼-2	76▼-8
LU		3▲3	0▼-3	1▲1	1=	95▼-1
HU		15▲6	7▼-2	3▼-1	3▼-1	72▼-2
MT		6▼-3	11▼-2	5▼-3	3▲1	75▲6
NL		3=	4▲3	2▲1	1=	89▼-5
AT		6▲3	6▲3	1▲1	1▲1	87▼-8
PL		21▲7	18▲4	13▲6	4=	44▼-16
PT		31▲5	9▼-2	2=	2▲2	56▼-5
RO		16▲9	12▼-6	2▼-1	2=	69▼-1
SI		16▼-11	14▲1	1=	2▲2	67▲8
SK		27▼-9	20▲4	3▼-1	3▼-2	47▲8
FI		5▲1	5▲2	1▼-1	1▲1	88▼-3
SE		3▲3	5▲5	1▼-1	1=	90▼-7

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021

Base: n=12832 - All / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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		12▲2	11▲1	6▼-1	4▼-1	68▼-2
BE		6=	9▲4	3▼-4	3▼-2	80▲2
BG		19▲8	11▲1	4▼-3	3▲1	63▼-7
CZ		7▼-6	14▼-5	7=	3=	68▲11
DK		1▼-6	1▼-1	1=	1=	96▲7
DE		3▼-3	2▼-6	3▲1	1▼-1	90▲9
EE		3▲2	2▼-3	1=	1▼-2	94▲3
IE		6▲4	6▲2	1▲1	1▼-4	87▼-4
EL		8▲6	18▼-3	6▼-1	2▼-3	66▲1
ES		20▲8	11▲1	7▼-2	8▲1	54▼-8
FR		7▲1	9▲3	5▼-3	4▼-2	76▲1
HR		26▲4	26▲4	12▲1	10▼-5	26▼-4
IT		15▲2	21▲6	11▲2	5▼-1	48▼-9
CY		14▲7	9▼-2	3▼-3	7▼-2	67=
LV		14▼-2	12▼-5	3▼-3	3▼-1	69▲10
LT		9▲4	11▲6	3▼-1	2▼-2	76▼-8
LU		0=	2▼-1	1=	1=	96=
HU		14▲6	7▼-2	3▼-2	3▼-3	73▲1
MT		6▲2	8▼-6	6▼-5	2▼-1	78▲10
NL		2▲2	5▲1	2=	2▼-1	89▼-3
AT		4=	6▲3	3▲2	1▲1	87▼-6
PL		27▲12	19▲10	7▼-1	3▼-2	44▼-19
PT		20▲3	19▲7	3▲1	1▼-3	57▼-8
RO		9▲6	11▼-4	6▼-1	3▼-1	71▲1
SI		10▼-8	10▼-2	5▼-2	6▲5	69▲7
SK		17▼-10	23▲3	9▼-1	4▼-4	48▲12
FI		3▼-1	5▲3	2=	2▼-1	89▼-2
SE		4▲1	4▲3	2▲1	1=	90▼-5

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021

Base: n=12832 - All / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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		23=	41▼-1	18=	13=	5▲1
BE		16▼-1	44▼-3	26▲7	9▼-6	5▲4
BG		34▲12	22▼-3	15▼-3	17▼-2	12▼-4
CZ		17▼-12	45▲7	15▲3	16▲7	7▼-5
DK		31▼-2	45=	9▼-2	8▲4	7▲1
DE		23▼-6	48▼-3	12=	12▲4	6▲4
EE		36▲16	33▲1	15▼-4	9▲5	7▼-18
IE		29▲11	43▲9	15▼-15	11▼-5	2▲1
EL		13▼-2	41▼-1	32▲1	12▲2	2▼-1
ES		33▲18	22▼-18	17▼-3	24▲5	5▼-3
FR		14▲3	44▼-4	26▲1	13▼-2	3▲1
HR		14=	40▼-12	19▲6	15▲1	12▲6
IT		14▲2	49▲10	26▼-4	9▼-5	2▼-3
CY		24▲13	45▼-11	12▼-5	9▲2	10▲1
LV		22▼-5	36▼-6	20▲5	14▲3	8▲3
LT		24▲10	45▲5	15▲3	12▼-20	5▲1
LU		20▲9	36▲10	16▼-9	22▼-12	7▲3
HU		9▼-5	39▼-20	24▲12	17▲7	11▲6
MT		13▼-12	45▲10	18▼-2	18▲9	6▼-4
NL		35▼-6	39▲1	11▲7	13▼-2	2▲1
AT		27▲11	45▲5	12▼-8	13▼-8	3=
PL		28▼-15	44▲18	17▲11	5▼-5	6▼-8
PT		25▼-7	41▲2	16▲9	16=	3▼-5
RO		18▲3	45▲3	13▼-11	12▲4	11▲1
SI		23▲3	27▼-19	18=	20▲16	12=
SK		18▼-17	53▲29	13▲5	11▼-14	6▼-2
FI		27▲3	47▲11	16▼-6	7▼-11	3▲2
SE		45▲1	30▼-8	12▲2	7▲2	6▲3

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for HR, due to low base sizes (<100)

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021 / Base: n=6286 - If Very good or Fairly good at Q1 / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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	42▼-1	18▲3	12=	7▲1
BE 	13=	43▼-3	30▲10	11▼-6	3▼-1
BG 	16▼-7	41▲8	14▼-3	18▼-2	11▲4
CZ 	10▼-5	50▲1	19▲12	17▼-4	4▼-5
DK 	43▼-2	29▼-9	8▲2	10▲4	10▲5
DE 	22▼-8	45▲1	11▼-2	11▲1	10▲9
EE 	36▲6	35▲9	10▼-7	10=	10▼-8
IE 	31▲5	37▲6	15▼-4	14▼-3	3▼-4
EL 	10▼-5	45=	33▲7	11▼-1	2▼-1
ES 	19▲5	33▼-7	19▼-3	22▲6	7▼-1
FR 	14▼-4	47▼-4	26▲8	8▼-1	5▲1
HR 	10▼-1	38▼-9	25▲5	18▼-5	10▲10
IT 	16▲5	40▼-7	28▲6	7▼-5	9▲1
CY 	11=	47▲3	18▼-3	12▼-5	11▲5
LV 	18▼-13	45▲8	18▲4	9▼-3	10▲4
LT 	18▲12	49▼-5	20▲8	11▼-5	3▼-11
LU 	20=	36▲9	13▼-11	22=	8▲3
HU 	11▼-3	41▼-8	26▲14	14▼-3	9▼-1
MT 	17▲3	40▲7	23▼-3	15▲1	5▼-8
NL 	32▼-11	37▲6	16▲7	12▲3	3▼-4
AT 	26▲9	48▲17	11▼-10	11▼-11	4▼-4
PL 	17▼-10	49▲11	18▲13	7▼-7	9▼-8
PT 	19▲1	44▼-11	13▲5	20▲3	5▲3
RO 	15▲5	50▲7	14▼-15	13▲2	8=
SI 	9▼-9	43▼-4	22▲4	14▲10	12▼-2
SK 	9▼-8	51▲18	16▲6	13▲5	12▼-21
FI 	30▲8	45▲9	13▼-8	9▼-7	3▼-2
SE 	43▲2	32▼-9	9▲7	7▼-2	9▲2

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for HR, due to low base sizes (<100)

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021 / Base: n=6286 - If Very good or Fairly good at Q1 / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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		37▲1	41▼-3	11▲2	5▲1	6=
BE		27▲2	54▼-3	10▼-5	5▲4	4▲2
BG		32▲15	26▼-23	11▼-5	18▲13	13=
CZ		32▲13	47=	11▼-4	7▼-7	4▼-2
DK		53▲15	34▼-13	2▼-2	4▲1	8▼-1
DE		56▼-4	25▼-4	7▲1	3▲2	8▲5
EE		52▲1	29▲10	5▼-8	4▲4	10▼-7
IE		43▲3	43▲9	9▼-5	3▼-5	3▼-2
EL		17=	58▼-9	20▲5	2▲2	3▲3
ES		35▲6	35▼-8	13▲2	14▲8	3▼-7
FR		26▼-1	53▼-4	14▲4	3=	5=
HR		19▲3	40▼-7	9▼-8	15▲2	17▲10
IT		21=	63▲2	12▲1	3▲1	2▼-4
CY		26▲10	59▲7	6▼-10	0▼-2	9▼-4
LV		26▼-20	40▲2	18▲11	5▲2	11▲5
LT		23▲5	51▲24	13▲4	6▼-22	6▼-11
LU		50▲1	32▼-5	5▼-1	6▲4	8▲1
HU		16▼-26	46▲3	20▲15	10▲10	7▼-2
MT		37▲1	34▼-9	16▲8	6▲2	7▼-3
NL		41▼-16	43▲16	11=	2▼-1	3▲1
AT		45▼-14	38▲20	7=	4▲2	5▼-8
PL		23▼-6	47▲2	20▲13	1▼-1	10▼-8
PT		23▲2	28▼-13	18▲14	23▼-4	7▲1
RO		27▲11	50▼-5	11▼-4	3▼-2	9=
SI		26▲2	42▼-5	14▲3	9▲5	10▼-5
SK		24▼-2	48▼-2	12▲12	5▼-3	11▼-5
FI		53▲8	34=	8▼-6	2▼-3	3=
SE		55=	30▼-2	7▼-1	1▼-1	8▲3

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the results for HR, due to low base sizes (<100)

Flash Eurobarometer 490 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among companies / Fieldwork: 29/03 - 20/04/2021 / Base: n=6286 - If Very good or Fairly good at Q1 / ▼▲ Evolution 2021-2020 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 484, January 2020)

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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▼-2	9▼-1	6▼-1	54▲4
BE		9▼-1	26▼-3	15▲4	5▼-4	45▲4
BG		15▲4	10▼-2	6▼-2	7▼-1	62▲1
CZ		9▼-4	23▲6	8▲3	8▲4	52▼-9
DK		26=	37▲1	7▼-2	7▲3	23▼-2
DE		15▼-5	33▼-4	8=	8▲2	36▲7
EE		20▲12	19▲6	9▲1	5▲4	48▼-23
IE		22▲8	33▲7	12▼-12	8▼-4	26=
EL		8=	25▲3	19▲4	7▲2	41▼-9
ES		13▲7	9▼-8	7▼-2	9▲1	63▲2
FR		8▲1	26▼-7	15▼-2	8▼-2	44▲10
HR		2=	6▼-2	3▲1	2=	86▲1
IT		4=	14=	7▼-3	3▼-2	72▲6
CY		11▲6	20▼-6	5▼-3	4▲1	60▲3
LV		11▼-1	19▼-1	11▲3	7▲2	52▼-4
LT		14▲5	27▲1	9▲1	7▼-14	43▲6
LU		14▲6	26▲7	11▼-7	15▼-10	34▲4
HU		3▼-1	12▼-3	7▲4	6▲3	72▼-4
MT		9▼-3	31▲14	12▲3	12▲8	36▼-21
NL		29▼-4	32▲1	9▲5	11▼-2	20▼-1
AT		21▲9	35▲6	9▼-5	10▼-5	25▼-5
PL		5▼-7	8▲1	3▲1	1▼-2	83▲6
PT		10▼-5	16▼-1	6▲3	6▼-1	62▲3
RO		8=	20▼-2	6▼-7	6▲1	61▲8
SI		10▲3	12▼-5	8▲1	9▲7	62▼-6
SK		5=	16▲12	4▲3	3▼-1	72▼-14
FI		23▲3	40▲10	14▼-4	6▼-9	17▲1
SE		32▼-3	21▼-9	8=	5▲1	34▲12

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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▼-2	9▲1	6▼-1	55▲4
BE		8=	25▼-3	17▲6	7▼-4	44▲1
BG		7▼-4	18▲3	6▼-2	8▼-1	62▲4
CZ		5▼-1	26▲5	10▲7	9=	51▼-9
DK		36▼-1	24▼-6	7▲2	8▲4	25▲2
DE		15▼-7	31▼-2	8▼-2	8=	39▲10
EE		20▲9	20▲10	5▼-1	6▲2	49▼-19
IE		23▲4	28▲5	12▼-3	11▼-2	26▼-3
EL		6▼-2	27▲4	20▲7	6=	41▼-10
ES		8▲2	13▼-4	7▼-2	9▲2	63▲2
FR		8▼-4	27▼-8	15▲3	5▼-1	45▲10
HR		2=	6▼-2	4▲1	3▼-1	86▲2
IT		5▲1	11▼-5	8=	2▼-2	74▲7
CY		5=	21=	8▼-2	5▼-3	61▲5
LV		9▼-5	24▲6	9▲3	5▼-1	53▼-3
LT		11▲7	29▼-6	12▲4	7▼-4	42▼-1
LU		14▼-1	26▲6	10▼-8	16▼-1	35▲4
HU		4=	13=	8▲5	4=	71▼-5
MT		11▲5	28▲11	16▲3	10▲3	35▼-23
NL		26▼-9	31▲5	13▲6	10▲2	21▼-4
AT		20▲8	37▲14	8▼-7	9▼-8	26▼-7
PL		3▼-4	9▼-1	3▲2	1▼-3	83▲6
PT		7▼-1	17▼-7	5▲1	8=	63▲7
RO		7▲2	22▼-1	6▼-9	6=	59▲8
SI		4▼-2	19▲2	10▲3	6▲5	62▼-7
SK		3=	15▲10	5▲3	4▲3	74▼-16
FI		26▲7	38▲8	12▼-7	8▼-6	17▼-3
SE		30▼-3	23▼-10	6▲5	5▼-2	36▲10

## Flash Eurobarometer 490

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

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▼-1	20▼-3	6▲1	3=	54▲3
BE		16▲1	31▼-3	6▼-3	3▲3	45▲3
BG		14▲6	11▼-11	5▼-3	8▲5	63▲3
CZ		16▲8	24▲3	6▼-1	4▼-3	51▼-8
DK		44▲13	28▼-9	1▼-1	3▲1	24▼-4
DE		39▼-5	17▼-4	5▲1	2▲1	37▲7
EE		29▲9	17▲9	3▼-2	3▲2	49▼-19
IE		32▲3	33▲7	7▼-4	2▼-4	26▼-2
EL		10▲2	35▲1	12▲4	1▲1	41▼-8
ES		14▲1	14▼-4	5▲1	6▲3	62=
FR		15▼-3	31▼-8	8▲1	2=	45▲10
HR		3=	6▼-1	1▼-1	2=	87▲2
IT		6▼-2	18▼-4	4▼-1	1=	72▲6
CY		12▲4	26▲2	3▼-5	0▼-1	60=
LV		14▼-8	21▲3	10▲6	3▲1	53▼-3
LT		14▲2	31▲13	8▲2	4▼-15	44▼-1
LU		36=	22▼-5	4▼-1	4▲3	34▲3
HU		5▼-6	15▲3	6▲5	3▲3	71▼-6
MT		25▲8	23▲3	11▲7	4▲2	37▼-20
NL		34▼-13	35▲14	9=	2▼-1	20▼-1
AT		35▼-8	30▲16	6▲1	3▲2	26▼-10
PL		4▼-4	9▼-4	4▲2	0▼-1	84▲6
PT		9=	11▼-8	7▲5	9▼-3	64▲6
RO		12▲4	22▼-7	5▼-3	1▼-1	60▲8
SI		11▲3	18▲1	6▲2	4▲2	61▼-8
SK		7▲3	14▲7	4▲4	2=	74▼-14
FI		46▲8	29=	7▼-5	2▼-2	17▼-1
SE		39▼-5	21▼-4	5▼-1	0▼-1	35▲12

