

**Question for written answer E-005894/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Effectiveness of the European Union infringement proceedings

In order for legislation to be implemented effectively, it is vital that the Member States incorporate European directives in their national legislation within the set deadlines.

The annual report on implementation of EU law¹ of 6 July 2017 shows a significant increase in the number of infringement proceedings launched (21%) in comparison with the previous year. Germany and Spain were the subject of the highest number of pending cases relating to incorrect transposition or application of EU law, the areas most concerned in 2016 being the internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the environment.

Following the report showing the clear increase in the number of infringement proceedings against many Member States, can infringements proceedings really be considered effective?

In view of the scant effectiveness of economic sanctions², as indicated by the Commission's 2017 press release, is it necessary to adopt some additional type of measure besides pecuniary measures?

It is the citizens who pay for economic sanctions in the end³. Would it not be more appropriate to adopt measures against the elected representatives who fail to meet the deadlines set by the Commission?

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2245_en.htm

² <http://www.20minutos.es/noticia/2071993/0/espana-ue-ce/infracciones-infractores/expedientes-sanciones/>

³ <http://www.elmundo.es/economia/2017/09/18/59bc0e1a22601df32e8b4613.html>