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# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 7: November 2015

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### Introduction

Hello again from the team at the [UK Single Market Centre](#) and welcome to the seventh edition of our Newsletter.

### Single Market Strategy published

In October, the Commission published its long-awaited Single Market Strategy, which aims to deliver a deeper and fairer Single Market that will benefit both businesses and consumers.

A key proposal is the development of a "Single Digital Gateway" to strengthen and streamline existing single market tools and networks, including the EUGO network of Points of Single Contact and Solvit Centre's. An effective Single Market continues to be a priority for the UK and we would welcome your ideas, thoughts and reactions to either the Strategy itself or to any specific proposals.

More information on the Single Market Strategy can be found at: [Single Market Strategy](#).

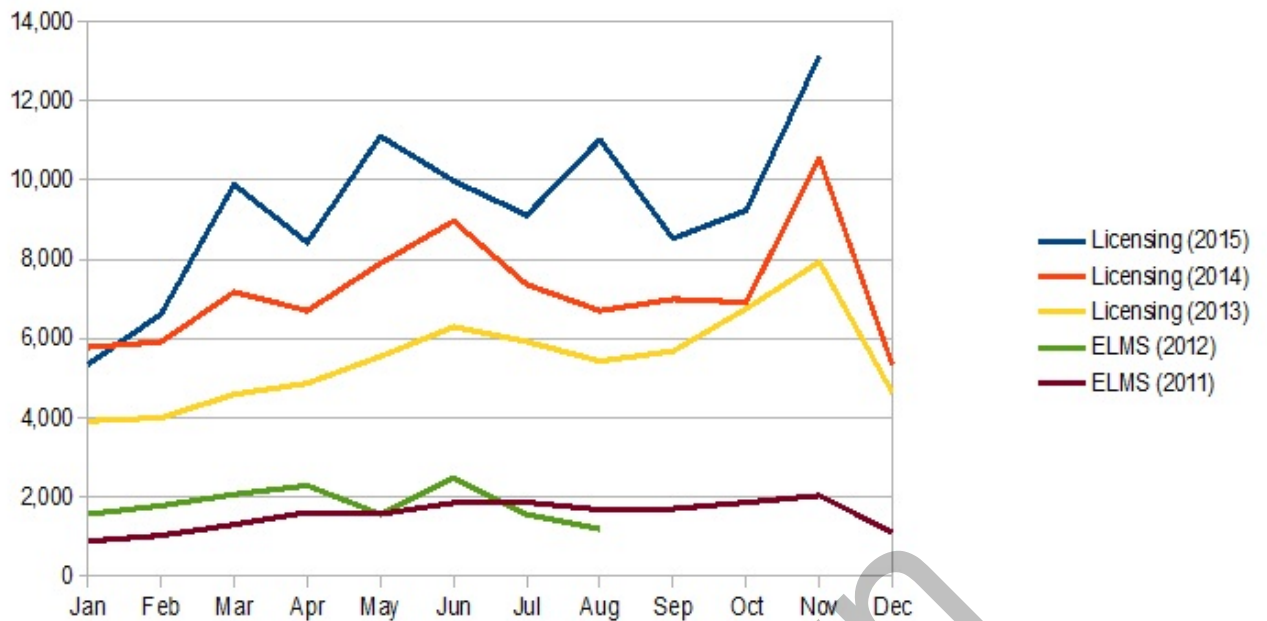
### Point of Single Contact (PSC)



As before, online applications continue to increase – up 24.4% from 10,546 in November 2014 compared to 13,121 in November 2015. More online applications is good news for business as they provide a quicker, cheaper and more convenient application method and, for receiving authorities, online applications are easier to process.

More applications also support our business case for further system improvements so please do all you can to promote online applications, including making them the default option and promoting this more widely with your local business communities. Don't forget to ensure that your own online information is as helpful as possible too!

Latest GOV.UK Licensing submissions as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015.



## Internal Market Information (IMI) System

### Services Directive Notification



The number of Services Directive notifications submitted through IMI continues to increase and we continue to check that all notifications are reviewed to ensure that they do not introduce any conditions that would undermine an effective Single Market.

Please remember that the UK is also required to notify any local, as well as national, requirements for business as set out in the Provision of

Services Regulations 2009, see: [Provision of Services Regulations 2009](#)

Since January, there have been 258 notifications and 190 remain open for comment. The Czech Republic has submitted the most notifications (144 notifications, with 95 in August alone), followed by the Netherlands (40), Sweden (21), France (13) Denmark (12) and Hungary (9).

### Turkish Study Visit

In early November, we hosted a visit for 30+ officials from Turkey to discuss how the UK has implemented both the Services and Professional Qualifications Directives. The Turkish delegation had already visited Romania and the Netherlands before coming to the UK as they wanted to understand how the legislation is implemented in different countries so that they could better understand how to align their national legislation with EU requirements.

This event was very well received and our Turkish visitors felt that we had provided examples that had brought the process to life for them and made both the legislation and implementation process easier to understand. We look forward to seeing how Turkey takes these ideas forward – especially as it should help UK businesses to trade and do business more easily in Turkey.

## User Survey 2015: summary of results

Earlier this year, the Commission carried out a survey to assess users' experiences in terms of user friendliness, functions and benefits in order to assess the training materials available. The IMI Survey, was sent to all 11,544 registered IMI users, and the results have now been published. There were 2,332 replies - a 20% response rate. The survey showed that:

- There was a big difference in the frequency of use between national and local authorities. 48% of national authorities use IMI frequently compared to only 18% of local authorities
- The Posting of Workers module has the most users
- 79% of responses say that IMI is easy to use
- 64% said that the latest version is more user friendly
- 79% said that IMI helps them identify their counterparts in other Member States
- 79% said it was easy to create and send notifications
- 82% were positive about responding to requests

More details about the survey can be found at: [IMI Survey](#)

## New IMI Modules

This quarter, IMI has expanded to include modules that support the Directives on Posted Workers Enforcement, the Return of Cultural Goods and Professional Qualification Recognition (PQD) [PQ Directive](#).

In response to concerns we have received about how the new IMI modules relating to PQD will work in practice given that the Commission usually provides training for only two people in each Member State, the Commission agreed to provide a one-off training session in London. This took place on 8 and 9 December and provided more tailored training plus an opportunity to discuss with other users how the new modules relating to PQD will work.

This event also allowed UK Authorities to talk more generally about how IMI works and what new modifications might be helpful to them in future.

## New Alert Mechanism

From 18 January 2016, Competent Authorities for doctors, nurses, midwives, vets, pharmacists, dentists, professionals working in the education sector and those whose activities have patient safety implications will have to send an alert to other Member States informing them whenever a professional's activities are restricted or prohibited. The alert must be sent via IMI no later than three days after the decision is adopted.

## SOLVIT Update



On 17 September, Portugal hosted a meeting to discuss the future of SOLVIT. The aim of this meeting was to discuss how to influence the strengthening of SOLVIT, as mentioned in the recently-published Single Market Strategy. We attended and spoke at the first meeting of the Trade Facilitation Panel, set up by the BIS Better Regulation Delivery Office, and the feedback was very positive. Speakers had two minute slots in which to deliver their messages, and we spoke about the work of SOLVIT and the Single Market Centre just before the lunch. We had the expectation that everyone would be focussed on the refreshments. We were however mobbed with questions during the lunch, and it seems that two minutes is the optimum period in which to deliver our messages.

Following on from the meeting with advisers from the British Consulate in Madrid, we were invited to speak to the Europe Consular Management Board at their meeting at the FCO on 8 October. The Board consists of officials from all British Embassies in the EU, and who

deal with the same types of problem that are raised with SOLVIT. We discussed our responsibilities and the services we provide, with a view to being more efficient and effective in response to concerns raised by UK businesses and citizens. We will also arrange another meeting with officers from the British Embassy in Madrid, at which time we will have the opportunity to provide an update on our communication with the Commission's SOLVIT team about the recognition of non EU marriage certificates by Spain and other Member States and how this affects the rights of UK citizens moving to those countries.

## Your Europe Editorial Board

On 2 October, we hosted a meeting of the Your Europe Editorial Board; [Your Europe](#) The Board meets to discuss how to improve the way in which the pages deliver essential and helpful information in support of EU free movement. This is especially needed in respect of Member States that do not have their own internal system for bringing together all of this information online, and we took the opportunity as Host to provide inspiration through the promotion of the .Gov.UK webpages.

## Technical Regulations Directive 2015/1535/EU (formerly 98/34/EC)



Please note that, as from 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Directive (EU) 2015/1535 has replaced Directive 98/34/EC. The new Directive does not need to be introduced into UK law as we already meet our legal obligations through our existing procedures. There are no major changes as the new Directive is simply a “tidy up” of the previous Directive - most of

the differences concern the re-numbering of Articles and updated references to other Regulations and Directives.

The new Directive still requires Member States to notify draft technical regulations that fall within scope of the Directive and to operate a standstill period of 3 months before introducing the draft regulations in order to allow other Member States and the Commission time to consider and provide comments.

The new Directive was published in the Official Journal on 7<sup>th</sup> September and can be found here: [Directive 2015/1535/EU](#). We will be updating our guidance shortly to reflect this change.

In August, the Commission produced a report on the operation of Directive 98/34/EC from 2011-2013, which can be found on the TRIS website at: [Directive 98/34/EC from 2011 to 2013](#)

From July to November 2015, the UK and other Member States notified 301 new regulations and legislation to the Commission including: Norway (7), Liechtenstein (2), Iceland (1), Turkey (1) and Switzerland (7) and the UK (27). Malta is the only Member State not to have notified so far this calendar year. From July to November 2014, there were 285 notifications, of which 35 were from the UK.

The UK has not submitted any detailed opinions but, since July has submitted, 2 comments and has received 6 Comments, but no detailed opinions.

## Single Market Scoreboard

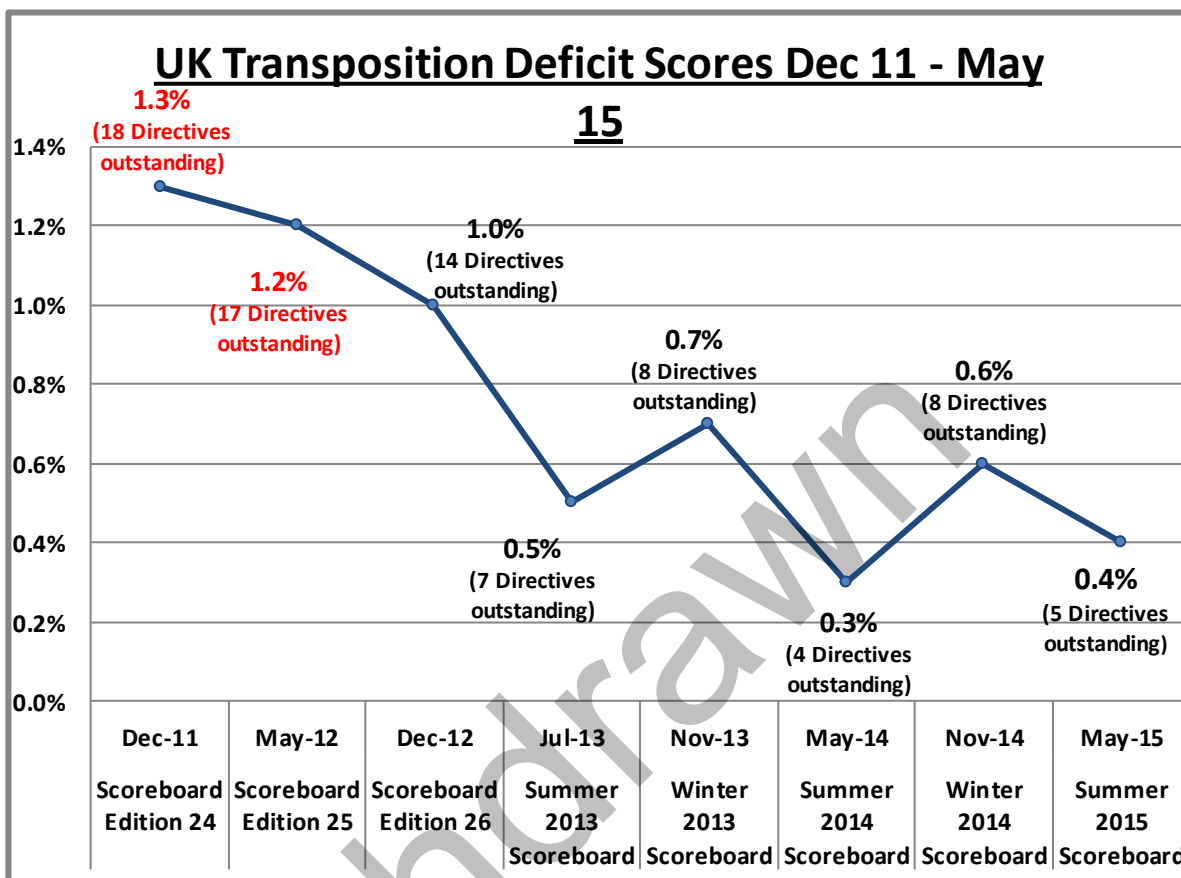


The Commission recently published the online report for the latest Scoreboard (Summer 2015) at: [Transposition](#). The separate 7-page detailed report on the UK's performance can also be found at: [UK Transposition](#).

The UK achieved a transposition deficit of 0.4% (5 Directives outstanding) – once again well ahead of the official target of 1%, and was ranked joint 5<sup>th</sup> along with Ireland, Greece, Malta and Slovakia.

This report shows that the UK has improved in the areas of ‘Transposition’ and ‘Progress over the last six months (change in the number of non-transposed Directives)’. We are now working on the Winter 2015 Scoreboard where there are currently 7 Directives outstanding, which will give the UK a transposition deficit of 0.6% if they are not notified by 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The following graph shows how the UK has performed over the last 5 years and, as you can see, the UK’s performance overall continues to show steady improvement.



Our next Newsletter will be issued in the Spring 2016. If you would like to suggest or contribute an article, please contact Lisa Rogers [lisa.rogers@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.rogers@bis.gsi.gov.uk) We would also welcome feedback on any of the items mentioned in this newsletter. As always, please feel free to pass this onto any colleagues and contacts that have an interest in making the Single Market work in practice for UK citizens, consumers and businesses.

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