



BRIEFING PAPER

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EU obligations: UK implementing legislation since 1993

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Summary

How much UK law implements EU obligations?

This note provides figures for Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments from 1993 to 2014 which implement or refer to UK obligations under EU law.

Calculations based on information from the UK parliamentary search database and *legislation.gov.uk* give the following figures for EU-related Acts and SIs for the period 1993-2014:

- 34,105 UK Acts and SIs
- 4,514 EU-related UK Acts and SIs
- Average of 13.2% of UK instruments are EU-related

These figures do not take account of EU regulations, which are implemented across all EU Member States, usually without further national implementing measures.

This note updates some figures in Research Paper 10/62, *How much legislation comes from Europe?* 13 October 2010.

1. Introduction

Finding out how much UK legislation implements EU law or other EU obligations is difficult and most methods are unreliable. It is particularly difficult to calculate the number of EU-related Statutory Instruments (SIs).

The UK parliamentary search database provides information on SIs related to EU law going back to 1993. Other legal databases go back to UK entry to the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1973, but on comparison they do not give the same results as each other or, since 1993, as the UK parliamentary database, using the same search terms.

This note provides figures for Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments from 1993 to 2014 which implement or refer to UK obligations under EU law.

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This note updates some figures in Research Paper 10/62, [How much legislation comes from Europe?](#) 13 October 2010.

2. UK Acts implementing EU obligations

The following table is of UK Acts of Parliament from calendar year 1993 to 2014 that have been in any way affected or constrained by an EU law or Treaty obligation. It includes Acts which have implemented an EU law or Treaty obligation wholly or in part, and those – the vast majority – which simply refer to an EU obligation, cross-refer to the *European Communities Act 1972* or define an EU term for the purposes of the Act.¹

Year	Total number of Acts	Acts linked to implementation of EU obligations	% of total number of Acts	Acts that exclusively implement EU law
1993	44	7	16%	3 (EP elections; EEA; TEU)
1994	37	7	19%	2 (accession; trade marks)
1995	48	7	15%	None
1996	54	5	9%	None
1997	65	6	9%	None
1998	43	5	12%	1 (Amsterdam Treaty)
1999	30	7	23%	1 (pollution)
2000	42	8	19%	None
2001	25	6	24%	1 (finance)
2002	44	9	20%	2 (Nice Treaty; EP elections)
2003	45	10	22%	1 (accession)
2004	38	8	21%	None
2005	24	6	25%	None
2006	56	9	16%	1 (accession)

¹ For example, “Financial holding company” has the meaning given by Article 1(21) of Council Directive 2000/12/EC of the European Parliament and the Council”, *Bank of England Act 1998*.

2007	31	6	19%	None
2008	33	10	30%	2 (finance; Lisbon Treaty)
2009	27	9	33%	None
2010	41	12	29%	None
2011	62	25	40%	None
2012	48	23	48%	1 (amending Article 136 TFEU regarding EU stability mechanism)
2013	78	33	42%	2 (Croatia accession/Irish protocol; EU approvals)
2014	30	13	43%	1 (Data retention)
TOTAL	945	231	24%	1.4%

3. UK Statutory Instruments implementing EU obligations

Calendar year	Total EU Directives and Decisions ²	Total UK SIs	Number of EU-related SIs	% of EU-related SIs
1993	118 (+ 678)	1,437	155	11%
1994	79 (+ 856)	1,585	179	11%
1995	72 (+ 658)	1,627	188	12%
1996	96 (+ 673)	1,759	204	12%
1997	82 (+ 843)	1,588	170	11%
1998	102 (+ 713)	1,382	138	10%
1999	102 (+ 775)	1,706	247	14%
2000	84 (+ 747)	1,993	289	15%
2001	103 (+ 888)	1,965	266	14%
2002	96 (+ 731)	1,763	251	14%
2003	44 (+ 780)	1,483	210	14%
2004	114 (+ 824)	1,450	236	16%
2005	90 (+ 721)	1,563	226	14%
2006	142 (+ 802)	1,464	229	16%
2007	76 (+ 774)	1,504	235	16%
2008	124 (+ 782)	1,414	178	13%
2009	166 (+ 742)	1,721	294	17%
2010	166 (+ 816)	1,190	66	6%
2011	105 (+ 723)	987	102	10%
2012	53 (+ 692)	1,099	79	7%
2013	78 (+ 708)	1,165	170	15%
2014	97 (+ 838)	1,315	171	13%
TOTAL	18,953	33,160	4,283	12.9%

² Figures from Eur-lex, legislative acts – statistics at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/statistics/2015/legislative-acts-statistics.html>

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