



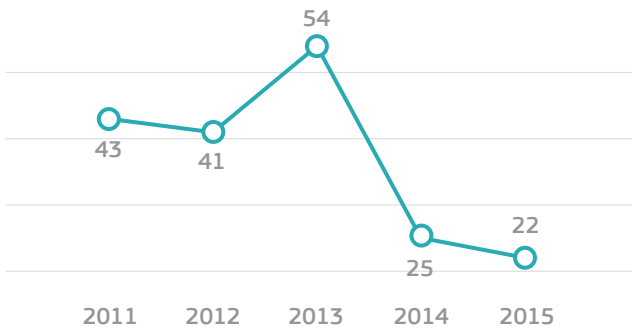
European Commission

Monitoring the Application of European Union Law

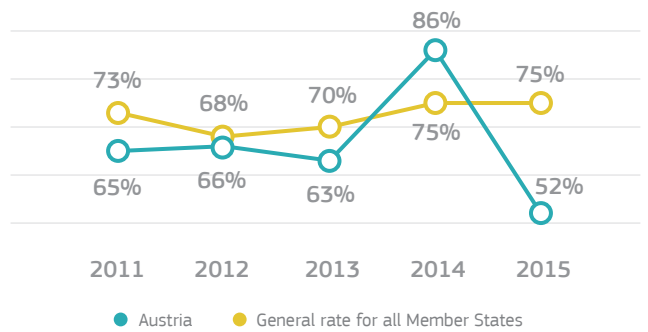
Annual Report 2015

New complaints against Austria increased in 2015, reversing falls from the peak reached in 2012. The number of new EU Pilot files fell for the second consecutive year, to less than half their 2013 peak. Open infringement cases eased back down to their 2013 level while the downward trend in new infringement cases for late transposition has been continued since 2011.

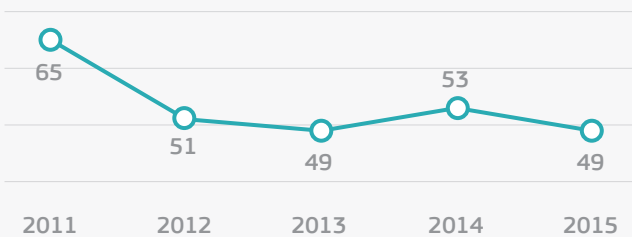
New EU Pilot files opened



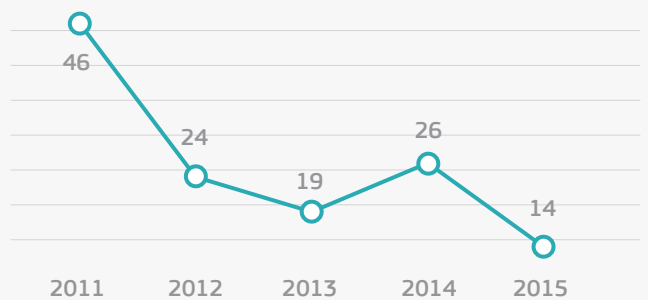
EU Pilot files: evolution of the resolution rate



INFRINGEMENT CASES
Infringement cases open on 31 December



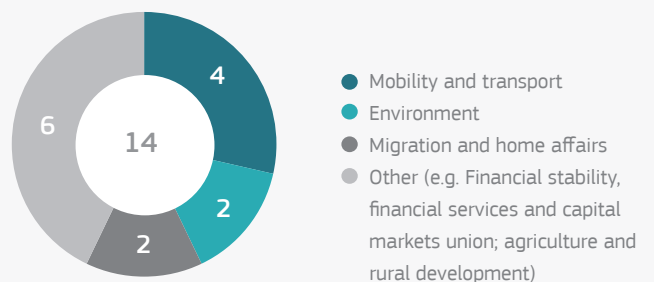
TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES
New late transposition infringement cases



21 new infringement cases opened in 2015: main policy areas



14 new late transposition infringement cases opened in 2015: main policy areas





In preliminary rulings, the Court ruled that:

- exploratory drilling for natural gas, including trial production of natural gas to determine the commercial feasibility of the deposit, does not automatically require an environmental impact assessment. The competent national authorities must, nevertheless, carry out an evaluation to determine whether an environmental impact assessment is necessary. The cumulative impact of other projects must be considered and assessment must not be confined to municipal boundaries;¹
- an administrative decision not to carry out an environmental impact assessment for a particular project cannot be binding on persons who were precluded from bringing an action against that decision, if they are members of the 'public concerned' who satisfy the criteria laid down by national law concerning 'sufficient interest' or 'impairment of a right';²
- provisions in national law made it excessively difficult to exercise the right to bring an action for damages under EU procurement rules.³

¹ Marktgemeinde Straßwalchen and Others, [C-531/13](#)

² Gruber, [C-570/13](#)

³ MedEval, [C-166/14](#)