

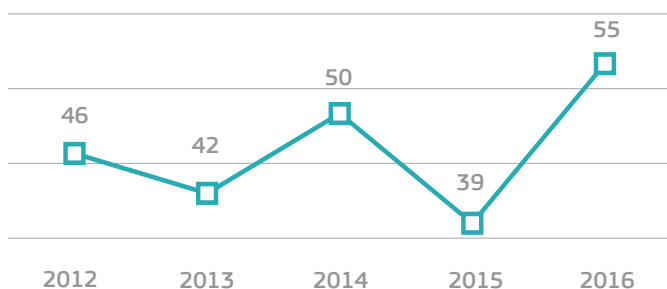


# Monitoring the Application of European Union Law

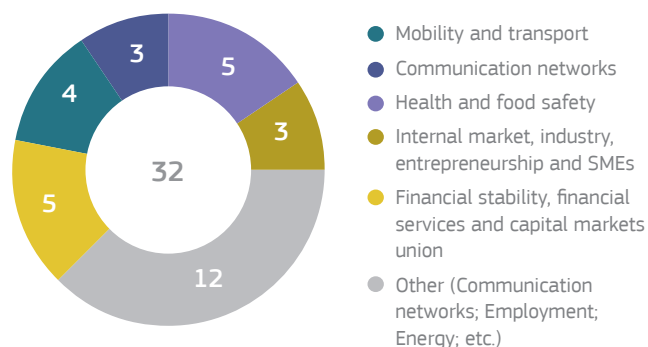
## Annual Report 2016

New complaints against Bulgaria decreased somewhat in 2016 after having jumped in 2015. Fewer new EU Pilot files were opened than in the previous 4 years. However, the number of open infringement cases increased sharply to the highest level since 2012. This correlates with the significantly higher level of infringement cases for late transposition that were open at the end of 2016.

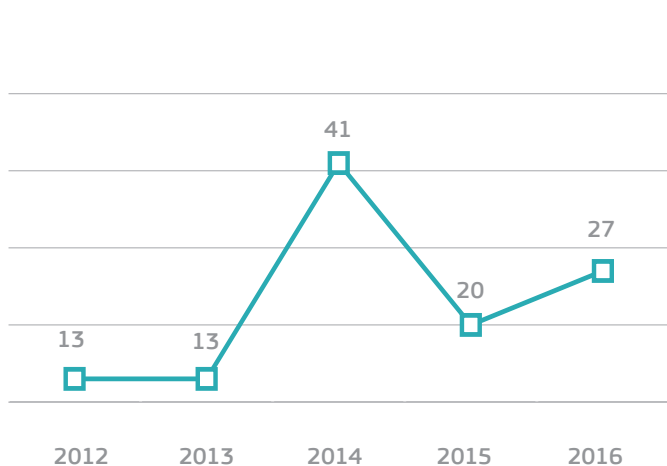
Infringement cases open on 31 December



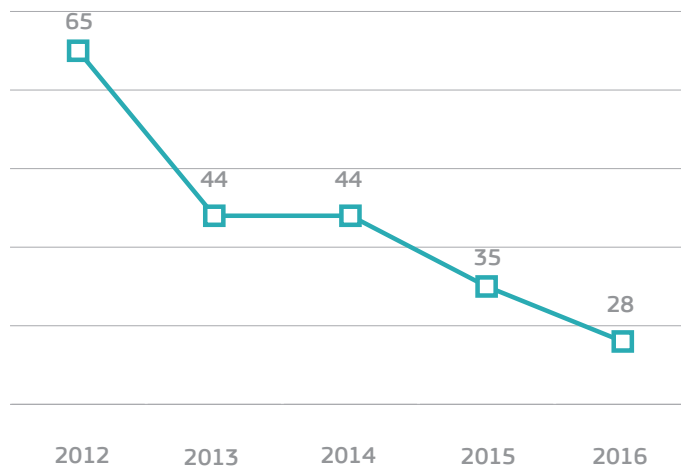
New infringement cases opened in 2016: main policy areas



New late transposition infringement cases



New EU Pilot files opened





## Relevant rulings of the European Courts:

1. The Court of Justice of the EU ruled that Bulgaria has failed to protect unique habitats and endangered species in the Kaliakra region, in violation of the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive and the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.<sup>1</sup>
2. In preliminary rulings, the Court ruled, amongst others, that the custodial sentence of a prisoner may not be reduced, when he is transferred from one Member State to another, by reason of time spent working in prison in the first Member State if that Member State has not, under its national law, granted such a reduction in sentence.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Directives [2009/147/EC](#), [92/43/EEC](#) and [2011/92/EU](#), Commission v Bulgaria, [C-141/14](#).

<sup>2</sup> Atanas Ognyanov v Sofijska gradska prokuratura, [C-554/14](#) and Court press release No [117/16](#).