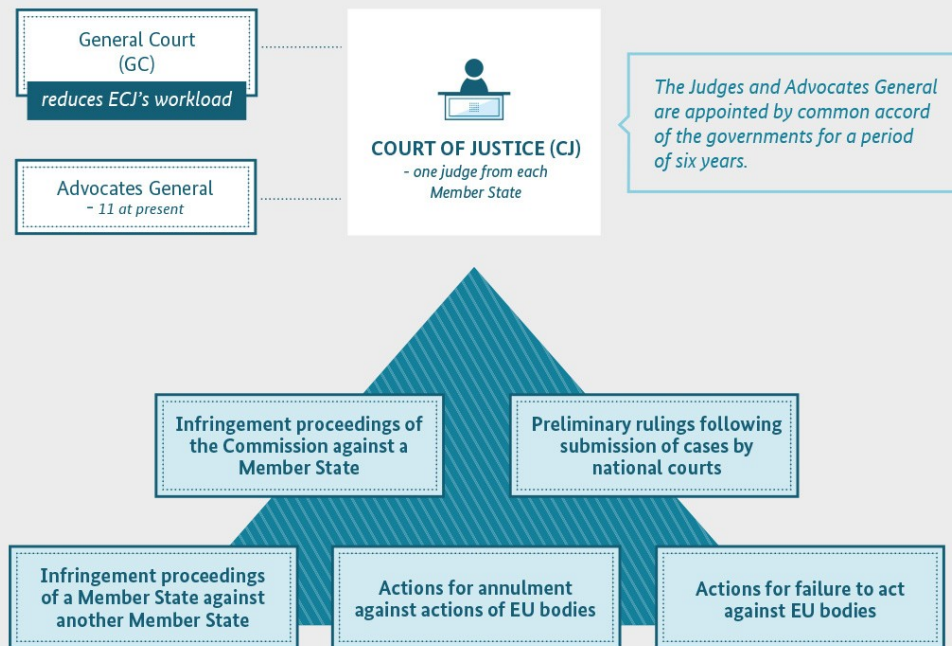


# Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)



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**1 With a partner describe the infographic, then answer the following questions:**

- 1 Who are Advocates General?
- 2 How many judges are there?
- 3 What are infringement proceedings?
- 4 What are preliminary rulings?
- 5 What are actions for annulment?
- 6 Find recent examples of actions for failure to act against EU bodies.

**2 Skim the text in the link and answer the following questions:**

<https://goo.gl/cWr2nF>

- 1 What member states are involved and why was the infringement procedure started?
- 2 What is the main counterargument of the member states?
- 3 Why is the position of the EU not an easy one?

**3 Think about arguments/counterarguments on this issue. Then discuss it with your partner.**

**4 Read the text and fill in the gaps with the words below. Then fill in the gaps in brackets with the terms referring to the respective rulings.**

*applied                      against                      infringed                      interprets                      settles*

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) EU law to make sure it is \_\_\_\_\_ (2) in the same way in all EU countries, and \_\_\_\_\_ (3) legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions.

It can also, in certain circumstances, be used by **individuals, companies or organisations** to take action \_\_\_\_\_ (4) an EU institution, if they feel it has somehow \_\_\_\_\_ (5) their rights.

*annul*

*harmed*

*complain*

*violate*

*make*

*doubt*

*determine*

*take*

*put*

*gives*

*concerns*

*comply*

### What does the CJEU do?

The CJEU \_\_\_\_\_ (1) rulings on cases brought before it. The most common types of case are:

- **annulling EU legal acts** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) – if an EU act is believed to \_\_\_\_\_ (2) EU treaties or fundamental rights, the Court can be asked to \_\_\_\_\_ (3) it – by an EU government, the Council of the EU, the European Commission or (in some cases) the European Parliament. Private individuals can also ask the Court to annul an EU act that directly \_\_\_\_\_ (4) them.
- **interpreting the law** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) – national courts of EU countries are required to ensure EU law is properly applied, but courts in different countries might interpret it differently. If a national court is in \_\_\_\_\_ (5) about the interpretation or validity of an EU law, it can ask the Court for clarification. The same mechanism can be used to \_\_\_\_\_ (6) whether a national law or practice is compatible with EU law.
- **ensuring the EU takes action** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) – the Parliament, Council and Commission must \_\_\_\_\_ (7) certain decisions under certain circumstances. If they don't, EU governments, other EU institutions or (under certain conditions) individuals or companies can \_\_\_\_\_ (8) to the Court.
- **sanctioning EU institutions** (actions for damages) – any person or company who has had their interests \_\_\_\_\_ (9) as a result of the action or inaction of the EU or its staff can \_\_\_\_\_ (10) action against them through the Court.
- **enforcing the law** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) – this type of case is taken against a national government for failing to \_\_\_\_\_ (11) with EU law. Can be started by the European Commission or another EU country. If the country is found to be at fault, it must \_\_\_\_\_ (12) things right at once, or risk a second case being brought, which may result in a fine.

[http://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Bilder/EN/Topics/Social-Europe-and-international-Affairs/european-court-of-justice.jpg;jsessionid=0C314CDE30AD794D64183821B760F069?\\_\\_blob=poster&v=3](http://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Bilder/EN/Topics/Social-Europe-and-international-Affairs/european-court-of-justice.jpg;jsessionid=0C314CDE30AD794D64183821B760F069?__blob=poster&v=3)  
[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-17-1935\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-1935_en.htm)