



Flash Eurobarometer 519

Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Report



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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 519 – Ipsos European Public Affairs



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(DG COMM “Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

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Introduction

This Flash Eurobarometer survey explores EU citizens' perceptions about the independence of the judiciary across the 27 EU Member States. The 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 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:

- EU citizens' perceptions of 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 EU citizens, aged 15 and over, in each of the 27 EU Member States was interviewed. Between 16 and 23 January 2023, 25 876 interviews were conducted over the telephone (landline and mobile phones) by Ipsos European Public Affairs.

Results are presented from an EU, country and socio-demographic perspective, and are compared to the results of the previous survey in this series, conducted in January 2022 (Flash Eurobarometer 503¹). Survey data are weighted to known population proportions. The EU27 averages are weighted according to the size of the 15+ population of each Member State. A technical note on the methods applied to conduct the survey is appended as an annex to this report.

¹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2752>

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 EU27 and national 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) 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

A slim majority rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good

- A slim majority of EU citizens rate the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good: 11% say it is ‘very good’ and 42% that it is ‘fairly good’, while 36% say it is (fairly or very) bad. These results have remained stable compared to January 2022.
- In 17 Member States, the majority rate their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good, with respondents in Finland (86%), Denmark (86%) and Austria (83%) being the most likely to give a positive rating.
- Compared to January 2022, the opinion about the independence of courts and judges has become more positive in Slovakia (+9 pp), Czechia (+8 pp) and Belgium (+6 pp). Respondents in Latvia (-12 pp), Hungary (-8 pp), as well as the Netherlands and Greece (both -7 pp) are now less likely to rate the independence of courts and judges as good.
- Men, those aged 15-24, those who remained longer in education and employees are the most likely to rate the independence of their justice system as good. The same applies to those who have not been involved in a court dispute.

The status and position of judges is most often given as a reason for rating the independence of courts and judges as good

- Respondents who rate the independence of their justice system as good are the most likely to say this is due to the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence (79%). 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 2022.

Interference or pressure from government and politicians is the most likely reason for rating the independence of courts and judges as bad

- More than three-quarters (77%) of respondents, who rate the independence of their justice system as bad, say that interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their rating. This compares to 73% who say the same about interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests and 60% who say this about the status and position of judges, which does not sufficiently guarantee their independence.
- Compared with January 2022, respondents are now somewhat more likely to say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (+3 pp) explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad.

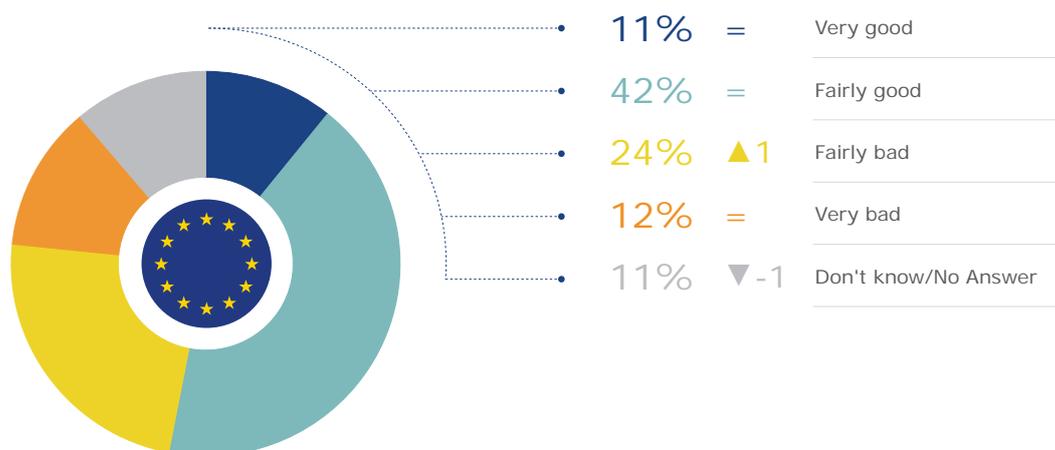
Section 1. Perceived independence of courts and judges among the general public

This section of the report discusses EU citizens' perceptions of the independence of courts and judges in their country.

A slim majority of EU citizens rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good

A slim majority of EU citizens rate the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good: 11% say it is 'very good' and 42% that it is 'fairly good'. About one third say the independence of courts and judges is bad in their country, with 24% saying it is 'fairly bad' and 12% that it is 'very bad'. Finally, 11% of respondents '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)



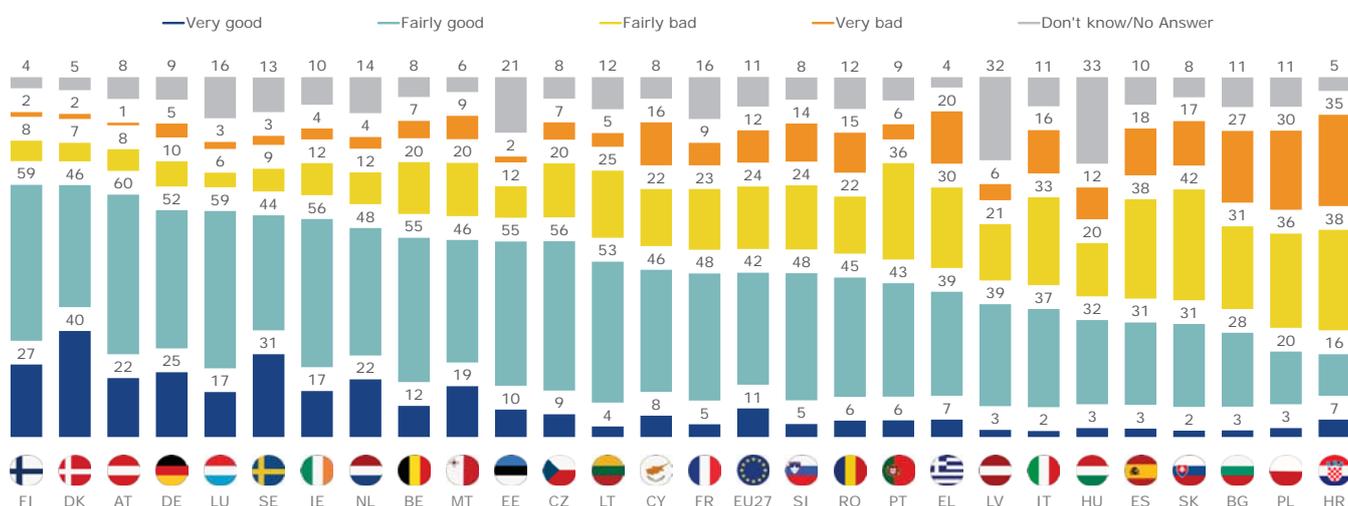
Base: all respondents (n= 25 876) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

Compared to the results from January 2022, the total proportions saying the independence of the courts and judges in their country is good or bad have remained roughly the same.

Opinion about the independence of courts and judges varies considerably across Member States. In 17 Member States, the majority rate their national justice system in terms of the independence of courts and judges as good, with respondents in Finland (86%), Denmark (86%) and Austria (83%)² being the most likely to say this. At the other end of the country ranking, 22% of respondents in Croatia and 23% in Poland rate the independence of their courts and judges as good.

Respondents in Denmark (40%) are more likely than those in other countries to rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as 'very good', followed by those in Sweden (31%), Finland (27%) and Germany (25%). In contrast, 35% of respondents in Croatia, 30% in Poland and 27% in Bulgaria rate the independence of their courts and judges as 'very bad'.

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? (%)

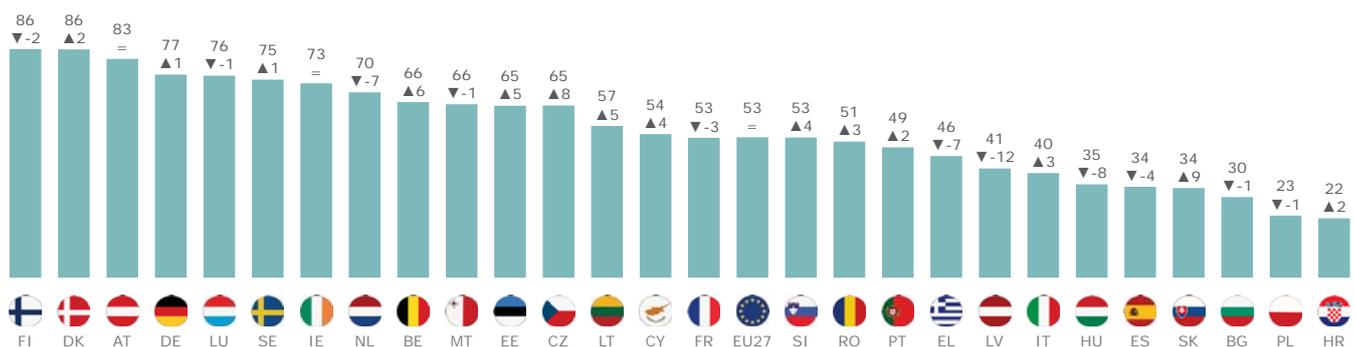


Base: all respondents (n=25 876)

² 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 some (statistically significant) changes in opinion compared to January-February 2022. The opinion about the independence of courts and judges has become more positive in Slovakia (+9 pp), Czechia (+8 pp) and Belgium (+6 pp). Respondents in Latvia (-12 pp) and Hungary (-8 pp), as well as the Netherlands and Greece (both -7 pp) are now less likely to rate the independence of courts and judges as good.

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'**)



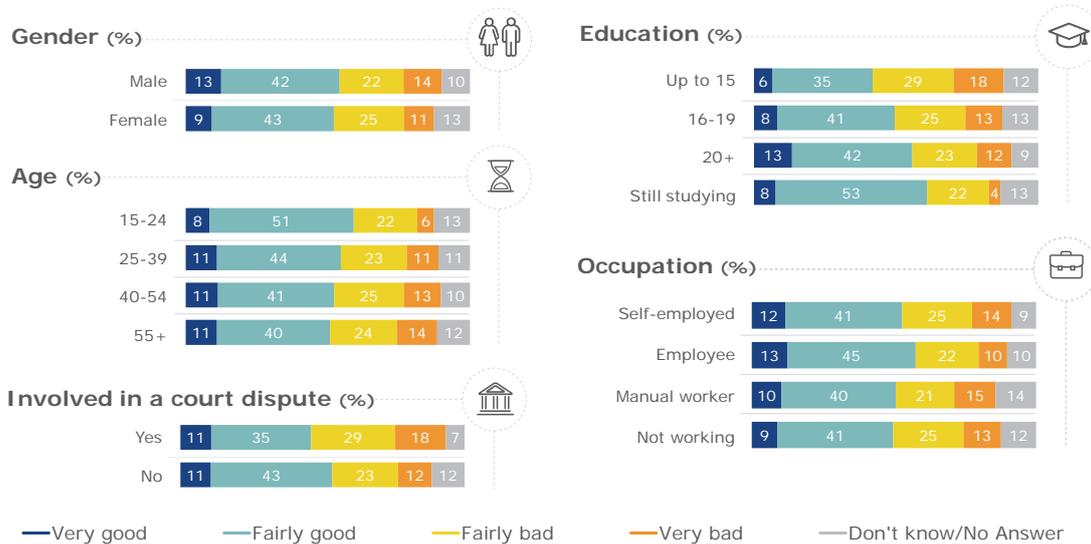
Base: all respondents (n= 25 876) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

The socio-demographic analysis reveals the following:

- Men (13%) are slightly more likely than women (9%) to rate the independence of courts and judges as 'very good'.
- Young respondents are more likely to rate the independence of courts and judges as good: 59% of those aged 15-24 share this view, compared to 52% of those aged 40-54 and 51% of those aged 55 or above.
- The longer respondents remained in education, the more likely they are to rate the independence of courts and judges as good: 56% of those who completed their education aged 20 and above share this view, compared to 42% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger. Those who are still studying are overall the most likely to rate the independence of court and judges positively (61%).
- In terms of occupation, employees (58%) are the most likely to rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as good, in particular when compared to non-working respondents (50%).
- Those who in the last two years have been involved in a dispute that went to court (47%) are more likely to say the independence of courts and judges is bad, compared to those who have not been involved in such a dispute (35%).

³ 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 socio-demographics)



Base: all respondents (n= 25 876)

Section 2. Main reasons among the general public for the perceived independence of the national justice systems

This chapter considers the reasons for respondents making positive or negative assessments of the independence of courts and judges in their country.

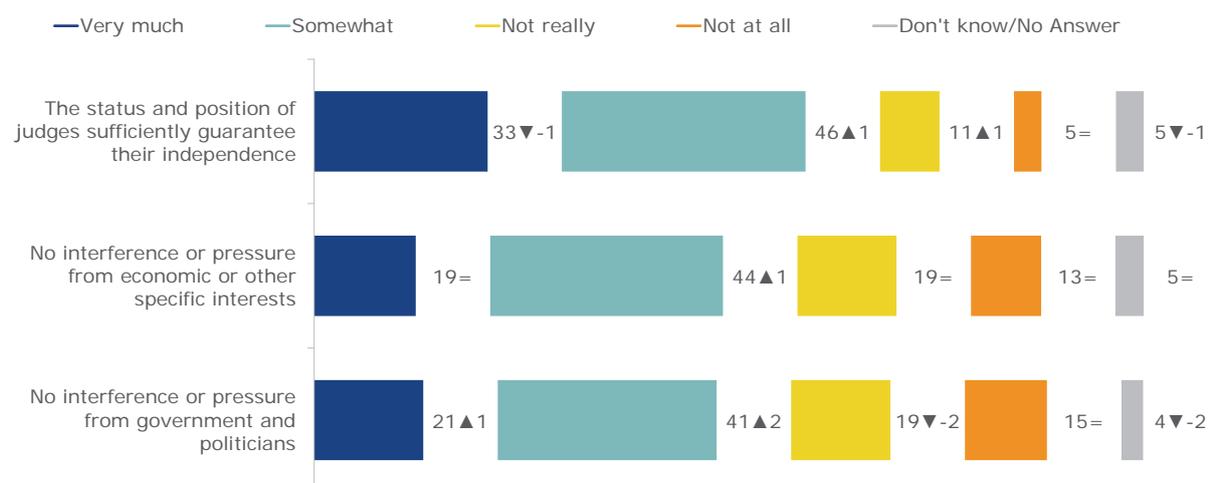
2.1. Positive assessments

More than three-quarters say the status and position of judges is a reason for their positive rating of the independence of courts and judges in their country

Respondents who rated the justice system in their country – in terms of the independence of courts and judges – as good⁴ were asked to which extent the status of judges, a lack of interference or pressure from government or politicians or from economic or special interests explained their rating.

More than three-quarters of respondents in this group say that their positive rating of the justice system's independence is explained by the fact that **the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence**, with 33% saying this reason 'very much' explains their rating and 46% that it 'somewhat' explains their rating. More than six in ten respondents say that **no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains their positive rating, with 19% saying this 'very much' explains their rating and 44% that this 'somewhat' does. A similar proportion say **no interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains their positive rating, with 21% saying this 'very much' explains their rating and 41% that it 'somewhat' explains does.

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n= 14 423)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

⁴ Answering 'fairly good' or 'very good'.

Compared to January 2022, there is a slight increase (+3 pp) in the overall share of respondents saying that their positive rating of the justice system's independence is explained by the fact that there is no interference or pressure from government and politicians.

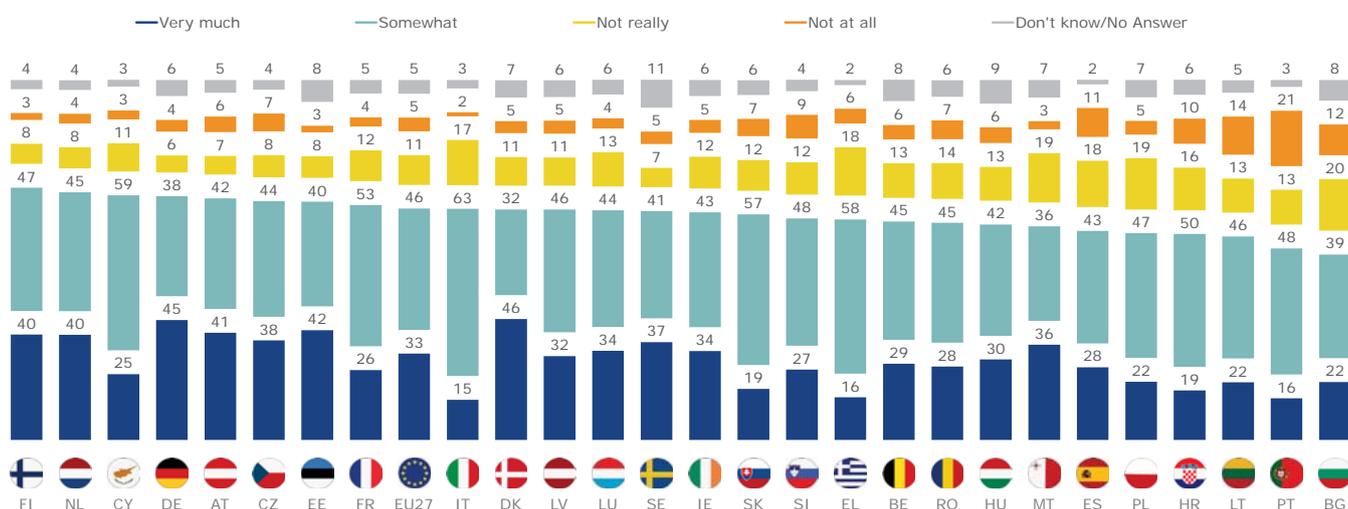
a. Status and position of judges

In 22 Member States, at least 70% of respondents say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence is a reason for their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country. Respondents in Finland (86%), the Netherlands (85%), as well as Cyprus and Germany (both 83%) are the most likely to say this.⁵ Respondents in Bulgaria (61%), Portugal (63%), Lithuania (68%), as well as Croatia and Poland (both 69%) are the least likely to say this reason explains their rating.

Respondents in Denmark (46%) and Germany (45%) are the most likely to say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system, while those in Italy (15%), Portugal and Greece (both 16%), as well as Croatia and Slovakia (both 19%) are the least likely to say so. Respondents in Italy (63%), Cyprus (59%) and Greece (58%) are the most likely to say this 'somewhat' explains their positive rating, while respondents in Denmark (32%), Malta (36%), Germany (38%) and Bulgaria (39%) are the least likely to say this.

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n= 14 423)

Around one in five respondents in Bulgaria (20%), as well as Malta and Croatia (19%) say the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence is 'not really' a reason

⁵ 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.

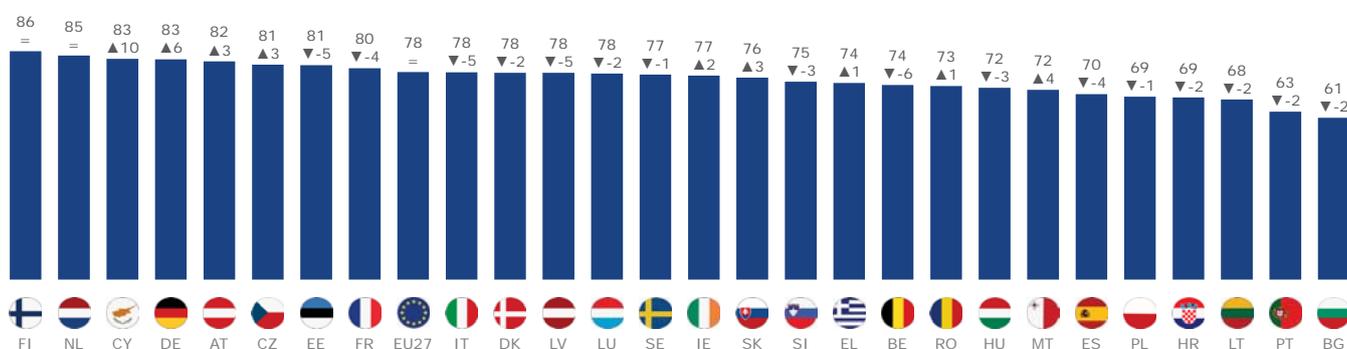
for their rating. Less than one in ten share this view in Germany (6%), closely followed by Austria and Sweden (both 7%), as well as Czechia, Estonia, Finland and the Netherlands (all 8%). In Portugal (21%), respondents are the most likely to say this does not explain their rating 'at all', followed by Lithuania (14%). By contrast, this response is selected by 2% of respondents in Italy.

Since January 2022, the share of respondents saying that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their positive rating of the independence of their national justice system has significantly increased in Cyprus (+10 pp) and Germany (+6 pp), while it has significantly decreased in Belgium (- 6 pp).⁶

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 423)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

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

b. Economic interests

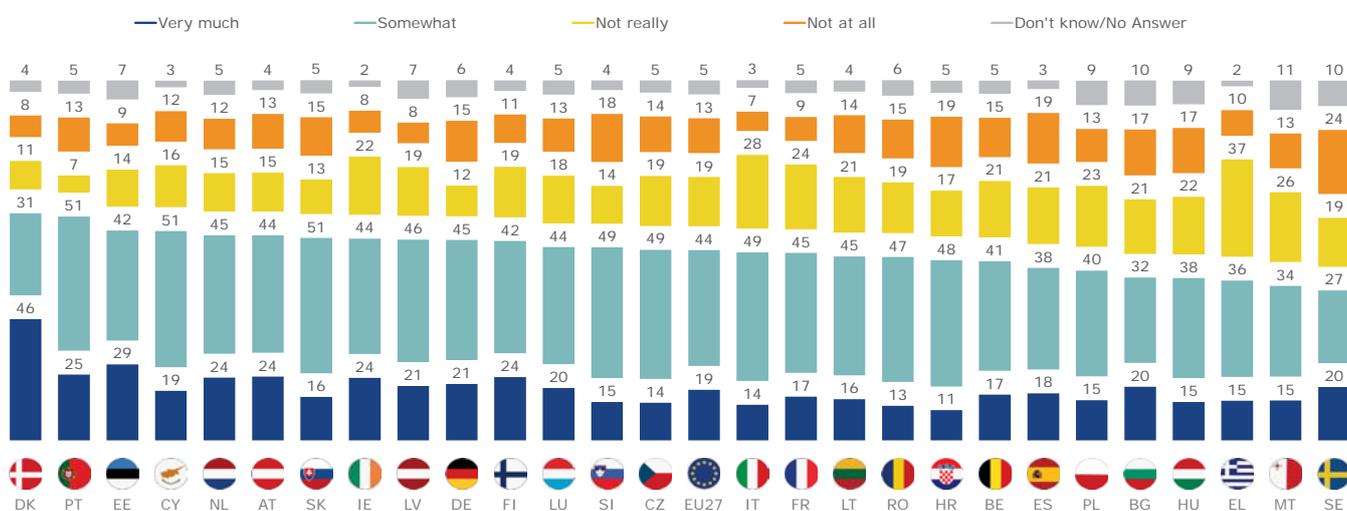
In all but two Member States, at least half of respondents say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests is a reason they rate the justice system's independence in their country positively. The highest proportions sharing this view are observed in Denmark (77%) and Portugal (76%), while the lowest ones are found in Malta (49%) and Sweden (48%).⁷

Respondents in Denmark (46%) are more likely to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country. In comparison, those in Romania (13%) and Croatia (11%) are less likely to share this view. More than half of respondents in Cyprus, Portugal and Slovakia (all 51%) say this reason 'somewhat' explain their positive rating, while less than three in ten (27%) say so in Sweden.

Respondents in Greece (37%) are the most likely to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests is 'not really' a reason for their positive rating, compared to 7% in Portugal and 11% in Denmark. Finally, respondents in Sweden (24%), as well as Spain and Croatia (both 19%) are more likely to say this factor does not explain their positive rating 'at all'. Less than one in ten share this view in France and Estonia (9%), Denmark, Ireland, Latvia (all 8%) and Italy (7%).

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 244)

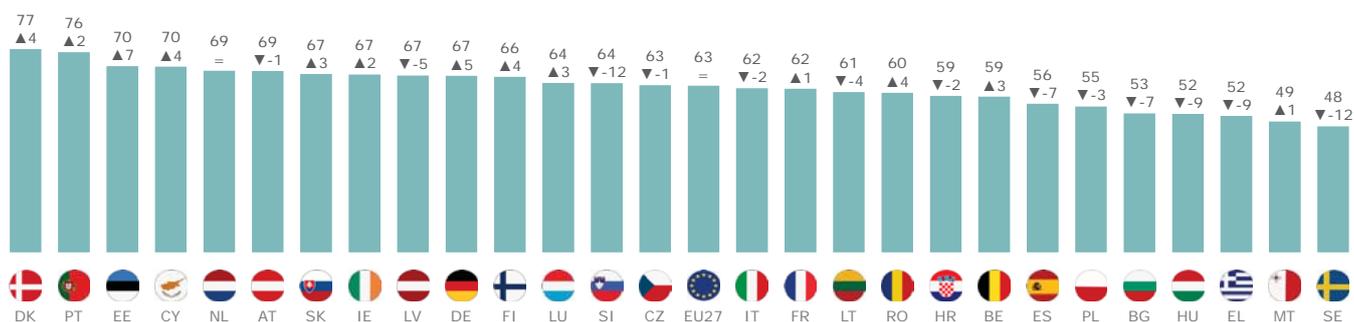
⁷ Due to rounding, percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

Compared to January 2022, the share of respondents saying that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their positive rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country has significantly decreased in Sweden and Slovenia (both -12 pp), as well as in Greece and Hungary (both -9 pp).⁸ By contrast, the percentage of respondents sharing this view has significantly increased in Estonia (+7 pp).

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 423)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2022- 01/2023

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

c. Political pressure

In all Member States, at least half of respondents say no interference or pressure from government and politicians is a reason for their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country. The proportion sharing this view ranges from 50% in Sweden to 75% in Denmark and Portugal.

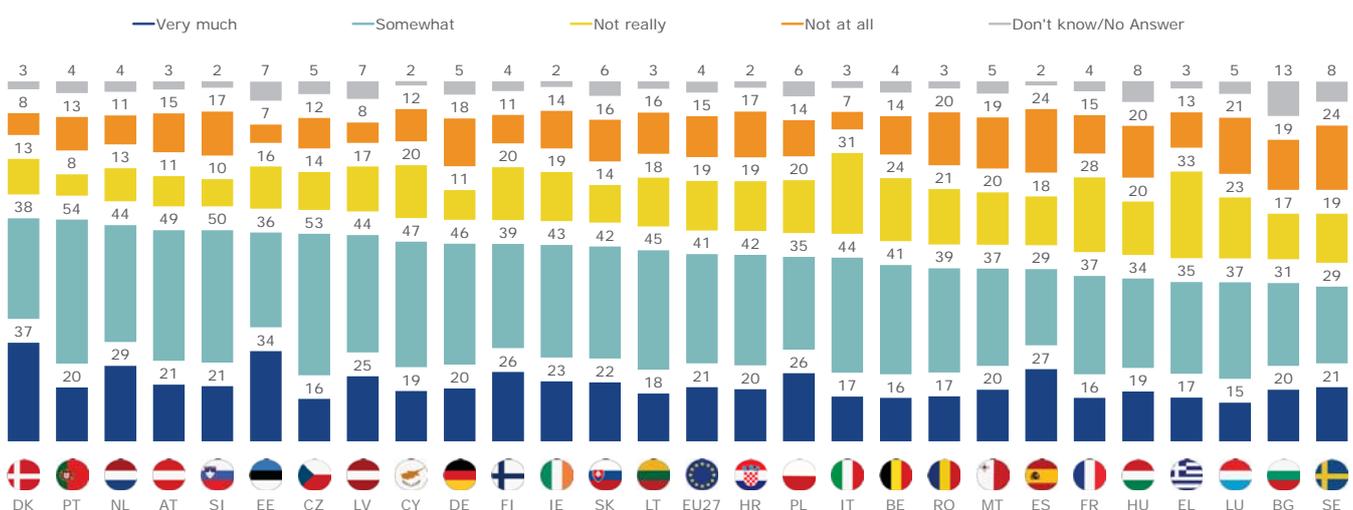
Respondents in Denmark (37%) and Estonia (34%) are more likely to say that no interference or pressure from government and politicians 'very much' explains their positive rating of the justice system's independence in their country. The lowest proportion sharing this view is observed in Luxembourg (15%). Respondents in Portugal (54%), Czechia (53%) and Slovenia (50%) are the most likely to say this 'somewhat' explains their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system, while those in Bulgaria (31%), as well as Spain and Sweden (both 29%) are the least likely to say so.

The highest shares of respondents saying that no interference or pressure from government and politicians is 'not really' a reason for their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country are found in Greece (33%) and Italy (31%). In the remaining countries, the proportion of respondents reporting this ranges from 8% in Portugal to 28% in France.

Finally, more than one in five respondents in Luxembourg (21%), as well as Sweden and Spain (both 24%) say that no interference or pressure from government and politicians does 'not at all' explain their positive rating. By contrast, 7% in Italy and Estonia report the same.

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 (%)



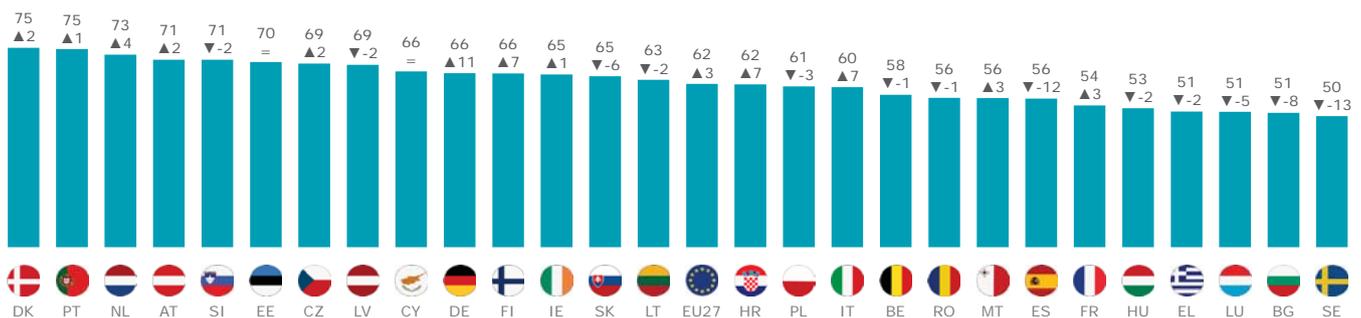
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 423)

Compared to January 2022, the proportion of respondents saying that no interference or pressure from government and politicians is a reason for their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country has significantly increased in Germany (+11 pp) and Finland (+7 pp), while it has significantly decreased in Sweden (-13 pp) and Spain (-12 pp).⁹

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 423)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

d. Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows the following:

- Men (80%) are a little more inclined than women (77%) to say that the fact that the status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence explains their positive rating. Men (34%) are also slightly more likely than women (30%) to say that no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests does *not* explain their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country.
- Respondents aged 45-54 (65%) are more likely than those aged 55 and above (60%) to say that their positive rating of the level of independence of the justice system in their country is explained by there being no interference or pressure from government and politicians.
- The longer respondents remained in education, the more likely they are to say that each of the three reasons contributes to explaining their positive rating. For example, 81% of those who completed their education aged 20 or older say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their rating, compared to 69% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger.

⁹ Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

- For each of the three reasons, employees are also more likely to say that it explains their rating. Notably, 65% of employees say that no interference or pressure from the government and politicians explains their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country, compared to 63% of self-employed respondents, 59% of those not working and 56% of manual workers.
- Respondents who have not been involved in a dispute that has gone to court in the last two years are more likely to say that their positive assessment is explained by there being no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (63% vs 57%).

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 socio-demographics)

	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	62	34	63	32	78	16
 Gender						
Men	62	34	62	34	80	16
Women	61	34	64	30	77	17
 Age						
15-24	62	35	64	32	80	17
25-39	61	35	62	35	76	19
40-54	65	32	65	31	79	17
55+	60	35	62	31	79	14
 Education (age when completed)						
Up to 15	54	39	61	30	69	23
16-19	61	36	64	31	77	19
20+	64	33	63	32	81	15
Still studying	62	35	64	32	81	14
 Occupation						
Self-employed	63	35	62	32	79	18
Employee	65	32	67	30	80	15
Manual worker	56	38	65	30	75	21
Not working	59	36	60	34	77	17
 Involved in dispute which went to court						
Yes	60	34	57	38	81	16
No	62	34	63	31	78	16

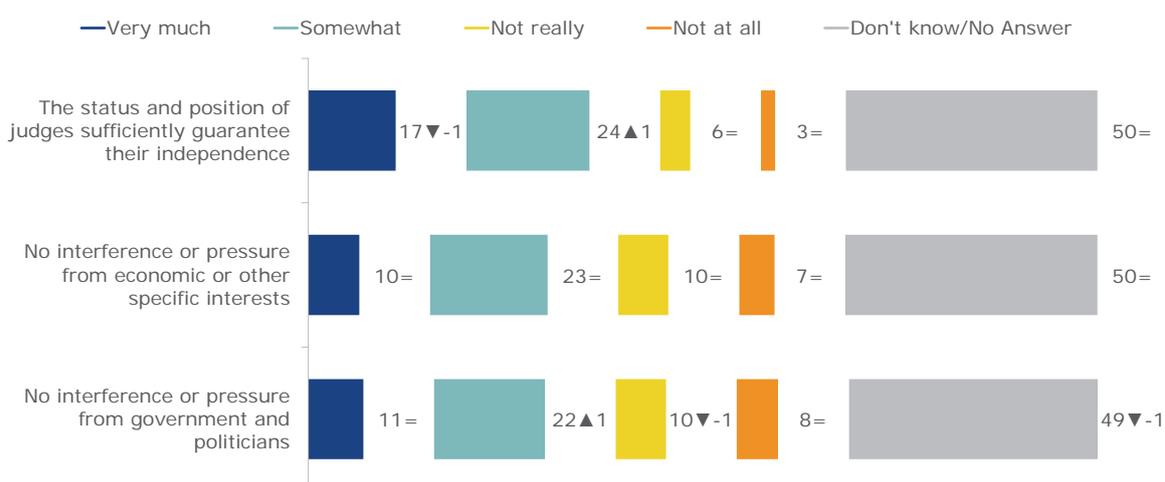
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as good (n=14 423)

e. Analysis based on all respondents

The chart below shows the results when analysing all respondents' answers to the question asking to which extent the status of judges, no interference or pressure from government or politicians, or from economic or special interests explained their positive rating of the independence of the justice system in their country.

Overall, 42% of respondents say that the status and position of judges sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains why they rate the independence of their justice system in their country as good. One-third say no interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains why they think the independence of their justice system is good; the same proportion (33%) say this about no interference or pressure from government and politicians. Results have remained stable compared to January 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)



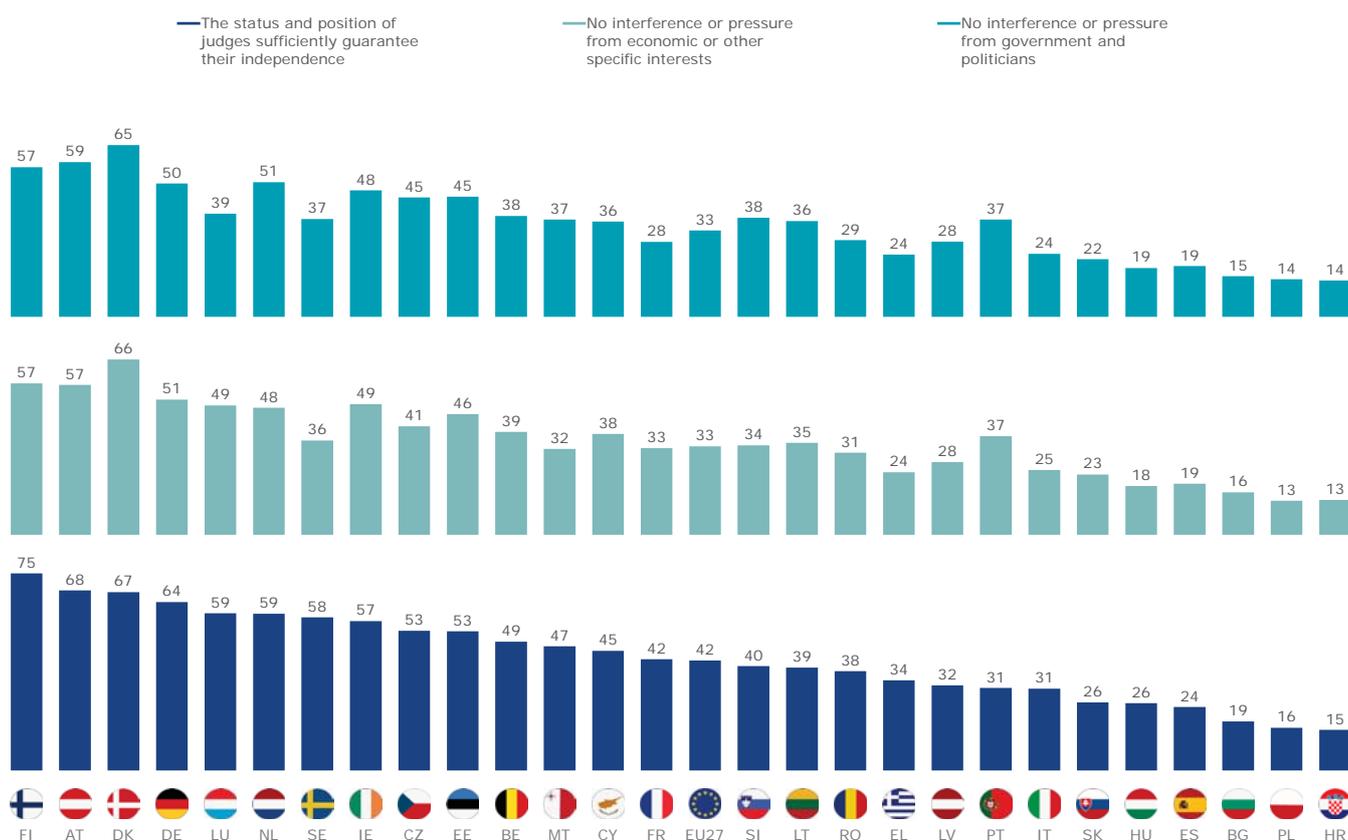
Base: all respondents (n= 25 876) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

The country results, based on all respondents, show that respondents in Finland (75%), Austria (68%) and Denmark (67%) are the most likely to say the fact that the **status and position of judges sufficiently guarantee their independence** explains why they rate independence of courts and judges as good. By contrast, 15% in Croatia, 16% in Poland, 19% in Bulgaria say the same.

In four Member States, a majority of respondents say that the **absence 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 as good. This applies to Denmark (66%), Finland and Austria (both 57%), as well as Germany (51%). By contrast, less than two in ten respondents share this view in Croatia and Poland (both 13%), Bulgaria (16%), Hungary (18%) and Spain (19%).

Close to six in ten – or more – of respondents in Denmark (65%), Austria (59%) and Finland (57%) say that the **absence of interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they think the level of independence of courts and judges in their country is good. Croatia and Poland (both 14%), as well as Bulgaria (15%) are again found at the other end of the country ranking.

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 respondents (n=25 876)

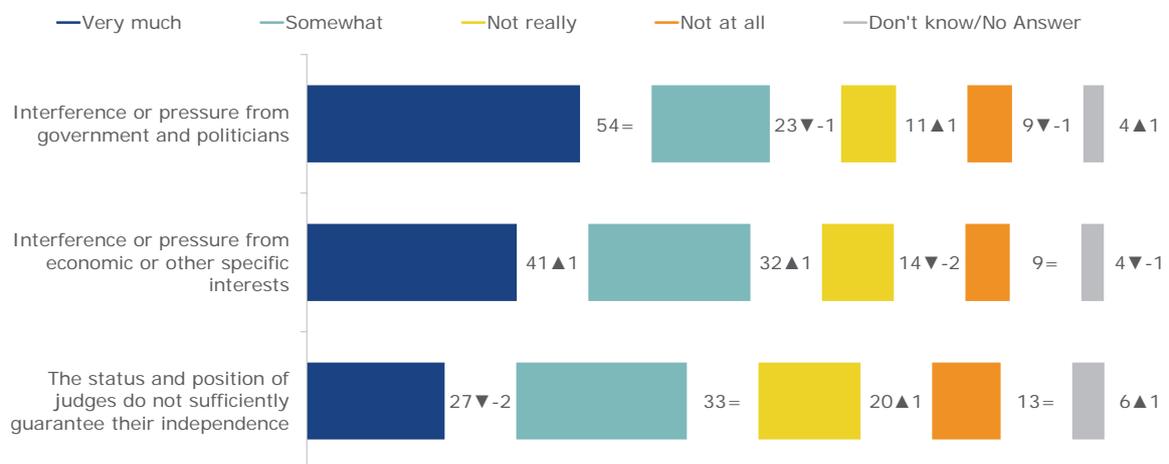
2.2. Negative assessments

Interference or pressure from government and politicians is a reason most often given for rating the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad

Respondents who rated the level of independence of their national justice system as bad¹⁰ 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 government or politicians, or interference or pressure from economic or special interests.

More than three-quarters of respondents in this group say **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad: 54% say this 'very much' explains their negative rating and 23% that this 'somewhat' explains their rating. Over seven in ten respondents say that **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains their negative rating, with 41% saying this 'very much' explains it and 32% that this only 'somewhat' applies. Six in ten say the fact that the **status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence** is a reason for their poor rating of their national justice system, with 27% saying this 'very much' explains their rating and 33% that this 'somewhat' explains it.

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 888)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

Compared with January 2022, respondents are now somewhat more likely to say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (+3 pp) explains why they rate the independence of the justice system in their country as bad.

¹⁰ Answering 'fairly bad' or 'very bad'.

a. Political pressure

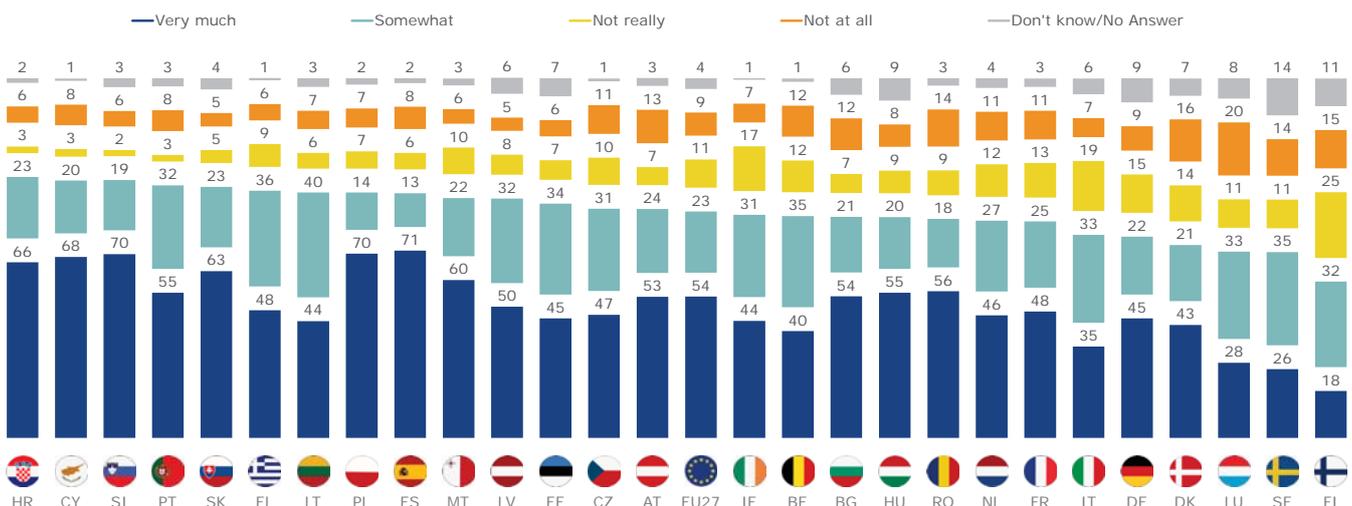
In all Member States, at least half of respondents with a negative perception of the independence of courts and judges in their country indicate interference or pressure from government and politicians as a reason for this perception. Respondents in Croatia (90%), Slovenia and Cyprus (both 88%), as well as Portugal and Slovakia (both 86%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Finland are the least likely (50%).

In 13 countries, at least half of respondents say that interference or pressure from government and politicians 'very much' explains their rating of the justice system, with the highest proportions observed in Spain (71%), as well as Poland and Slovenia (both 70%). At the other end of the country ranking, 18% of respondents in Finland, 26% in Sweden and 28% in Luxembourg say the same. Four in ten respondents in Lithuania (40%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, compared to 13% in Spain and 14% in Poland.

Respondents in Finland (25%) are the most likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians does 'not really' explain their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges, while those in Slovenia (2%), as well as Cyprus, Croatia and Portugal (all 3%) are the least likely to do so. Finally, respondents in Luxembourg (20%), Denmark (16%), Finland (15%), as well as Romania and Sweden (both 14%) are the most likely to say this reason does 'not at all' explain their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country, while those in Latvia and Slovakia (both 5%) are the least likely to say this.

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 (%)



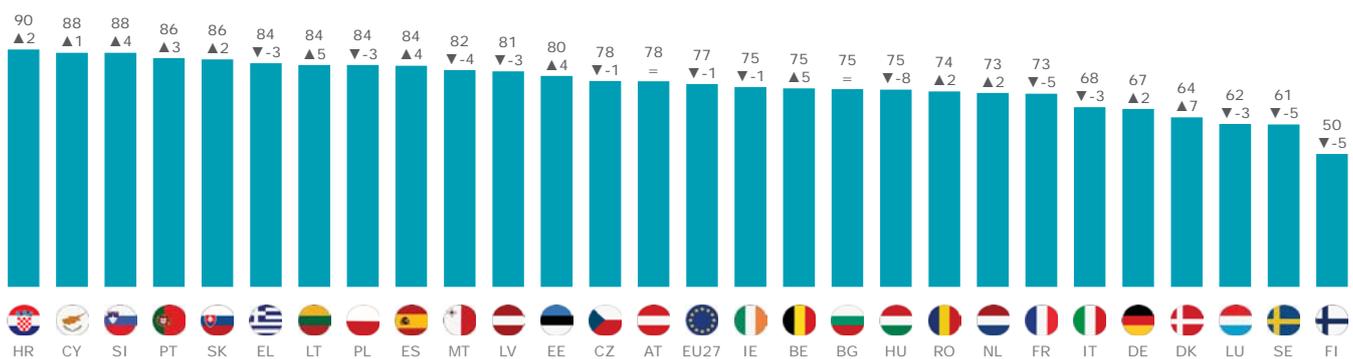
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 603)

Compared to January 2022, respondents in Hungary (-8 pp) are now less likely to say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative perceptions of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.¹¹ In the remaining countries, results have remained stable.

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 603)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

¹¹ Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

b. Economic interests

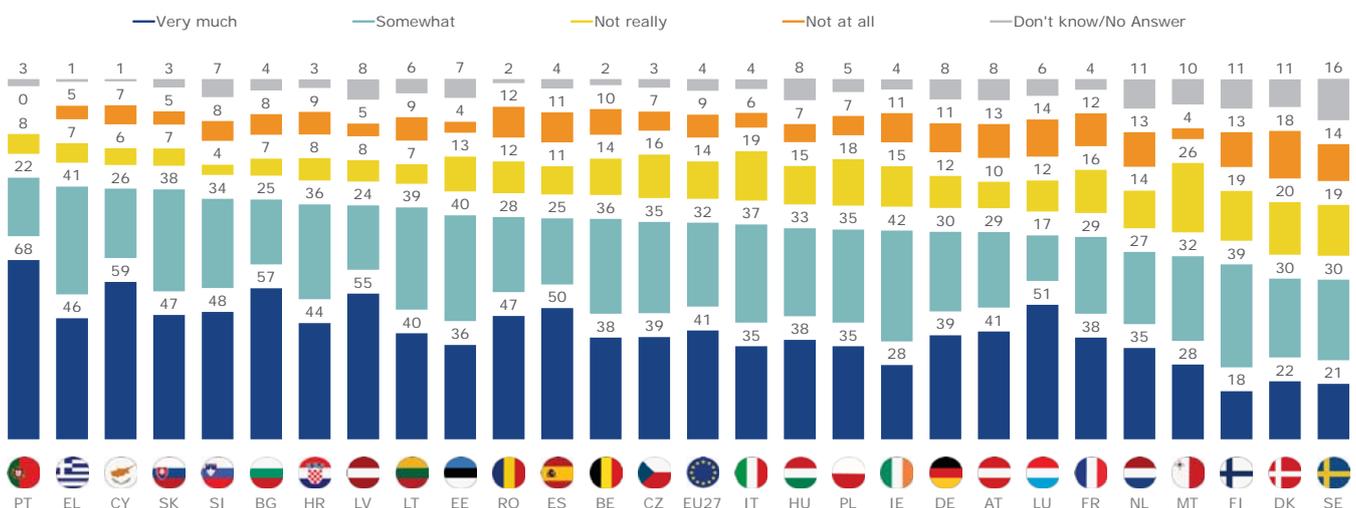
In all Member States, a majority of respondents say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. The proportion of respondents sharing this view ranges from 51% in Sweden to 90% in Portugal.

In six Member States, at least half of respondents say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests 'very much' explains their negative rating of the judicial system in their country. This applies to Portugal (68%), Cyprus (59%), Bulgaria (57%), Latvia (55%), Luxembourg (51%) and Spain (50%). At the other end of the scale, 18% of respondents in Sweden say the same. Respondents in Ireland (42%), Greece (41%) and Estonia (40%) are the most likely to say this reason 'somewhat' explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. In contrast, less than two in ten respondents (17%) share this view in Luxembourg.

About one in five respondents in Malta (26%) say interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests does 'not really' explain why they think the independence of their national justice system is bad, compared to 4% in Slovenia and 6% in Cyprus. Finally, respondents in Denmark (18%) are the most likely to say this reason does not explain their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country 'at all', while those in Portugal (0%), as well as Malta and Estonia (both 4%) are the least likely to say so.

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 (%)



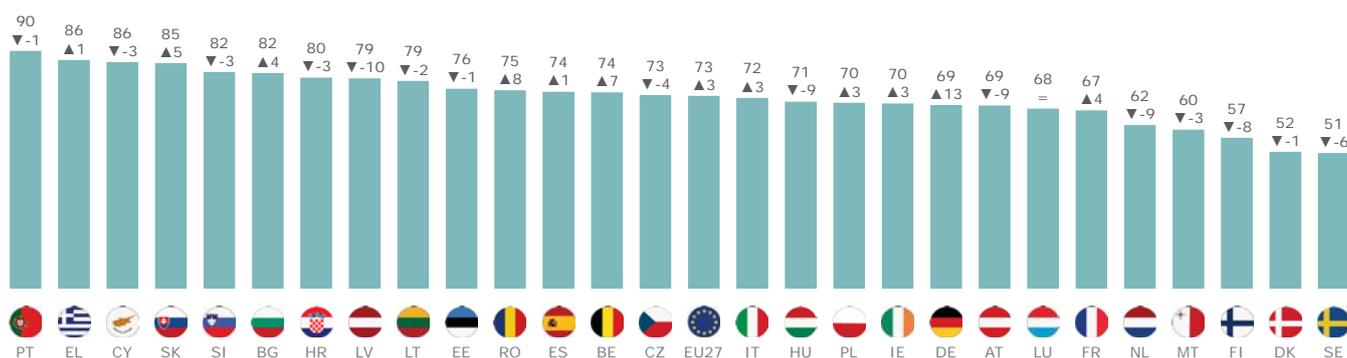
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 603)

Compared with January 2022, respondents in Romania (+8 pp) and Slovakia (+5 pp) are now more likely to say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country.¹² By contrast, respondents in Latvia (-10 pp) and Hungary (-9 pp) are now less likely to share this view.

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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 603)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

¹² Only statistically significant differences (at the 5% level) are discussed in the text.

c. Status and position of judges

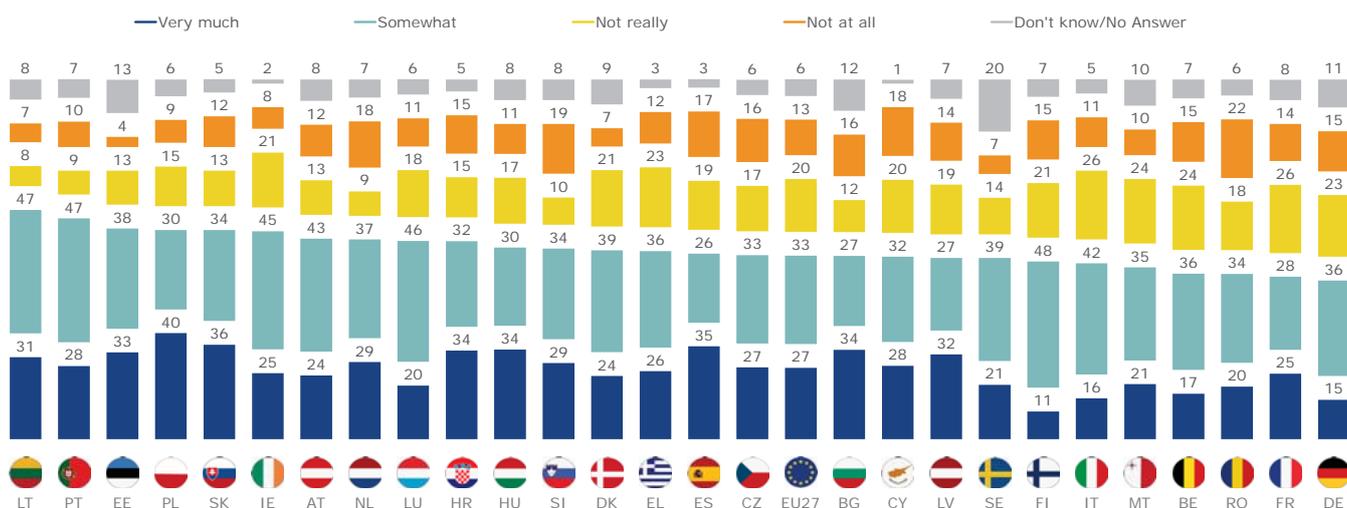
In all Member States, the majority of respondents who rate the independence of courts and judges as bad say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence is a reason for their negative rating of the justice system's independence in their country. Respondents in Lithuania (78%) and Portugal (74%) are the most likely to say this, while those in Germany (51%) are the least likely to say so.

Respondents in Poland (40%) and Slovakia (36%) are the most likely to say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence 'very much' explains their bad rating of the independence of the justice system in their country, while those in Finland (11%), Germany (15%) and Italy (16%) are the least likely to say so. Nearly half of the respondents in Finland (48%), as well as Portugal and Lithuania (both 47%) say this reason 'somewhat' explains their negative rating, compared to 26% in Spain and 27% in Bulgaria and Latvia.

About a quarter of respondents in Italy and France (both 26%), as well as in Belgium and Malta (both 24%) say the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence does 'not really' explain their rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. At the other end of the country ranking, 8% of respondents in Lithuania and 9% in the Netherlands and Portugal say the same. Respondents in Romania (22%), Slovenia (19%), as well as Cyprus and the Netherlands (both 18%) are the most likely to say this reason does 'not at all' explain their negative rating, while those in Estonia (4%) are the least likely to say 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 (%)

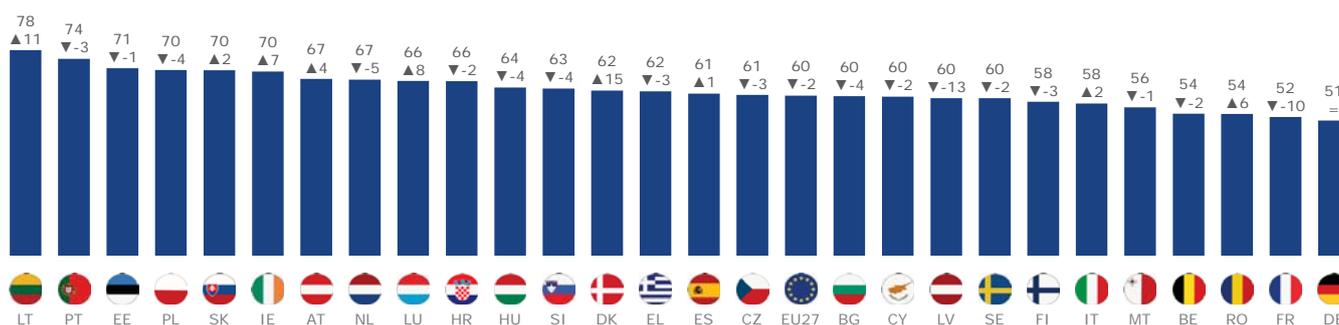


Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 603)

Compared to January 2022, respondents in Lithuania (+11 pp) are now more likely to say that the status and position of judges not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their bad rating of the justice system.¹³ The proportion of respondents sharing this view, however, has significantly decreased in Latvia (-13 pp) and France (-10 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: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (8 603)

▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

d. Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows the following:

- Men (75%) are slightly more likely than women (71%) to say that interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests explains their negative rating of the independence of the national justice system.
- Those aged 25-39 are more likely than those in other age categories to say their negative rating of the justice system is explained by interference or pressure from government and politicians (85% vs 72%-78%) or interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests (78% vs 69%-74%). Those aged 55 or above are less likely than those in other age categories to give a negative rating because the status and position of judges do not sufficiently guarantee their independence (56% vs 63%-66%).
- The longer respondents remained in education, the more likely they are to say each reason explains their rating. For example, 81% of those who completed their education aged 20 or older say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative rating of the justice system, compared to 62% of those who completed their education aged 15 or younger and 76% of those who completed their education aged 16 to 19.

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

- Employees and self-employed respondents are also more likely to say each reason explains their negative rating, compared to manual workers and those not working. For instance, 82% of both employees and self-employed say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains their negative rating, compared with 72% of those not working and 68% of manual workers.

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 socio-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	77	20	73	23	60	33
 Gender						
Men	78	19	75	22	62	32
Women	76	19	71	23	59	34
 Age						
15-24	74	24	74	24	66	31
25-39	85	13	78	19	64	30
40-54	78	18	74	23	63	32
55+	72	23	69	25	56	37
 Education						
Up to 15	62	31	59	33	48	44
16-19	76	20	72	23	60	33
20+	81	16	77	20	64	31
Still studying	77	21	72	26	63	32
 Occupation						
Self-employed	82	15	76	19	67	26
Employee	82	14	77	21	66	30
Manual worker	68	30	68	26	54	40
Not working	72	23	70	25	56	37
 Justice system						
Yes	74	20	76	22	65	29
No	77	19	73	23	60	34

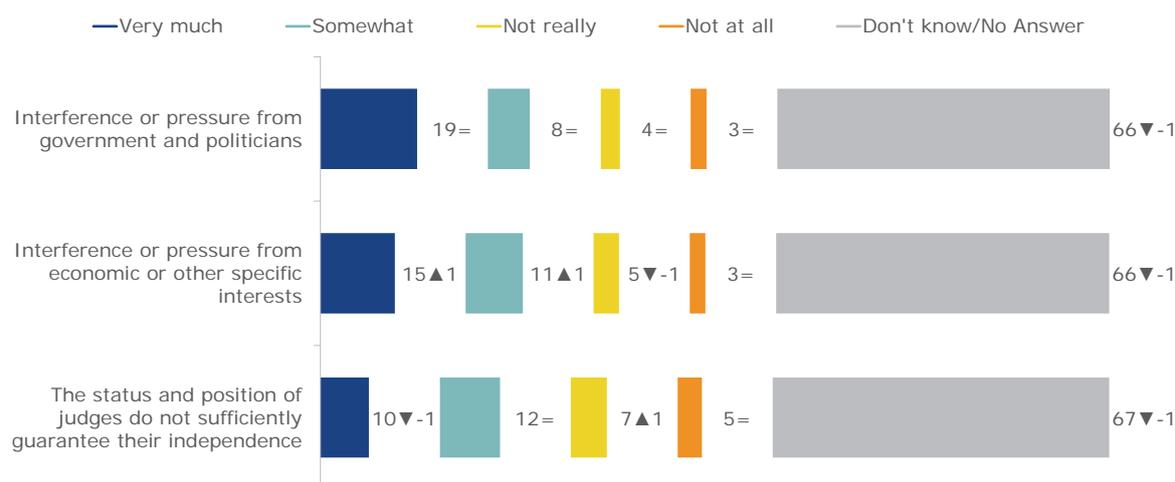
Base: respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as bad (n=8 603)

e. Analysis based on all respondents

The chart below shows the results when analysing all respondents' answers to the question asking to which extent the status of judges, interference or pressure from government or politicians, or from economic or special interests explained their negative rating of the independence of the national justice system.

More than a quarter (27%) of respondents say interference or pressure from government and politicians explains why they rate the level of independence of courts and judges in their country as bad, while 26% say this about interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests. Somewhat more than one in five respondents (22%) say the fact 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. These results have remained stable compared to January 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)



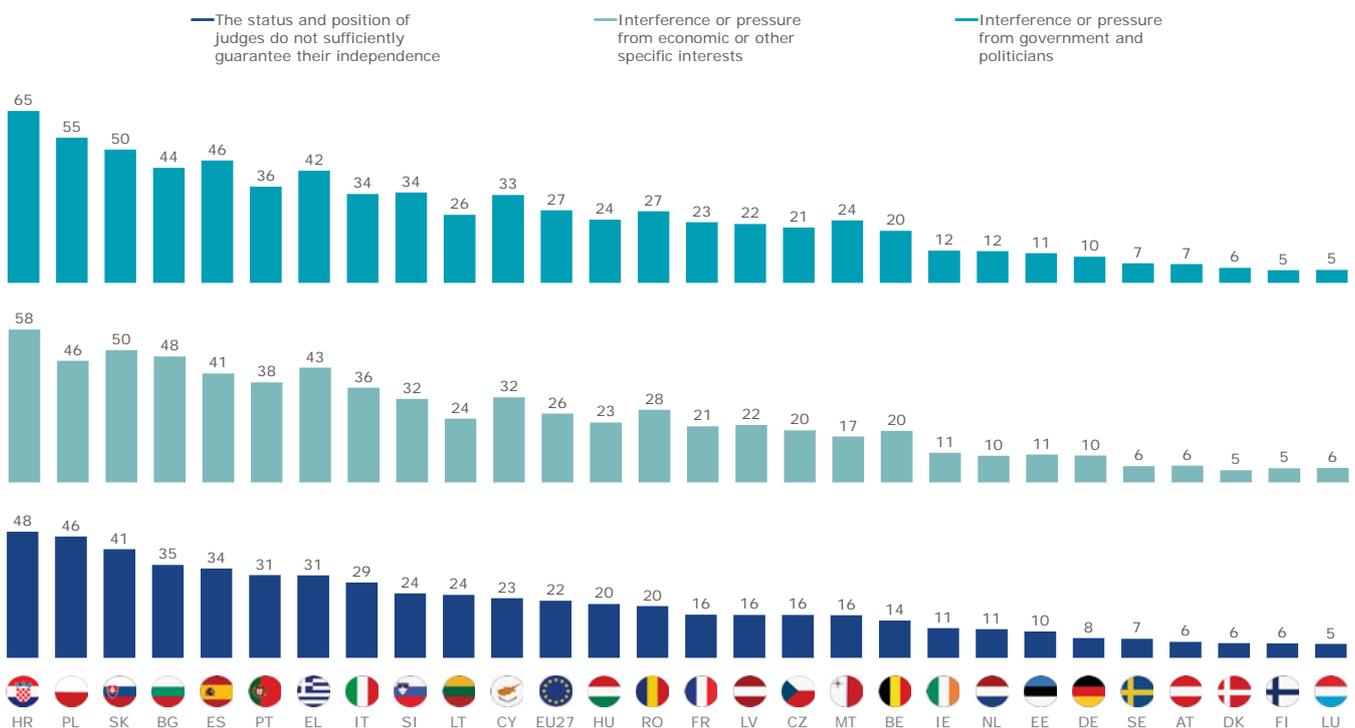
Base: all respondents (n=25 876) ▼▲ Evolution 01/2023- 01/2022

The country results, based on all respondents, show that in three Member States, at least half of respondents say that **interference or pressure from government and politicians** explains why they rate the independence of courts and judges in their country as bad. This applies to Croatia (65%), Poland (55%) and Slovakia (50%). By contrast, 5% in Finland and Luxembourg say the same.

Respondents in Croatia (58%) are also the most likely to say that **interference or pressure from economic or other specific interests** explains why they rate the level of independence of the courts and judges in their country as bad, followed by Slovakia (50%) and Bulgaria (48%). In comparison, less than one in ten hold this view in Denmark and Finland (both 5%), as well as Austria, Luxembourg and Sweden (all 6%).

More than four in ten respondents in Croatia (48%), Poland (46%) and Slovakia (41%) think that the **status and position of judges** not sufficiently guaranteeing their independence explains their bad rating of the level of independence of courts and judges in their country. Less than one in ten respondents say this in Luxembourg (5%), Austria, Finland and Denmark (all 6%), Sweden (7%) and Germany (8%).

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 respondents (n=25 767)

Technical specifications

Between 16 and 23 January 2023, Ipsos European Public affairs carried out Flash Eurobarometer 503 at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. It is a general public survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. Flash Eurobarometer 503 covers the population of EU citizens, residents in one of the 27 Member States of the euro area and aged 15 years and over.

All interviews were carried via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). In each country, respondents were called both on landlines and mobile phones. The telephone numbers sampled and contacted were generated via Random Digit Dialling (RDD) methods. The basic sample design applied in all countries is a random (probability) design. In households contacted via a landline phone, the respondent was drawn at random from all household members (aged 15 years and over) following the "most recent birthday rule".

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 ± 8.8 percentage points for countries with a sample size of 500 and ± 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	± 6.0	± 8.3	± 12.0	± 13.9	± 12.0	± 8.3	± 6.0
n=100	± 4.3	± 5.9	± 8.5	± 9.8	± 8.5	± 5.9	± 4.3
n=200	± 3.0	± 4.2	± 6.0	± 6.9	± 6.0	± 4.2	± 3.0
n=500	± 1.9	± 2.6	± 3.8	± 4.4	± 3.8	± 2.6	± 1.9
n=1000	± 1.4	± 1.9	± 2.7	± 3.1	± 2.7	± 1.9	± 1.4
n=1500	± 1.1	± 1.5	± 2.2	± 2.5	± 2.2	± 1.5	± 1.1
n=2000	± 1.0	± 1.3	± 1.9	± 2.2	± 1.9	± 1.3	± 1.0

		Number of interviews	Fieldwork dates	Population 15+ (absolute number)	Population 15+ (as % of EU27 population)
EU27		25 876	16/01-23/01/2023	379 874 315	100%
BE		1 015	16/01-20/01/2023	9 629 391	2.53%
BG		1 035	16/01-23/01/2023	5 917 534	1.56%
CZ		1 000	16/01-23/01/2023	8 982 036	2.36%
DK		1 023	16/01-21/01/2023	4 891 261	1.29%
DE		1 011	16/01-20/01/2023	71 677 231	18.87%
EE		1 009	16/01-20/01/2023	1 111 597	0.29%
IE		1 006	16/01-21/01/2023	4 005 909	1.05%
EL		1 001	16/01-21/01/2023	9 167 896	2.41%
ES		1 003	16/01-20/01/2023	40 639 381	10.70%
FR		1 002	16/01-21/01/2023	55 700 114	14.66%
HR		1 001	16/01-24/01/2023	3 461 468	0.91%
IT		1 052	16/01-23/01/2023	51 599 668	13.58%
CY		507	16/01-19/01/2023	752 304	0.20%
LV		1 018	16/01-20/01/2023	1 590 245	0.42%
LT		1 015	16/01-21/01/2023	2 373 312	0.62%
LU		530	16/01-23/01/2023	533 335	0.14%
HU		1 002	16/01-20/01/2023	8 313 539	2.19%
MT		508	16/01-21/01/2023	446 788	0.12%
NL		1 009	16/01-24/01/2023	14 763 684	3.89%
AT		1 050	16/01-23/01/2023	7 647 176	2.01%
PL		1 047	16/01-23/01/2023	31 982 941	8.42%
PT		1 003	16/01-21/01/2023	8 915 624	2.35%
RO		1 008	16/01-20/01/2023	16 174 719	4.26%
SI		1 008	16/01-19/01/2023	1 791 246	0.47%
SK		1 000	16/01-21/01/2023	4 591 487	1.21%
FI		1 004	16/01-21/01/2023	4 672 932	1.23%
SE		1 009	16/01-19/01/2023	8 541 497	2.25%

Questionnaire

	ASK ALL	
D4	In the last two years, have you 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
	<i>FL503 D4</i>	
	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
	<i>FL503 Q1</i>	
	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
	<i>FL503 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

FL503 Q2b

Data annex

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		11=	42=	24▲1	12=	11▼-1
BE		12▲3	55▲3	20▼-3	7▼-1	8▼-2
BG		3▼-1	28=	31▲1	27▲1	11▼-2
CZ		9▲3	56▲5	20▼-6	7▼-2	8▼-1
DK		40▼-2	46▲4	7▲1	2=	5▼-3
DE		25▼-2	52▲3	10▲2	5▲2	9▼-4
EE		10=	55▲5	12▼-2	2▼-1	21▼-2
IE		17▲1	56=	12▼-2	4▲1	10▲1
EL		7=	39▼-7	30▲3	20▲4	4=
ES		3▼-1	31▼-3	38▲2	18=	10▲2
FR		5▲1	48▼-4	23▲2	9=	16▲1
HR		7▲1	16▲1	38=	35▼-2	5=
IT		2▼-1	37▲3	33▼-1	16▲1	11▼-2
CY		8▲2	46▲2	22▼-4	16▲3	8▼-4
LV		3=	39▼-12	21▼-7	6▼-2	32▲21
LT		4▲1	53▲4	25▲4	5▼-2	12▼-7
LU		17▲2	59▼-3	6=	3=	16▲2
HU		3▼-4	32▼-4	20▼-4	12=	33▲12
MT		19=	46▼-1	20=	9=	6▲2
NL		22▼-2	48▼-5	12▲2	4=	14▲5
AT		22▼-2	60▲2	8▲1	1▼-2	8▲1
PL		3▲1	20▼-1	36▲1	30=	11▼-1
PT		6=	43▲2	36=	6▼-1	9▼-1
RO		6▲1	45▲3	22▼-3	15▲1	12▼-1
SI		5▲1	48▲3	24▼-3	14▼-1	8▲1
SK		2▲1	31▲8	42▼-4	17▼-5	8=
FI		27▼-1	59▼-1	8▲1	2=	4=
SE		31▲8	44▼-7	9▼-4	3=	13▲4

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=	23▼-1	11▲1	9▼-1	4▲1
BE		40▼-3	35▲8	12▼-1	12▼-2	1▼-3
BG		54▲2	21▼-2	7▲1	12▲2	6▼-3
CZ		47=	31▼-1	10▼-1	11▲2	1▼-1
DK		43▲18	21▼-12	14▼-3	16▼-2	7▼-2
DE		45▲4	22▼-2	15▲6	9▼-11	9▲3
EE		45▲11	34▼-6	7=	6▼-2	7▼-3
IE		44▲4	31▼-5	17▲2	7▼-1	1=
EL		48▼-4	36▲2	9▲2	6▲2	1▼-1
ES		71▲5	13▼-1	6▲1	8▼-4	2▼-1
FR		48▼-2	25▼-2	13▲2	11▲3	3▼-1
HR		66▲1	23▲1	3▼-3	6=	2▲1
IT		35▼-1	33▼-2	19▲1	7▼-1	6▲3
CY		68▲5	20▼-4	3▲2	8▼-3	1=
LV		50▼-9	32▲7	8▼-2	5=	6▲4
LT		44▼-2	40▲7	6▼-3	7▼-1	3▼-1
LU		28▼-6	33▲3	11▼-1	20▲1	8▲3
HU		55▼-7	20▼-1	9▼-1	8▲3	9▲5
MT		60=	22▼-4	10▲2	6▲3	3▼-1
NL		46▼-1	27▲3	12▼-3	11▲1	4=
AT		53▲2	24▼-2	7▲2	13▼-3	3▲2
PL		70▼-4	14▲1	7=	7▲3	2=
PT		55=	32▲4	3▼-2	8=	3▼-1
RO		56▲5	18▼-3	9▲3	14▼-4	3=
SI		70▲6	19▼-2	2▼-2	6▼-2	3=
SK		63▲2	23=	5=	5▼-3	4▲1
FI		18▲1	32▼-6	25▼-1	15▼-1	11▲6
SE		26▼-6	35▲1	11▼-6	14▲7	14▲4

Flash Eurobarometer 519 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 23/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=8 603 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 503, 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

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		41▲1	32▲1	14▼-2	9=	4▼-1
BE		38▲1	36▲6	14▲2	10▼-5	2▼-3
BG		57▲2	25▲1	7▼-1	8▼-1	4▼-2
CZ		39▼-5	35▲1	16▲4	7▼-1	3▲1
DK		22▲5	30▼-6	20▲5	18▼-2	11▼-3
DE		39▲15	30▼-2	12=	11▼-17	8▲4
EE		36▲5	40▼-7	13▲4	4▼-1	7▼-2
IE		28=	42▲4	15▼-1	11▼-1	4▼-2
EL		46▼-7	41▲8	7=	5=	1▼-1
ES		50▲1	25=	11▼-5	11▲3	4▲1
FR		38▲3	29▲1	16▼-5	12▲4	4▼-3
HR		44▼-3	36=	8▲1	9▲2	3=
IT		35▲3	37=	19▼-3	6=	4=
CY		59▼-1	26▼-2	6▲3	7=	1=
LV		55=	24▼-10	8▲2	5▲3	8▲5
LT		40▼-8	39▲6	7▼-1	9▲2	6▲1
LU		51▲5	17▼-5	12=	14▲4	6▼-4
HU		38▼-11	33▲3	15▲5	7=	8▲4
MT		28▼-5	32▲2	26▲4	4▼-4	10▲3
NL		35▼-9	27=	14▼-1	13▲5	11▲5
AT		41▼-5	29▼-5	10▲4	13▲1	8▲5
PL		35=	35▲3	18▼-1	7▲2	5▼-5
PT		68▲1	22▼-2	8▲2	0▼-1	3=
RO		47▲2	28▲6	12▲1	12▼-6	2▼-3
SI		48▼-1	34▼-2	4▼-1	8▲3	7▲1
SK		47▼-2	38▲8	7=	5▼-4	3▼-2
FI		18▲3	39▼-11	19▲3	13▼-4	11▲8
SE		21▲9	30▼-14	19=	14▲1	16▲6

Flash Eurobarometer 519 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 23/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=8 603 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 503, 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

		Very much	Somewhat	Not really	Not at all	Don't know/No Answer
EU27		27▼-2	33=	20▲1	13=	6▲1
BE		17▼-5	36▲2	24=	15▲2	7=
BG		34▼-2	27▼-2	12▼-1	16▲2	12▲3
CZ		27▲2	33▼-4	17=	16▲1	6▲2
DK		24▲7	39▲8	21▲5	7▼-10	9▼-10
DE		15▼-6	36▲7	23▲4	15▼-5	11▲1
EE		33▲5	38▼-6	13▲5	4▼-5	13▲1
IE		25▲2	45▲5	21▼-3	8▼-2	2▼-3
EL		26▲3	36▼-6	23▲6	12▼-2	3▼-1
ES		35▲1	26=	19▼-1	17▲1	3▼-1
FR		25▼-5	28▼-5	26▲5	14▲2	8▲3
HR		34▲3	32▼-5	15▲3	15=	5▼-1
IT		16▼-1	42▲3	26▼-2	11=	5=
CY		28=	32▼-3	20▲6	18▲5	1▼-9
LV		32▼-3	27▼-10	19▲4	14▲6	7▲3
LT		31▲5	47▲6	8▼-2	7▼-3	8▼-6
LU		20▼-4	46▲13	18▼-1	11▼-8	6=
HU		34▲1	30▼-4	17▼-1	11▲2	8▲2
MT		21▼-8	35▲7	24=	10▼-6	10▲7
NL		29▼-1	37▼-5	9=	18▲2	7▲3
AT		24▲2	43▲2	13▼-2	12▲1	8▼-3
PL		40▼-6	30▲3	15▲2	9=	6▲1
PT		28▼-1	47▼-2	9▲2	10▲1	7=
RO		20▲3	34▲3	18▼-3	22▼-2	6▼-1
SI		29=	34▼-4	10▲1	19▲2	8▲1
SK		36▲2	34▼-1	13▲1	12▼-2	5▼-1
FI		11▼-5	48▲2	21▼-1	15▲2	7▲1
SE		21▲9	39▼-11	14▲2	7▼-4	20▲5

Flash Eurobarometer 519 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 23/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=8 603 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly bad

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 503, 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		19=	8=	4=	3=	66▼-1
BE		11▼-3	9▲1	3▼-1	3▼-1	74▲4
BG		31▲2	12▼-1	4▲1	7▲2	45▼-3
CZ		13▼-3	8▼-3	3▼-1	3=	73▲7
DK		4▲2	2▼-1	1=	1=	92▼-1
DE		7▲2	3▲1	2▲1	1▼-1	87▼-3
EE		6=	5▼-2	1=	1▼-1	87▲3
IE		7=	5▼-1	3=	1=	84▲2
EL		24▲2	18▲3	4▲2	3▲1	50▼-7
ES		39▲4	7=	4=	5▼-2	46▼-2
FR		15=	8=	4▲1	3▲1	70▼-2
HR		48▼-1	17=	2▼-2	4▼-1	29▲3
IT		17▼-1	17▼-1	9▲1	4=	53▲2
CY		26▲2	8▼-1	1▲1	3▼-1	63=
LV		14▼-8	9▼-1	2▼-2	1=	74▲10
LT		14▲1	12▲3	2▼-1	2=	70▼-3
LU		2▼-1	3=	1=	2=	93▲1
HU		18▼-4	6▼-1	3=	3▲1	71▲5
MT		17=	6▼-1	3▲1	2▲1	72=
NL		8▲1	4▲1	2=	2=	84▼-2
AT		5=	2▼-1	1=	1=	91▲1
PL		46▼-2	9▲1	4=	5▲2	36▼-2
PT		23▼-1	13▲1	1▼-1	3=	59▲1
RO		20▲1	7▼-1	4▲1	5▼-2	64▲2
SI		27=	7▼-2	1▼-1	2▼-1	63▲4
SK		37▼-4	13▼-2	3▼-1	3▼-2	44▲9
FI		2=	3=	2=	1=	92▼-1
SE		3▼-2	4▼-1	1▼-1	2▲1	90▲4

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		15▲1	11▲1	5▼-1	3=	66▼-1
BE		10▼-1	9=	4=	3▼-2	74▲4
BG		33▲3	14▲1	4=	5=	44▼-3
CZ		10▼-5	9▼-2	4=	2▼-1	74▲8
DK		2▲1	3=	2▲1	2=	92▼-1
DE		6▲3	4▲1	2=	2▼-2	86▼-3
EE		5=	6▼-3	2=	1=	87▲3
IE		5▼-1	7=	3=	2=	84▲1
EL		23=	20▲6	4=	3=	50▼-7
ES		27▲2	14▲1	6▼-3	6▲2	47▼-2
FR		12▲2	9▲1	5▼-1	4▲1	70▼-3
HR		32▼-3	26▼-1	6▲1	6▲1	30▲2
IT		17▲1	18=	9▼-1	3=	52=
CY		22▼-1	10▼-1	2▲1	3=	63=
LV		15▼-5	7▼-6	2=	1▲1	75▲10
LT		12▼-1	12▲3	2=	3▲1	71▼-2
LU		4=	1▼-1	1=	1=	93=
HU		12▼-5	11=	5▲1	2=	71▲5
MT		8▼-2	9▲1	8▲1	1▼-1	74▲1
NL		6▼-1	5▲1	2=	2▲1	85▼-1
AT		4▼-1	3▼-1	1=	1=	92▲2
PL		23▲1	23▲2	12=	5▲2	38▼-4
PT		29=	9▼-1	3▲1	0▼-1	59▲1
RO		17=	10▲2	4=	4▼-2	64▲1
SI		19▼-2	13▼-2	2▼-1	3▲1	64▲4
SK		28▼-6	23▲2	4▼-1	3▼-3	43▲7
FI		2▲1	4=	2▲1	1=	92▼-1
SE		3▲1	4▼-4	2▼-1	2▼-1	90▲5

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		10▼-1	12=	7▲1	5=	67▼-1
BE		5▼-2	10▼-1	6▼-1	4=	76▲4
BG		20=	16▼-1	7=	9▲2	49=
CZ		7▼-2	9▼-4	5▼-1	4▼-1	75▲8
DK		2▲1	3▲1	2▲1	1▼-1	92▼-1
DE		2=	5▲2	3▲1	2=	87▼-3
EE		5=	5▼-2	2=	1▼-1	88▲3
IE		4=	7=	3▼-1	1=	84▲1
EL		13▲3	18=	11▲4	6=	51▼-7
ES		19▲1	14▲1	10=	10▲1	46▼-3
FR		8▼-1	9▼-1	8▲2	4▲1	71▼-1
HR		24▲2	24▼-5	11▲2	11=	31▲1
IT		8=	21▲1	13▼-1	6=	53=
CY		11=	12▼-1	8▲2	7▲2	63▼-3
LV		9▼-4	8▼-6	5=	4▲1	75▲10
LT		10▲2	14▲3	2▼-1	2▼-1	72▼-4
LU		2▼-1	4▲1	1=	1▼-1	92=
HU		11▼-1	10▼-3	6▼-1	4=	70▲4
MT		6▼-2	10▲2	7=	3▼-2	74▲2
NL		5▲1	6=	2=	3▲1	85▼-2
AT		2=	4=	1=	1=	92▲1
PL		26▼-3	20▲2	10▲2	6=	39▼-1
PT		12▼-1	20▼-1	4▲1	4=	61▲1
RO		7▲1	12▲1	7▼-1	8▼-1	66▲2
SI		11▼-1	13▼-3	4=	7=	64▲4
SK		21▼-2	20▼-3	8▼-1	7▼-2	44▲7
FI		1=	5▲1	2=	1=	91▼-1
SE		3▲1	5▼-4	2=	1▼-1	90▲4

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		21▲1	41▲2	19▼-2	15=	4▼-2
BE		16▼-3	41▲2	24▼-4	14▲5	4▼-1
BG		20▼-2	31▼-6	17▲1	19=	13▲7
CZ		16▼-2	53▲4	14▼-3	12▼-1	5▲2
DK		37▲2	38=	13▲1	8=	3▼-3
DE		20▲2	46▲8	11▼-4	18▼-4	5▼-3
EE		34▲2	36▼-2	16▲3	7▼-3	7▲1
IE		23▲2	43▼-1	19▼-1	14▲1	2▼-1
EL		17▲3	35▼-5	33▼-1	13▲2	3▲1
ES		27▼-5	29▼-7	18▲2	24▲12	2▼-1
FR		16=	37▲3	28▼-4	15▲2	4▼-1
HR		20▲2	42▲6	19▲3	17▼-4	2▼-6
IT		17▲5	44▲2	31=	7▼-2	3▼-4
CY		19▲1	47▼-1	20▲4	12▼-2	2▼-2
LV		25▼-1	44▼-1	17▲1	8▼-3	7▲4
LT		18▲2	45▼-5	18▲6	16▼-1	3▼-3
LU		15▲1	37▼-6	23▲1	21▲4	5=
HU		19▲2	34▼-4	20▼-2	20▼-1	8▲4
MT		20▲2	37▲1	20▼-5	19▲5	5▼-3
NL		29▲4	44▼-1	13▼-4	11=	4▲1
AT		21▲2	49=	11▼-1	15=	3▼-1
PL		26▼-6	35▲4	20▲3	14▲1	6▼-1
PT		20▲2	54▼-1	8▼-1	13▲2	4▼-1
RO		17▼-1	39▲1	21▼-1	20▲5	3▼-3
SI		21▼-14	50▲11	10▼-1	17▲4	2▼-1
SK		22▼-7	42▲1	14=	16▲2	6▲4
FI		26▲6	39▲1	20▼-4	11▼-4	4▲1
SE		21▼-6	29▼-8	19▲3	24▲7	8▲3

Flash Eurobarometer 519 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 23/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=14 423 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 503, 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		19=	44▲1	19=	13=	5=
BE		17▲2	41▲2	21▼-3	15▲2	5▼-2
BG		20▲4	32▼-11	21▲4	17▲4	10=
CZ		14▲2	49▼-3	19▲1	14=	5=
DK		46▼-1	31▲5	11▲2	8▼-2	4▼-4
DE		21▲3	45▲2	12▼-2	15▼-3	6=
EE		29▲1	42▲6	14▼-5	9=	7▼-2
IE		24▲2	44=	22▲1	8▼-3	2▼-1
EL		15=	36▼-9	37▲8	10▲1	2▼-1
ES		18▼-4	38▼-3	21▲3	19▲4	3=
FR		17▼-3	45▲4	24▼-2	9▲2	5▼-1
HR		11▼-1	48▼-1	17▲1	19▲3	5▼-2
IT		14▲1	49▼-3	28▲5	7▲2	3▼-4
CY		19▲3	51▲1	16▲2	12▼-4	3▼-2
LV		21▼-3	46▼-2	19▲2	8▼-1	7▲3
LT		16▼-2	45▼-2	21▲7	14▲1	4▼-3
LU		20▲1	44▲1	18▼-1	13▲1	5▼-3
HU		15▼-5	38▼-5	22▲3	17▲2	9▲4
MT		15▼-1	34▲1	26=	13▼-1	11=
NL		24▲1	45▼-1	15=	12▼-2	5▲3
AT		24▲1	44▼-1	15▲3	13▼-3	4▲1
PL		15▼-2	40▼-1	23▼-5	13▲4	9▲4
PT		25▲1	51▲1	7▼-1	13▼-2	5▲1
RO		13▼-1	47▲5	19▼-2	15▲1	6▼-2
SI		15▼-7	49▼-4	14▲4	18▲8	4=
SK		16▲4	51▼-1	13▼-3	15=	5=
FI		24▲1	42▲3	19▼-1	11▼-5	4▲2
SE		20▼-7	27▼-5	19▲3	24▲5	10▲4

Flash Eurobarometer 519 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 23/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=14 423 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 503, 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		33▼-1	46▲1	11▲1	5=	5▼-1
BE		29=	45▼-6	13▲4	6▲1	8▲1
BG		22▼-1	39▼-1	20▲1	12▲4	8▼-3
CZ		38▲10	44▼-7	8▼-3	7▲1	4▼-1
DK		46▲2	32▼-4	11▲5	5▲1	7▼-4
DE		45▼-1	38▲6	6=	4▼-2	6▼-3
EE		42▼-4	40=	8▲4	3=	8▲1
IE		34▲2	43=	12▲1	5▼-2	6▼-1
EL		16▼-2	58▲3	18=	6=	2▼-1
ES		28▲2	43▼-6	18▲1	11▲4	2▼-1
FR		26▼-5	53▲1	12▲2	4▲1	5=
HR		19▲3	50▼-5	16▼-3	10▲4	6▲1
IT		15▼-1	63▼-4	17▲5	2=	3=
CY		25▲3	59▲7	11▼-5	3▼-2	3▼-3
LV		32▼-6	46▲1	11=	5▲2	6▲3
LT		22▲3	46▼-5	13=	14▲4	5▼-3
LU		34▲1	44▼-4	13▲3	4=	6▼-1
HU		30▲1	42▼-4	13▼-1	6▲2	9▲2
MT		36▲6	36▼-2	19▼-1	3▼-2	7▼-1
NL		40▼-3	45▲3	8▼-2	4▲1	4=
AT		41▼-1	42▲4	7=	6▼-2	5▼-1
PL		22▼-3	47▲2	19▼-1	5=	7▲2
PT		16▼-4	48▲3	13=	21▲1	3▲1
RO		28▲2	45=	14▼-3	7▲2	6=
SI		27▼-3	48=	12▲3	9▲2	4▼-2
SK		19=	57▲3	12▼-3	7=	6=
FI		40▼-2	47▲2	8▲1	3▼-2	4▲1
SE		37▲1	41▼-3	7▼-2	5▼-1	11▲5

Flash Eurobarometer 519 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public
Fieldwork: 16/01 - 23/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=14 423 - Respondents rating the independence of justice in their national justice system as very or fairly good

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 503, 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=	22▲1	10▼-1	8=	49▼-1
BE		11▼-1	27▲4	16▼-1	10▲4	37▼-6
BG		6▼-1	10▼-2	5=	6=	74▲3
CZ		10=	35▲7	9▼-1	8=	38▼-7
DK		32▲3	33▲1	12▲1	7=	16▼-5
DE		15▲2	35▲7	9▼-3	14▼-3	27▼-3
EE		22▲3	23▲1	10▲2	5▼-2	40▼-4
IE		17▲2	31▼-1	14▼-1	10▲1	28▼-1
EL		8▲1	16▼-5	15▼-3	6=	55▲7
ES		9▼-3	10▼-4	6=	8▲4	66▲3
FR		9=	20▲1	15▼-3	8▲1	49▲2
HR		4▲1	9▲2	4▲1	4=	78▼-3
IT		7▲2	17▲2	12▲1	3▼-1	62▼-4
CY		10▲1	26▲2	11▲3	7▼-1	47▼-5
LV		10▼-4	18▼-6	7▼-1	3▼-2	62▲13
LT		10▲2	26=	11▲4	9▲1	44▼-7
LU		11▲1	28▼-5	18▲1	16▲3	27▲1
HU		7▼-1	12▼-4	7▼-2	7▼-2	68▲9
MT		13▲1	24=	13▼-4	13▲3	38▼-1
NL		20▲1	31▼-4	9▼-4	8▼-1	33▲7
AT		18▲1	41=	9▼-1	12=	20▼-1
PL		6▼-2	8▲1	5▲1	3=	78=
PT		10▲1	27▲1	4=	6▲1	53▼-2
RO		9=	20▲2	11=	10▲3	50▼-5
SI		11▼-6	26▲7	5=	9▲3	48▼-4
SK		8=	14▲4	5▲1	5▲2	68▼-7
FI		23▲5	34=	17▼-3	9▼-4	17▲2
SE		15▼-4	22▼-6	14▲3	18▲5	31▲2

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=	23=	10=	7=	50=
BE		12▲2	28▲4	14=	10▲2	37▼-7
BG		6▲1	10▼-4	6▲1	5▲1	73▲1
CZ		9▲2	32▲2	12▲2	9▲1	38▼-8
DK		40=	27▲5	9▲2	7▼-1	18▼-6
DE		16▲2	35▲2	9▼-1	12▼-2	28▼-1
EE		19▲2	27▲6	9▼-2	6▲1	40▼-6
IE		17▲2	32=	16▲1	6▼-2	28▼-1
EL		7▼-1	17▼-7	17▲2	5=	55▲6
ES		6▼-2	13▼-3	7=	7▲1	67▲4
FR		9▼-2	24▲1	13▼-2	5▲1	50▲2
HR		3=	11▲1	4▲1	4▲1	79▼-2
IT		5▲1	19=	11▲3	3▲1	62▼-4
CY		10▲3	28▲3	9▲2	6▼-2	47▼-5
LV		9▼-4	19▼-7	8▼-1	3▼-1	62▲13
LT		9=	26▲1	12▲5	8▲1	45▼-7
LU		15▲1	34=	14▼-1	10▲1	28▼-1
HU		5▼-3	13▼-5	8=	6=	68▲9
MT		10▼-1	23=	17=	9▼-1	42▲1
NL		17▼-1	31▼-4	10▼-1	8▼-2	34▲9
AT		20▲1	37▼-1	12▲2	11▼-3	20▲1
PL		4▼-1	9▼-1	5▼-1	3▲1	79▲2
PT		12▲1	25▲2	3=	6▼-1	53▼-2
RO		7=	24▲4	10▼-1	8▲1	52▼-4
SI		8▼-3	26=	8▲2	10▲5	49▼-3
SK		6▲2	17▲4	4▲1	5▲1	68▼-8
FI		21▲1	37▲2	17▼-1	9▼-4	17▲3
SE		15▼-5	21▼-4	14▲2	18▲4	32▲3

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		17▼-1	24▲1	6=	3=	50=
BE		19▲2	30▼-1	9▲3	4▲1	39▼-5
BG		7=	12▼-1	6=	4▲1	72=
CZ		24▲9	28=	5▼-1	4▲1	37▼-9
DK		39▲3	28▼-2	9▲4	4▲1	19▼-5
DE		35=	29▲5	5=	3▼-1	28▼-3
EE		27▼-1	26▲2	5▲3	2=	41▼-4
IE		25▲1	32=	9=	4▼-1	31▼-1
EL		7▼-2	27▼-2	8▼-1	3=	55▲6
ES		9▼-1	15▼-4	6=	4▲1	66▲3
FR		14▼-4	28▼-1	6▲1	2▲1	50▲3
HR		4▲1	11=	4=	2▲1	79▼-2
IT		6=	25=	7▲2	1=	62▼-2
CY		14▲3	32▲6	6▼-2	2▼-1	47▼-5
LV		13▼-7	19▼-5	4▼-1	2=	61▲13
LT		13▲3	26▼-1	7▲1	8▲3	45▼-6
LU		26▲1	34▼-4	10▲3	3=	28=
HU		11▼-2	15▼-5	5▼-1	2=	68▲8
MT		24▲4	23▼-2	12▼-1	2▼-2	39▲1
NL		28▼-5	32▼-1	6▼-2	3▲1	33▲7
AT		34=	35▲3	6=	5▼-2	21▼-1
PL		5▼-1	11=	5=	1=	78▲1
PT		8▼-2	23▲2	6=	10▲1	52▼-2
RO		14▲2	23▲1	7▼-1	4▲1	52▼-3
SI		14▼-1	26▲2	6▲2	5▲1	49▼-4
SK		7▲2	19▲6	4=	2▲1	68▼-8
FI		34▼-2	40▲1	7=	2▼-2	17▲3
SE		28▲1	30▼-2	6▼-1	4▼-1	33▲3

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  ----->	6=	94=	0=
BE  ----->	8▼-1	92▲1	0=
BG  ----->	7▼-1	93▲1	0=
CZ  ----->	7▲2	93▼-2	0=
DK  ----->	7▲1	93▼-1	0=
DE  ----->	4▼-1	96▲1	0=
EE  ----->	7▲1	93▼-1	0=
IE  ----->	2=	97▼-1	1▲1
EL  ----->	8▲1	92▼-1	0=
ES  ----->	8▲1	93▼-1	0=
FR  ----->	6=	94=	0=
HR  ----->	13▼-1	87=	0=
IT  ----->	6=	94=	0=
CY  ----->	9=	91▲1	0▼-1
LV  ----->	4=	96=	0=
LT  ----->	6▲1	94▼-1	0=
LU  ----->	6▲2	94▼-2	0=
HU  ----->	4▲1	96▼-1	0=
MT  ----->	7▼-1	93▲1	0=
NL  ----->	8▲2	92▼-2	0=
AT  ----->	5▲2	95▼-2	0=
PL  ----->	9=	91=	0=
PT  ----->	8▲1	92▼-1	0=
RO  ----->	6▼-1	94=	0=
SI  ----->	7▲2	93▼-2	0=
SK  ----->	7=	93=	0=
FI  ----->	6▲1	94▼-1	0=
SE  ----->	3=	97=	0=

Flash Eurobarometer 519 - Perceived independence of the national justice systems in the EU among the general public

Fieldwork: 16/01 - 23/01/2023 / (%) Base: n=25 876 - All respondents

▼▲ Evolution 2023-2022 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 503, January 2022)





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