

## **New EU Justice Scoreboard: efficiency, quality and independence of Member States' justice systems**

The Commission unveiled the first 'EU Justice Scoreboard' on Wednesday which provides data on the functioning of the justice systems in the EU's 27 Member States.

Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU Justice Commissioner, underlined the link between effective judicial systems and economic growth: "The attractiveness of a country as a place to invest and do business is boosted by having an independent and efficient judicial system."

Effective justice systems are crucial for growth: trusting that the rule of law is fully upheld directly translates into the confidence to invest in the economy. The Commission is already assisting [Programme countries](#) with their judicial reforms and in 2012 provided [Country Specific Recommendations](#) to six member states with elements on the judiciary.

The 2013 EU Justice Scoreboard is now extending this analysis to all of the 27 EU Member States. The Scoreboard will act as an early warning system within the EU's economic strategy – enabling more effective justice for citizens and businesses.

Key findings from the first scoreboard include:

- a great variation exists between EU countries in their length of judicial proceedings
- some EU countries still lack a monitoring system which would help to improve the speed and quality of justice
- other methods for resolving disputes outside courts should be used more widely
- the perceived independence of the judiciary in the different Member States varies significantly.

The issues identified in this year's Scoreboard will now be taken into account in preparing the forthcoming country specific analysis as part of the [European Semester](#) process, involving an open dialogue with the Member States. This may lead in certain cases to the adoption by the Commission of Country Specific Recommendations in May, which then pass to EU leaders for endorsement at the European Council in June.

- [Read more information on the new scoreboard](#)
- [EU Justice Scoreboard: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [The data: 2013 EU Justice Scoreboard](#)
- [Read the Vice-President's speech](#)