

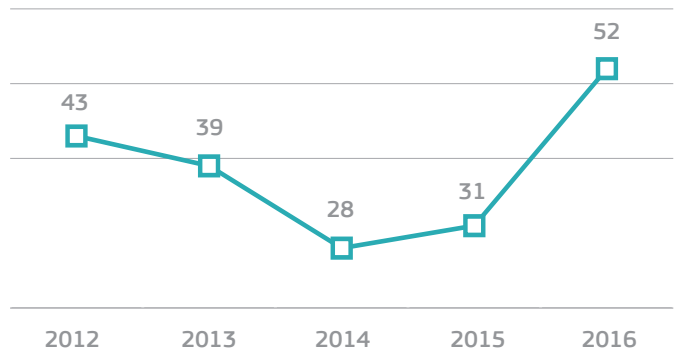


Monitoring the Application of European Union Law

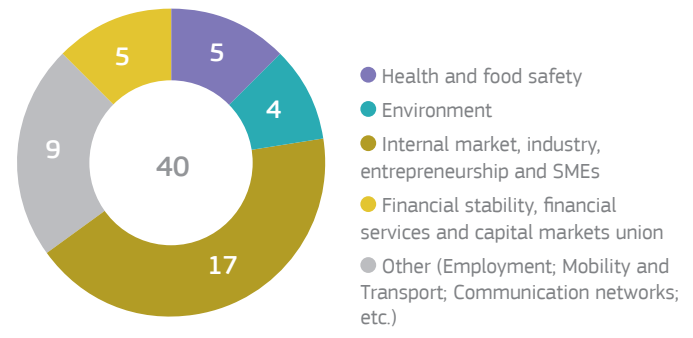
Annual Report 2016

New complaints against Finland rose again in 2016 after the previous year's sharp fall. The number of open infringement cases rose sharply to only slightly above its 2012 peak. New infringement cases for late transposition doubled. By contrast, the number of new EU Pilot files fell to its lowest level ever.

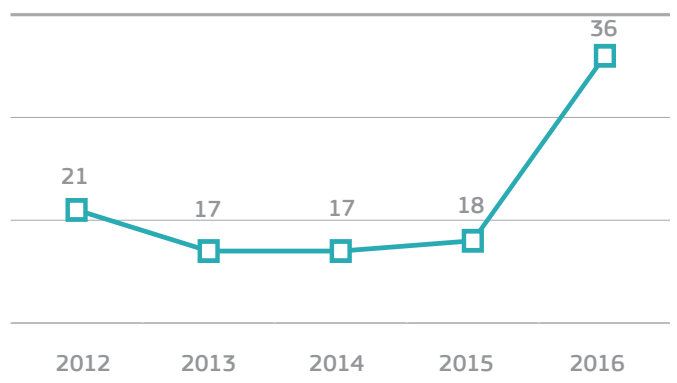
Infringement cases open on 31 December



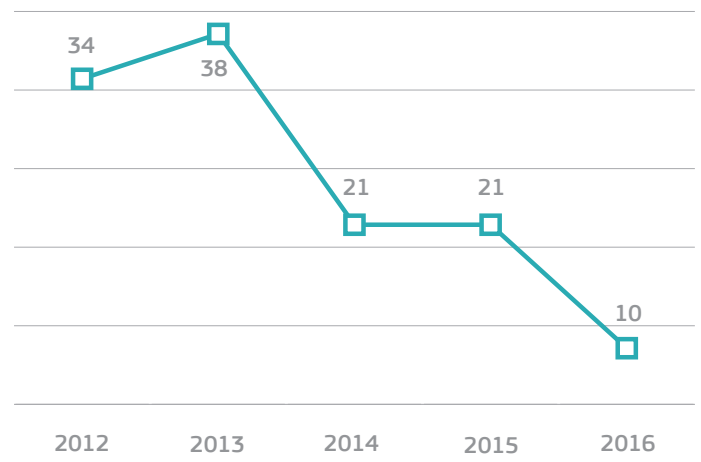
New infringement cases opened in 2016: main policy areas



New late transposition infringement cases



New EU Pilot files opened





Relevant rulings of the European Courts:

In preliminary rulings, the Court held, amongst others, that when assessing whether the name of a spirit drink can be classified as an ‘evocation’ of a protected geographical indication, national courts must refer to the perception of the average European consumer who is reasonably well informed, observant and circumspect, and must take into consideration the phonetic and visual relationship between the names concerned and any evidence showing that such a relationship is not fortuitous. Evocation may exist even in the absence of any likelihood of confusion between the products concerned. The Court clarified these aspects in a case about the marketing of a Finnish spirit drink named ‘Verlados’.¹

¹ Regulation (EC) [No 110/2008](#), Viiniverla, [C-75/15](#).