



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

**UK Single Market Centre Annual
Report 2014**

**Report on UK Single Market
Centre's Activities**

MARCH 2015

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Introduction

Who are we and what's our aim?

The [UK Single Market Centre \(UKSMC\)](#) was established in December 2012 and, since then, all the practical single market operational tools can be found in one place. These include the [Single Market Scoreboard](#), [Internal Market Information System \(IMI\)](#), [SOLVIT](#), the [Point of Single Contact \(PSC\)](#) and the notification system provided for under the [Technical Standards and Regulations Directive 98/34/EC](#).

Our primary purpose is to raise awareness and increase confidence amongst UK businesses and citizens about all the support, guidance and help that is already available to them to work, live, trade and shop within Europe.

We are also keen to ensure that the evidence we gather about the kinds of problems and issues they face help inform future policy development.

What do we do?

Working together - Operational Governance Board

We hold 3-4 Operational Governance Board meetings a year. These meetings are an opportunity for us to bring together key stakeholders with internal market interests in one forum in order to share best practice and ideas for raising awareness among businesses, citizens and consumers of our services in order to help them access the Single Market.

These meetings also provide a platform for considering the issues we come across and all the evidence available that could be used to inform future policy development regarding the Single Market at both national and EU-level. Members of the Governance Board include representatives from Other Government Departments, the European Commission, business representative organisations, and other networks such as the Enterprise Europe Network, the European Consumer Centre and trade associations.

Awareness raising - Our newsletter

We produce 3-4 Newsletters each year that we distribute to all our stakeholders, including UK local authorities, other regulators, Government Departments, trade associations, business organisations plus the Commission and contacts in other Member States.

The newsletter acts as a reminder of the practical help available and highlights what the UKSMC has done in that quarter.

Promoting the UKSMC's work

In 2014, we carried out a number of awareness-raising activities to promote our work. In November, we attended the UKTI Leadership Conference and some of the UKTI Explore Export week events in London and Birmingham, promoting our work to those involved in export policy, advice and operations and, of course, to those businesses looking to expand overseas.

We hosted two study visits by SOLVIT officials from Croatia and Bulgaria, and discussed the advantages of creating a Single Market Centre. In addition, we hosted a meeting with the British Consul in Madrid, to discuss how we can support through SOLVIT their work for the many UK citizens who live and work in Spain.

Highlights

- The number of cases submitted by the UK SOLVIT Centre increased by 44%
- There was a further rise in the number of online licence applications submitted through the PSC
- The total number of requests for information made through IMI increased by 27.4 % compared to 2013
- UK achieved its best-ever performance in the Single Market Scoreboard in Summer 2014

Next steps

In 2015, we aim to build on the work already done in order to:

- promote our services more widely
- update our website and produce a set of FAQs
- complete a compliance audit of authorities on IMI and the PSC
- ensure that our evidence is taken into account by policy-makers

We will also formalise our business planning and continue to improve our Governance structures

Contact us at: uksinglemarketcentre@bis.gsi.gov.uk

UK SOLVIT Centre

What is SOLVIT?

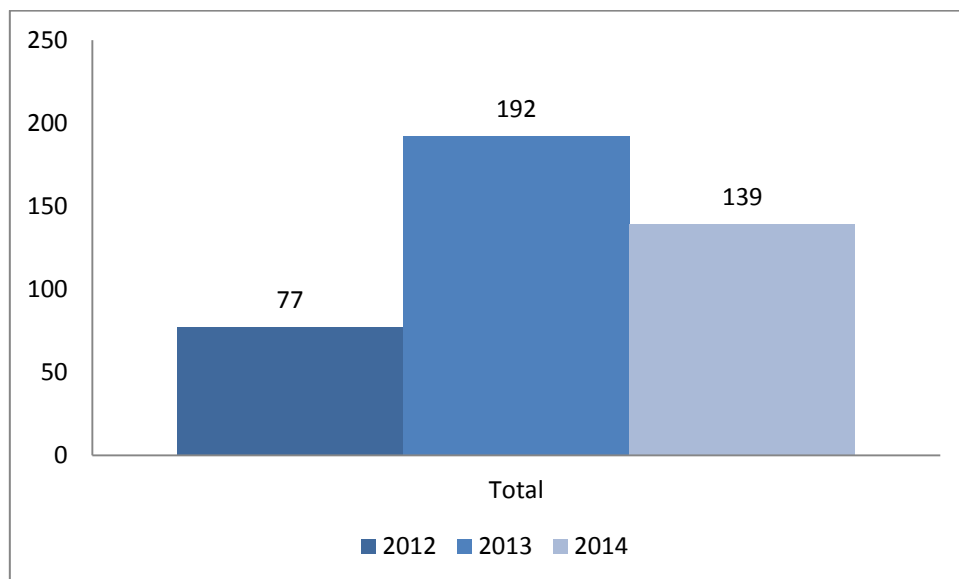
The SOLVIT network was set up to support and help EU citizens and businesses exercise their free movement rights within the Single Market.

Centres established in each EU Member State work together informally to try and overturn barriers arising from operational decisions made by public authorities that affect individual businesses and citizens seeking to trade, live and work in the EU. The service is free of charge.

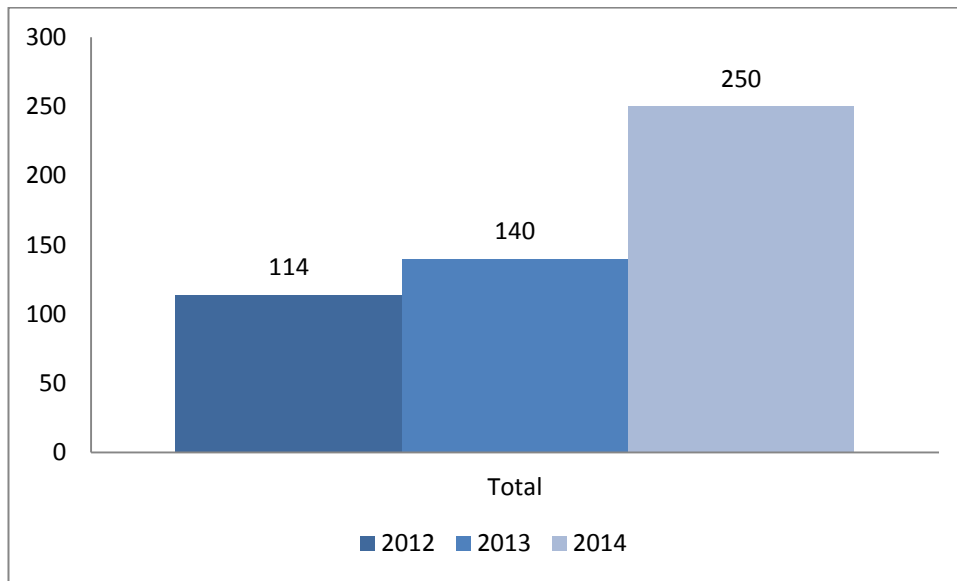
What have we done?

Once again, the UK SOLVIT Centre has maintained its position as one of the busiest and most effective Centres in the network.

Cases against the UK decreased by 27% compared to 2013:



However, the number of cases submitted to the rest of the network by the UK SOLVIT Centre increased by 44%:



It is difficult to pinpoint the exact reasons why we have received fewer cases against the UK this year, compared to 2013. However, we do know that we are now receiving far fewer problems that involve delays in recognising professional qualifications, which can prevent EU professionals from taking up employment opportunities elsewhere in the EU, and follows on from the introduction of the IMI module that enables regulators and professional bodies such as the Architects Registration Board to exchange information about the qualifications and reputation of applicants wishing to work in a particular Member State. We hope to see a similar impact on our casework through the new IMI module that now allows Member States to notify any changes to their national professional requirements more effectively.

An example of where we were able to help:

The problem: this year, we identified a significant number of problems affecting architects seeking registration in the UK. Details of all titles and places of study must be formally notified to all other Member States so that a citizen whose certificate refers to the notified details is recognised for the purpose of automatic recognition rights. Italy had altered the titles of its places of study but did not consider it necessary to submit a notification of alterations. This was affecting a significant number of professionals wanting to work elsewhere in the EU.

This was not a problem that we could pursue through SOLVIT, as this requires identifying that a decision of a public authority in a Member State is in breach of EU free movement legislation, but we were able to address as part of our wider work as the Single Market Centre. We discussed this problem with the Commission SOLVIT team and worked together with the relevant Commission offices to resolve this issue through dialogue with the Member States involved.

The solution: as a result of our intervention, we were delighted when our practical approach was accepted as an interim solution until the new IMI module arrived, which should resolve any future problems in this area.

UK cases submitted against other Member States:

The substantial increase in SOLVIT cases we submitted against other Member States follows on from promoting our services more widely within Government. In particular, our proposal that we should take forward, via the SOLVIT network, the problems of outstanding social security and pension applications in cases where UK citizens have successfully exercised their free movement rights and an entitlement, such as for a pension, can only be identified by taking account of employment periods acquired in other Member States. The use of SOLVIT has been, and continues to be, a very effective and efficient method of resolving such problems.

Examples of UKSMC's assistance in resolving free movement issues

Complaint involving pension award

During the course of our work to resolve his outstanding pension award where he had made a claim nearly two years earlier, a citizen received confirmation of additional pension awards that he was not expecting.

The citizen offered his '**sincere thanks for your patience and efforts to reach a conclusion**' to his problem.

Complaint involving pension entitlements

In a case posted against the UK by the Portuguese SOLVIT team, concerning the non-settlement of a citizen's UK pension entitlement over a long period of time, we discovered during the course of our conversation with the official handling the application that the delay was caused by an outstanding request to France for details of his contribution record there.

A citizen, who has taken up the opportunities provided by the Single Market and worked in several Member States, should not have a problem in obtaining his pension from each Member State as there is an EU obligation that Member States communicate to each other information relevant to a citizen's entitlement on request.

As SOLVIT is an informal network that takes a practical approach to resolving problems, we simply 'phoned and asked SOLVIT France to help us obtain the French response necessary in order for the pension claim to move forward. The outcome was a citizen who said that '**I don't know how to thank you. You know, I was really discouraged. If it were not for SOLVIT I don't know what I would have done. I am truly, truly grateful!**'

We expect that we will have to continue to help citizens with this kind of problem until such time as there is a database that will ensure effective communication of this information securely and quickly between Member States. However, through the SOLVIT database we know that we can obtain the outstanding information needed to resolve these cases.

Another complaint on pensions

We recently handled a problem involving an elderly UK citizen who was being asked to provide her 'proof of life' certificate, which was necessary in order for her French pension entitlement to continue but which had to be signed by a French Embassy or Consulate official in the UK.

The citizen was no longer mobile and could not comply with this requirement, which would require her to travel a long way in order to obtain such a signature in person. We considered that this was unnecessary as EU legislation obliges Member States to recognise documents issued by any official of another Member State holding public authority.

So, following our intervention through SOLVIT, the French Authority agreed to accept certificates signed by a local authority or even a GP in the UK, after which the citizen's husband told us:

'This is a real triumph that you have pulled off! Hearty congratulations and many thanks! I shudder to think of the amount of venom that you must have had to direct at your French colleagues to achieve this result.

Or, come to that, the venom that they must have directed at CIPAV to get them to surrender in this way. But it certainly paid off in the end. Please convey to them my keen appreciation of their work.'

We understand that very often problems occur when mistakes and misinterpretations are made and are not a deliberate intention to deprive a citizen of their rights. However, we are very happy to deliver outcomes that show how influential we can be when necessary.

Complaint about a residence card

This involved a UK citizen who had moved to work in Spain and was accompanied by his wife who was expecting a baby.

An application for the residence card was being delayed due to the Spanish authority insisting that the marriage certificate is to be less than three months old. A requirement that we knew from earlier cases was not contained in Spanish law and which was therefore a mistake.

We were able to resolve the problem through SOLVIT very quickly, within four weeks, and just in time because the citizen wrote to us to say that:

'I got a call on Friday morning from Altea foreigners' office to confirm just as you have said. It was also just a few hours after my wife gave birth to our boy, so it is extra good news. I wish to thank you and SOLVIT from the bottom of my heart for helping us resolve this issue.'

I am in no doubt that if you and SOLVIT had not got involved then we would still have not been issued the residency. Many many thanks. Words cannot express how much we appreciate your help.'

A particular problem that we deal with, almost on a daily basis, involves visa decisions issued by other Member States in respect of third country family members of UK nationals when exercising the right to move, reside and work in another Member State.

Through the significant number of cases we deal with, we have identified that the original application is often incomplete, or that an entitlement has not been demonstrated through the supporting documents but that this information is not provided to the citizen so that they can understand the grounds for the refusal and be satisfied that their EU rights have been respected.

Complaint about a visa refusal

An employee of a UK business contacted the UK Single Market Centre on being refused a business visa to travel to France, on the grounds that her UK residency document did not appear to be in the correct format.

With a familiarity gained over time and many cases involving Home Office residency paperwork, we were able to identify straight away that the French decision was incorrect and pursue a complaint through SOLVIT.

Within 11 days, SOLVIT obtained an acceptance that the initial response was incorrect and that the residency document was acceptable. We were also able to provide the employee with details that would help her facilitate the visa application process.

We would be able to deal with a lot of these cases immediately, simply by informing the citizens about how to make a new application that will succeed, through understanding what supporting documents are necessary.

We believe that it is important that this type of problem stops as there is already an obligation on Member States to inform a citizen why their application has been refused in such a way that they can understand the reasons and because this is often the first experience that citizens will have of bureaucracy when moving to reside in another Member State.

A citizen's first experience should not be of a problem in exercising their EU free movement rights and the UK SOLVIT team will be raising this issue for wider discussion at the next SOLVIT workshop in Brussels.

Our participation in Brussels meetings

SOLVIT workshops take place several times a year, usually in Brussels but sometimes hosted by the SOLVIT Centre of a Member State.

These workshops provide up to date training on the constantly developing database functions, the opportunity to hear from attending Commission officials about new legislation that will have an impact on the rights of businesses and citizens, and the opportunity to raise directly with Commission officials systemic problems that we have identified and which we consider need to be considered at EU level.

Taking on more business cases

We have seen an increase in the amount of businesses being referred to us during the course of the year, which indicates that we are on the right track in respect of our promotion activities and which we will build upon in 2015.

Many problems relate to the recognition of technical standards and so it is very helpful that we now work next to the team expert on these issues who is able to advise us.

We are currently working on a case where a business is experiencing problems trying to access the Turkish market, which we are now able to address more easily because a bonus of the UKSMC taking on the work of the Product Contact Point under the Mutual Recognition Regulations is being able to identify a contact in the Turkish administration.

The UK operation of the Mutual Recognition Regulation (EC) No 764/2008

What does this involve?

In the UK, the work of the Mutual Recognition Regulation (MRR) sits within the European Reform Directorate of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), together with the UKSMC.

Mutual recognition ensures market access for products that are not subject to EU harmonisation. The principle is that any product that is legally sold in one Member State can be sold in another Member State. The Regulation sets out the rights and obligations for public authorities and for businesses.

Article 2 of the Regulation refers to the technical rules of each Member State that are applicable to specific products to be imported. A list of the UK technical rules are listed at: <http://www.gov.uk/mutual-recognition-regulation-across-the-eea>

Article 2(1) of the Regulation refers to administrative decisions taken by authorities to prohibit the placing on the market any product which is found not to comply with national rules or administrative provisions. All decisions are reported to the European Commission, and the UK is one of the highest reporting Member States. Most MRR decisions are made by the Assay Offices, responsible for the testing and hallmarking of precious metals as required by the Hallmarking Act 1973.

In 2014 the UK also notified one action taken against a trader in respect of the UK Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988.

Product Contact Point (PCP)

Article 9(1) of the Regulation provides for Product Contact Points (PCP) to be set up in each Member State to provide businesses with details of any applicable technical rules or a requirement for prior authorisation.

Information and contacts for all technical rules in the UK are found in the above weblink and, in 2014, this was visited 1,974 times. This work is supported by a dedicated [PCP mailbox](#), which is managed by the UKSMC team.

Point of Single Contact (PSC) and Online Licensing

What is the PSC?

The GOV.UK Online Licensing system is the UK's Point of Single Contact (PSC) that was originally set up as part of implementing the EU Services Directive in 2009.

This enables local and other competent authorities, including sector Regulators, Other Government Departments, and professional bodies, to meet their legal obligations under the "Provision of Services Regulations 2009", which came into effect on 28th December 2009 and implements the Services Directive into UK law.

The Services Directive requires all local and other competent authorities to provide a method for "Service Providers" (end users or customers) to make online applications for all authorisations, including licenses, permits, notifications and registrations that are in scope of the Directive.

All Member States, plus Norway, Lichtenstein and Iceland, are required to set up a PSC through which Service Providers can obtain information on the authorisations they need in order to run a business in that country, as well as to be able to access and submit any application forms necessary online, including paying any fees.

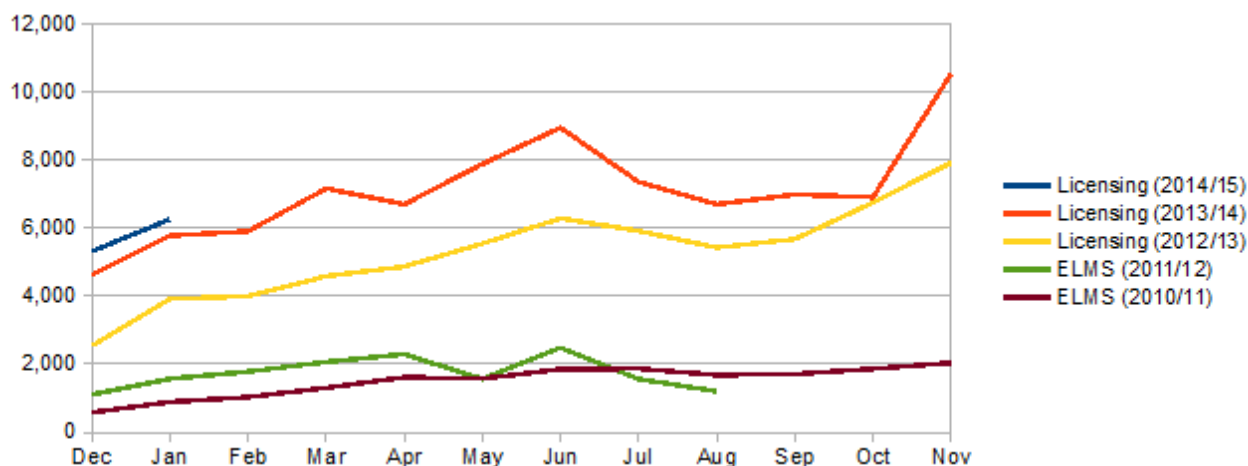
The UK's PSC is provided in the form of a guide on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/ukwelcomes>.

Other Member States' PSCs can be accessed at:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/eu-go/index_en.htm

Statistics – Online licensing

The growth in use of the system continues; however, the rate of increase slowed during the latter half of 2014, save for a peak just before Christmas.

Table showing number of applications submitted online



Benefits to using the PSC

A local authority commented that that they had seen online submissions nearly double last year compared to the previous year and that over 60% of the most popular forms are now online too. They have also managed to save 2 FTE posts in their processing team as they no longer copy and post forms that need to be circulated to other departments and interested parties, and have seen significant reductions in postal costs too.

A legal firm commented that they are saving in the region of £60.00 postal costs per application and they have upwards of 2,000 premises (though not all of these require forms to be submitted in the same year). **A potential saving of £120,000.** In addition, they no longer have to produce 14 copies of a 22 page document, which is saving a few rainforests each year.

Stakeholder activity

In the second half of 2014, we began a compliance audit where we check whether UK local and other competent authorities, including other Government Departments, Regulators, professional bodies etc, are actually meeting their legal obligations.

This involves us contacting those authorities that are not providing online forms and a minimum level of information on their own websites about their authorisation requirements and asking them to confirm what action they are planning in order to address this situation.

We have also introduced a regular programme of “spot checks” on all authorities’ websites as part of our regular housekeeping on compliance. All local and other competent authorities must ensure that:

- all forms for authorisations (licences, permits, notifications etc.) that are covered by the 2009 Regulations are available through the UK’s [Point of Single Contact \(PSC\)](#)

and can be completed online, including paying any fees

- certain minimum information is available on their own websites, including: fees, time taken to process an application, whether tacit consent applies, the redress process and contact information
- they display the [EUGO](#) logo and provide a link back to the PSC on all the relevant pages

The Internal Market Information System (IMI)

What is the IMI?

The [Internal Market Information System \(IMI\)](#) is a Europe-wide internet based system that allows “Competent Authorities” (including all UK local authorities) within the EU to be identified easily and for requests for information, plus responses, to be done online.

This arises from a legal obligation Under Article 29 of the Services Directive where Member States are required, if asked by another Member State, to provide mutual assistance. IMI is a secure system and is not accessible to the general public. However, authorities are required to notify members of the public about their data protection rights if enquiries are carried out or data is exchanged about them through the system.

Since going live in 2008, the system has since been expanded to include Services Information requests, Services Directive notifications, SOLVIT, E-Commerce notifications, train driving licences, Professional Qualifications Notifications on Health and Architects, and the Patients’ Rights Directive.

Expanding the use of IMI is a major change for authorities registered on the system as it enables:

- faster decisions through mutually agreed deadlines (usually 2 weeks)
- an audit trail of decision making
- a much better understanding of the problems and issues amongst authorities across the EU

One competent authority said that: **‘I’m finding we’re using IMI more frequently, and it’s more instinctive an effort than a conscious one when inputting an application, so definitely a positive. The ability to search for authorities in a separate section assists us in keeping our information up to date, and thus ensures migrants are more likely to submit a spot on application that we don’t need to delay for any reason. In summary, I can only see it as a benefit.’**

Statistics

To date, IMI has:

- 7,000+ registered authorities, including 450+ UK authorities
- 12,000+ registered users, including 1,000+ UK users

Online activity during the year

Information requests:

- The total number of information requests sent through IMI since 2008 has now exceeded 24,400. In 2014, 7,595 requests were sent via IMI
- Information exchanges on IMI reached 2,121 at the end of 2014, up from 1,697 in 2013, an increase of 25%
- The UK made 1,962 requests, up 19 % more than in 2013
- The UK received 302 requests of which 254 (84%) were answered within the deadline

Services Directive notifications: The total number of notifications submitted through IMI was 208. Member States submitting the most notifications were Croatia (58), Sweden (55), France (14), and Netherlands (13). The UK submitted 2 notifications. Member States that had not submitted notifications were the Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, and Slovakia

The UK raised issues on 10 notifications from the following countries:

- Belgium (2)
- Croatia (4)
- Germany (4)

And we have since raised concerns with the Commission about the number and content of notifications from some countries i.e. why have some countries not submitted any notifications and why have some countries submitted a lot of notifications.

Future developments for the system

The Commission is currently planning or considering adding the following legislative areas to IMI:

- Public procurement (April 2015)
- Cultural objects (December 2015)
- Public documents
- EPC and alerts
- Enforcement Directive on posting of workers
- Non-road mobile machinery
- Non-harmonised goods

These will be added to IMI as, and when, they are agreed and finalised in the respective working group meetings.

Notifications Directive 98/34 - goods and electronic services

What is 98/34?

The Notifications Directive 98/34/EC helps to prevent new technical barriers being created by requiring European countries to notify the Commission and Member States of any proposed new technical regulations.

The Directive puts in place a system that enables Member States to review and comment before a proposal becomes law. The UKSMC monitors all new notifications and ensures that any new proposals are brought to the attention of the relevant Government Department or Agency. We also ensure that all new proposals are considered within the deadline.

An example of how 98/34 works

In 2014, Ireland notified the **Public Health (Standardised Packaging of Tobacco) Bill 2014**, which is similar in nature to the UK regulations that were also notified under Directive 98/34/EC in 2014.

The UK strongly supports the Irish regulation although Ireland received 10 detailed opinions from other Member States. Ireland considered all these objections but has since confirmed that it does not intend to amend its proposal.

What have we done?

In 2014, 691 notifications were submitted to the Commission, including the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) and Turkey, of which 64 (9.3%) were from the UK. Overall, the total number of notifications last year fell by 43 (5.8%) when compared to 2013.

Number of notifications submitted

The following table and chart shows the number of notifications by country

MEMBER STATE	2014	MEMBER STATE	2014
Austria	38	Liechtenstein*	0
Belgium	20	Lithuania	15
Bulgaria	6	Luxemburg	2
Croatia	10	Malta	5
Cyprus	14	Norway*	17
Czech Republic	26	Poland	25
Denmark	29	Portugal	7
Estonia	18	Romania	24
Finland	34	Slovakia	23
France	49	Slovenia	8
Germany	50	Spain	21
Greece	7	Sweden	38
Hungary	24	Switzerland*	9
Iceland*	4	The Netherlands	59
Ireland	6	Turkey*	6
Italy	29	UK	64
Latvia	4	Total	691

*EFTA states and Turkey

UK notifications

The UK notified the most new proposals, 64 (9.3% of the total notified) – compared to 42 in 2013, an increase of 22 (52%). One possible explanation might be the need to get legislation completed before this Parliament finishes at the end of March 2015.

Following these notifications, we received:

- 11 comments
- 16 detailed opinions

Those comments and detailed opinions that have required a UK response have been answered.

Of the 16 detailed opinions received by the UK, 11 related to one notification: The Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Product Regulations. This regulation was submitted by the Department of Health (DoH) and they are considering their responses to these objections.

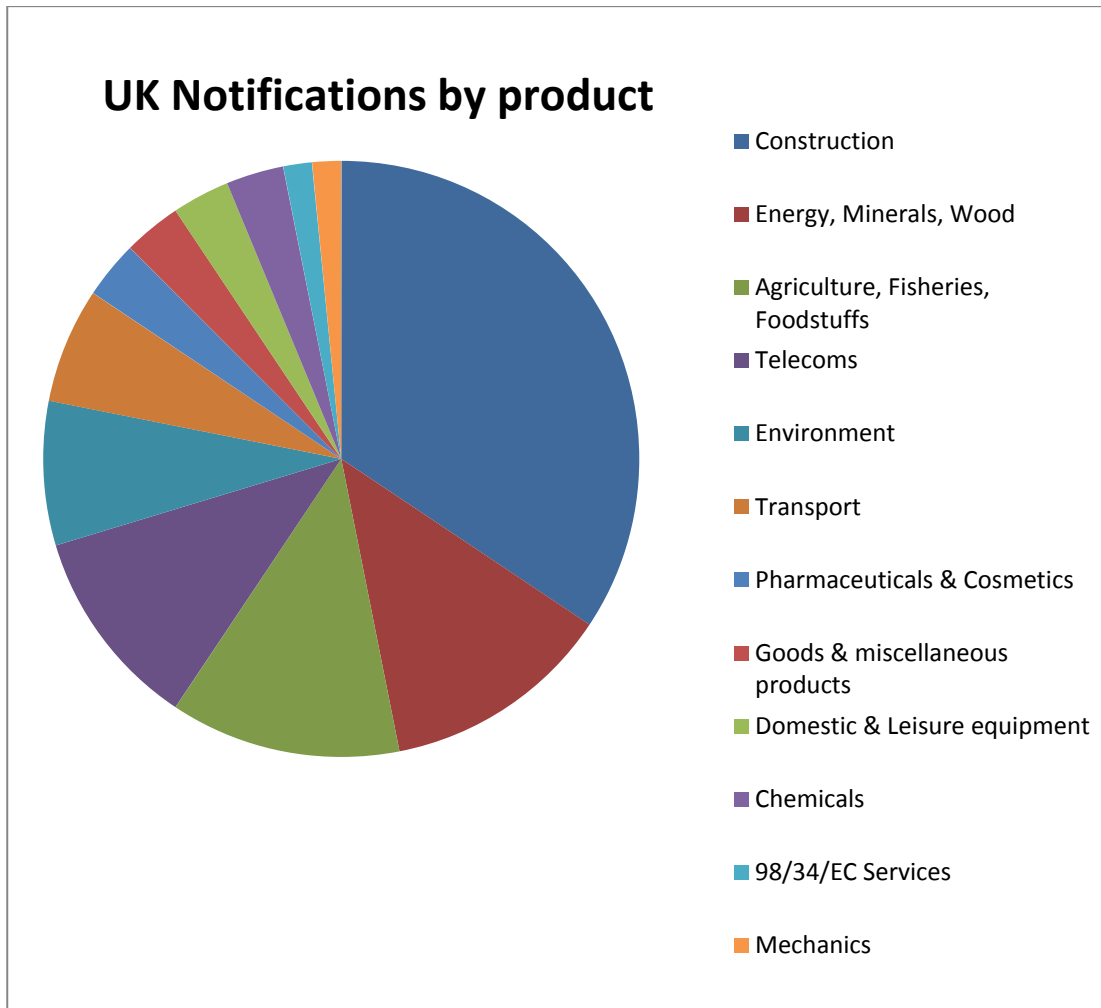
The Highways Agency (HA) submitted the most notifications at 10, followed by:

- DEFRA (8)
- DECC (8)
- DCLG (5)
- Ofcom (6)

Other bodies notifying include HSE, DCMS, DoH, DfT, Home Office, HMRC, Northern Ireland Office, Scottish Office, Welsh Office and Medicines, Healthcare product Regulatory Agency.

In December, the UK also notified the Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) Order 2015, where the 5p charge for carrier bags will come into force later in 2015.

The following chart gives the breakdown of notifications by product in the UK



Comments and detailed opinions submitted by the UK

The UK submitted 10 comments on other Member States' notifications, which included: pyrotechnics, road designs standards, technical specifications for works on roads, alcoholic drinks, precious metals and packaging waste. The UK did not submit any detailed opinions compared to 4 submitted in 2013.

The Urgency Procedure

The Urgency Procedure applies to proposals where we do not have time to allow for the normal 3 month notification period. It only applies to certain proposals and does not apply in cases where Member States have either forgotten or not allowed sufficient time to notify normally. In July, the UK submitted its first urgent notification for 11 years on behalf of the Home Office on the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Bill and Data Retention Regulations 2014.

We dealt with this within one day of the Commission confirming that the Bill needed to be notified. As a result, we decided that we needed to be better informed about how the urgency procedure should be applied and have worked with the Commission on updating our guidance, which will be published in 2015.

UK Single Market Workshop – October 2014

In October, we held a workshop on ‘Delivering the Single Market – making it easier to do business in Europe’.

The workshop was aimed at Government departments and businesses, including trade associations, to raise awareness of what we do, get feedback on how to improve our services and work together more effectively.

Further Information

All notifications can be found on the European Commission TRIS website: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tris/en/>

Advice and Guidance on the 98/34 procedure can also be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-standards-and-regulations-directive-9834ec-guidance-for-officials>

Single Market Scoreboard

What is the Single Market Scoreboard?

The Single Market is incomplete when its rules are not applied or the rights derived from them cannot be exercised uniformly – and one of the main problems continues to be the failure of one or more Member States to transpose a Directive i.e. introduce it into national law. This means that businesses and citizens are unable to take full advantage of the Single Market if a Member State does not correctly transpose an EU Directive.

Since 1998, the Commission has published a Single Market Scoreboard twice a year. Not only does the Scoreboard include information on Member States’ performance in transposing EU law into national law, it also includes reports on a number of other Single Market governance tools such as SOLVIT and the Internal Market Information (IMI) system.

Since September 2013, the Commission has published the Single Market Scoreboard online:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/scoreboard/performance_by_governance_tool/transposition/index_en.htm

The first Scoreboard covers Internal Market Directives with a transposition deadline of up to 30th April. The second Scoreboard covers those Directives with a transposition deadline of up to 31st October.

What is compliance?

The Commission assesses Member State's compliance by reference to several measures including how quickly and how well each Member State transposes Internal Market Directives into national law. Any assessment takes into account both the timeliness of transposition and the number of formal infringement proceedings taken against each Member State for incorrect implementation and/or misapplication of Directives.

The Commission sets a 1% target for transposition of EU Directives into national law for each Scoreboard, which means that no Member State should have more than 1% of EU Directives outstanding for each Scoreboard.

The Commission also sets a 'Zero tolerance' target, which means that no Member State should be more than 2 years late in transposing a Directive into national law.

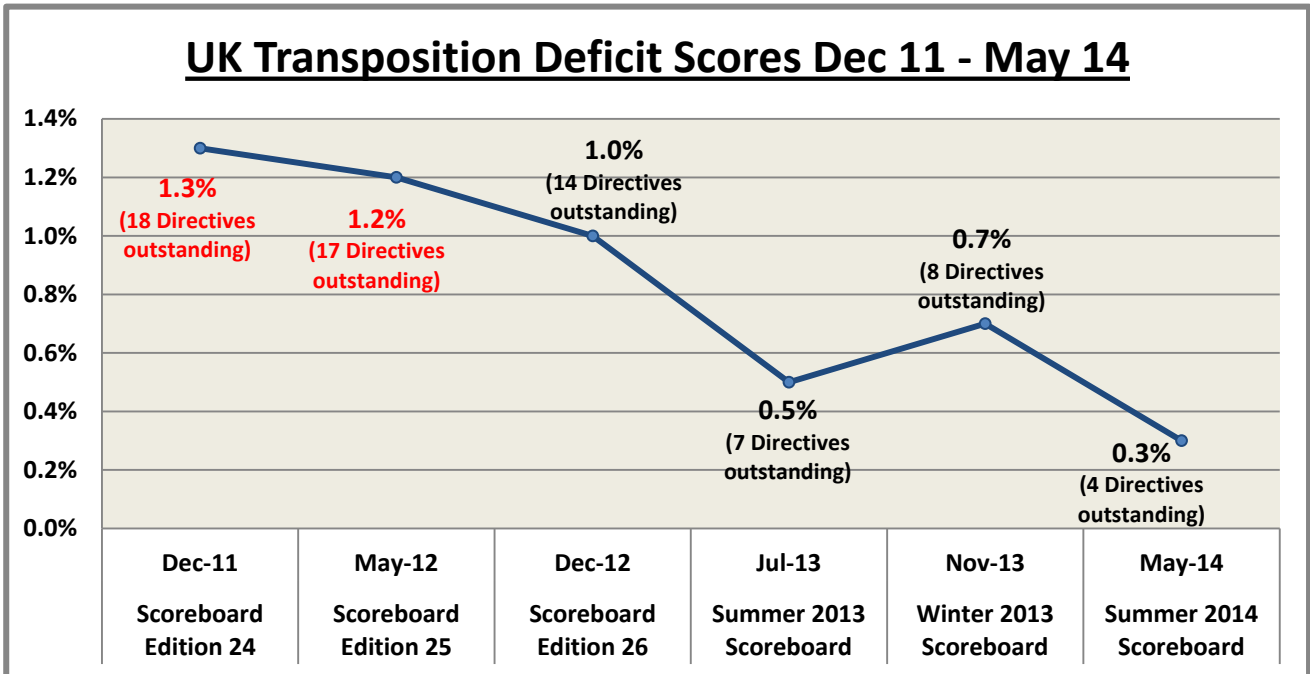
UK's performance

Meeting the 1% transposition target and 0% target for long overdue Directives:

In the first Scoreboard of 2014, the Commission reported that the UK had achieved its best ever result - a transposition deficit of 0.3%. This is significantly lower than the 0.7% result in the previous Scoreboard, which is in line with the EU average of 0.7% and exceeds the 1% deficit target set by the Commission. The UK was ranked joint 6th (with Finland) out of 28 Member States.

UK performance in the Single Market Scoreboard from December 2011 to May 2014

The following graph shows the UK's performance in recent years:



The UK continues to meet the 'zero tolerance' target (that no EU Directive must be more than 2 years late in transposition), which it has done so since the first Scoreboard of 2010.

Performance per indicator

The report stated that the UK's overall performance is 'above average' and is rated as having a 'good performance' for 4 out of 5 of the indicators set out in the graph below.

- [1] Transposition deficit (%)
- [2] Progress over the last 6 months (change in the number of directives)
- [3] Number of directives two years or more overdue
- [4] Transposition delay on overdue directives (in months)
- [5] Compliance deficit

Label	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	EU
[1]	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.7	1.3	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.5	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7
[2]	+1	-1	+2	-1	+3	-2	-1	-2	0	0	-6	-9	-1	0	-2	+4	-1	0	-2	+7	0	+4	+1	-1	+2	-3	+1	-4	0
[3]	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
[4]	9.2	9.6	7.7	3.7	7.3	4.5	16.3	3.8	5.0	5.7	10.3	4.4	6.1	5.3	6.0	10.4	7.5	3.6	10.4	7.7	13.7	6.3	8.0	9.4	5.2	9.2	8.0	4.8	7.5
[5]	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.0		1.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.8	2.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7

	Under-performance		Caution zone		Good performance		n/a
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Indicator [1]: Measures the level of fulfilment with the 1% target established by the European Council; transposition deficits above 1.0% were rated as "red"; those below or equal to 1.0% were "green"; no "yellow" designation

Indicator [2]: An increasing number of outstanding directives were given a "red" rating, with an unchanged number rated as "yellow" and a decreasing number as "green"

Indicator [3]: Measures the level of fulfilment with the 0% target established by the European Council for directives overdue by two years or longer: one or more long overdue directives were rated “red”; those with no long overdue directives were rated “green”; no “yellow” designation

Indicators [4] and [5]: An average (+/- 10%) score was rated “yellow”; a score below it as “red” and a score above it as “green”

Reducing transposition delays

Delays in transposing EU legislation in UK law can deprive businesses and citizens of their rights and undermine confidence in the EU.

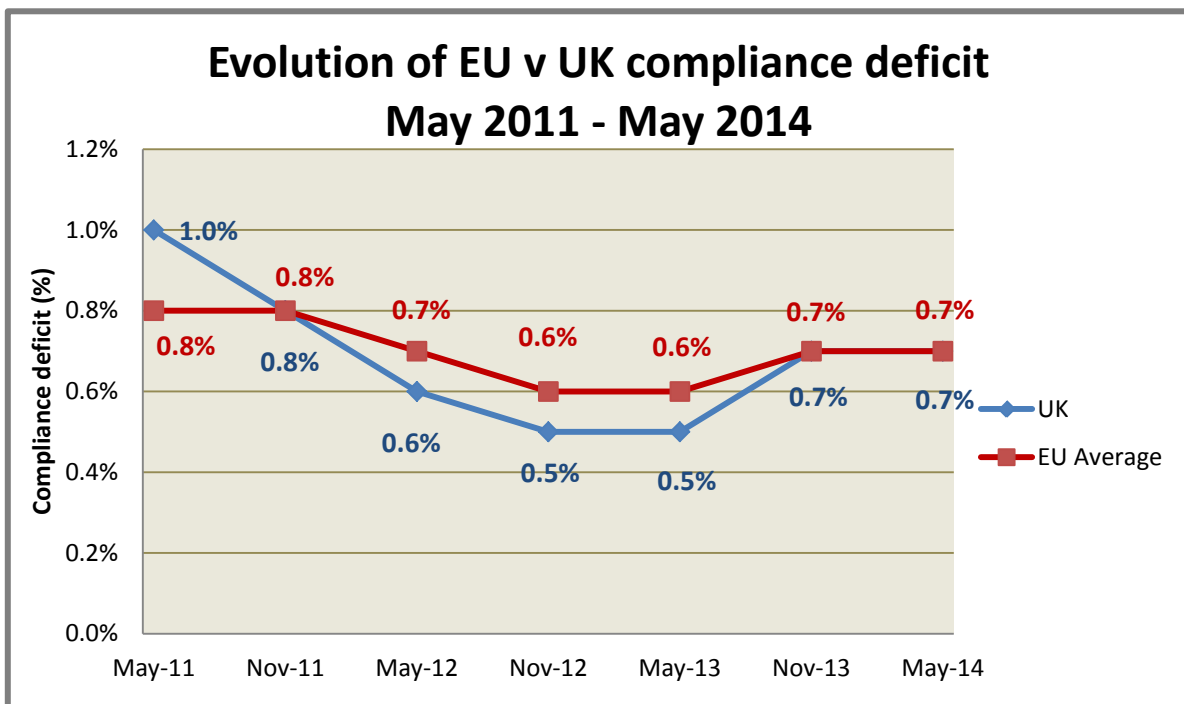
We can see that since the previous Scoreboard, the average delay in transposing a Directive has increased from 7.3 months to 7.5 months. A total of 14 Member States (including the UK) have increased their transposition delays. However, whilst the UK saw an increase in delay from 3.5 months to 4.8 months, this is still significantly quicker than the EU average of 7.5 months.

Compliance deficit

A fully functioning Single Market doesn't only depend on timely transposition; it also relies on correct transposition of EU Directives. If a Member State does not correctly implement a Directive into its own national law, businesses and citizens are also deprived of their rights.

Whilst the EU average compliance deficit remains at 0.7%, the Commission praised Member States for this result. The UK's compliance deficit remains constant at 0.7% (equaling the EU average). The graph below shows the evolution of the UK's compliance deficit over the last 5 years, compared with the EU average:

UK compliance deficit compared to the EU average, since May 2011.



Winter 2014 Single Market Scoreboard

The Commission has recently confirmed the results of the Winter 2014 Single Market Scoreboard although, at the time of writing, the Scoreboard report has yet to be published.

However, we can confirm that the UK once again met and exceeded the 1% target set for transposition, and achieved a transposition deficit of 0.6% with 8 Directives outstanding. This time round, the UK was placed joint 18th out of 28 Member States.

Forward Look – the Summer 2015 Single Market Scoreboard

For the Summer 2015 Scoreboard, which covers all Single Market Directives not fully transposed with a deadline of up to and including 30th April 2015, the UK currently has a transposition deficit score of 1.2% and 14 Directives outstanding.

To meet the 1% target, the UK must transpose and notify a further 2 Directives by the 10th May 2015 deadline. To meet the Commission's proposed 0.5% target, the UK needs to transpose 8 of the 14 outstanding Directives and we continue to remind Other Government Departments of the importance of ensuring EU legislation is transposed on time and tracking their progress.

Further information

You can visit the European Commission website and view current and past Single Market Scoreboards at: www.ec.europa.eu/internal_market/scoreboard/index_en.htm

For Scoreboards that predate the online publications (entitled Internal Market Scoreboard editions 1 to 26), visit the European Commission at: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/index_en.htm



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