Contribution ID: d05bcd7d-8ea2-4529-9210-d1d4cf08f405

Date: 23/10/2020 13:46:21



EU Investor Survey

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

About the assignment: The purpose of this survey is to support a study on investment protection and facilitation in the EU. This study aims to collect data and evidence on the problems related to cross-border investments in the EU and on the possible impacts of policy options to be considered to tackle these problems. The two problems under investigation are:

- Problem A: An uneven level of investment protection in different Member States that affects investor confidence:
- **Problem B:** Concerns about enforcement of rights and effective remedies for cross-border investors.

Target group: This survey is designed specifically for EU investors engaged in cross-border investments in the EU Member States (MS) or interested to engage in cross-border investment but who have not been able to do so due to specific barriers.

Scope of this survey: The main objective is to survey EU investors (whether already investing or having shown/showing interests to invest) engaged in intra-EU investment to understand the key challenges around investment protection and initiatives on investment facilitation. The findings of this survey will contribute to the assessment of the barriers and issues faced by investors, their drivers, and consequences for cross-border investment. It will also assist in possible policy options to be considered to address the challenges. This survey takes less than 20 minutes to fill in. Please note that we adhere to privacy protection and all information you share will be strictly confidential. Click here for our privacy note and our obligations in relation to the personal data you share.

A **glossary of terms** used throughout the survey can be found in the background documents on the right side of the screen.

Please note that many questions are **optional** and you are invited to skip them in case they are too complicated or too sensitive to respond to.

ALL INFORMATION SHARED WILL BE HANDLED STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

The deadline to respond to this survey is 25/10/2020.

A. Background Information

For international companies, please se For individual investors, please se			
BE - Belgium			
* 2. Is your company / Are you Yes No and I am not interes No, but I am interested No, but I was in the pas Not sure	sted I or planning to	s-border investment in a	another EU Member State?
*3. Please select the type(s)	of investment you	or your company is en	gaged in.
a significant degree of voting power) Portfolio investment (ac investment without any Real estate	influence on the ma cquisitions of securit intention to influence	nagement and control of	ew or existing companies by acquiring f the undertaking, e.g. 10% or more of - with the intention of making a financial control of the undertaking)
* Other			
wanting to also engage in	n cross-border inves	tments.	ancial services users in all Europe, as the EU-level representative of
* 4. In what EU Member State ALL Member States AT - Austria BE - Belgium BG - Bulgaria CY - Cyprus CZ - Czechia DE - Germany	e(s) does your com DK - Denmark EE - Estonia EL - Greece ES - Spain FI - Finland FR - France HR - Croatia	pany or do you have ir HU - Hungary IE - Ireland IT - Italy LT - Lithuania LU - Luxembourg LV - Latvia MT - Malta	nvestments? NL - Netherlands PL - Poland PT - Portugal RO - Romania SE - Sweden SI - Slovenia SK - Slovakia

* 1. In which EU Member States is your company (HQ) located?

5. [Optional] How much has been invested since the first establishment (in EUR)?

Please provide information on your investments. Averages, ranges or estimates are okay and we will treat your information confidentially. When linking specific Member States to investments you please use the spelling used in the previous question.

Investment type	Estimated investment amount in EUR or provide a range	Which Member State(s)?
Direct investment		
Portfolio investment		
Real estate		
Credit provided for commercial transactions or other financial loans		
Other	NOT APPLICABLE (see reply to Q3)	

0	
	Small enterprise: with 10-49 persons employed
	Medium-sized enterprise: with 50-249 persons employed
	Large enterprise: with 250 or more persons employed
0	None of the above, I am an individual investor.
6c. Ple	ease indicate your company's turnover (in EURO) as of January 2020.
	≤ € 2 million
	≤ € 10 million
	≤ € 50 million
	> € 50 million
0	I do not know
R C	hallenges and impacts
D. C	nalienges and impacts

*6a. Please select the sector that best describes your company's main business.

* 6b. Please indicate your company's number of permanent employees.

Micro enterprise: with less than 10 persons employed

Financial and insurance sector

Rate each factor in its importance from 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest).

4 - Key factor in investment decision

• N/A - Don't know / No opinion

1 - Not important2 - Somewhat important

(potential) decision to invest in another EU Member State.

• 4 - An important factor, but others are more important for decision to invest

Factor	1	2	3	4	N /A
* Ease of finding information on investment protection rules under the EU legal framework	0	0	0	•	0
* Clarity on the applicable rules protecting investment under the EU legal framework	0	0	0	•	0
* Predictability and stability of the regulatory framework (including changes in laws and regulations which impact your investment)	0	0	0	•	0

* Administrative conduct (i.e. treatment towards foreign investors, efficiency in obtaining necessary government permits and approvals to start or expand operating a business, reasoning of administrative decisions)	0	0	0	0	•
* Obtaining appropriate compensation for restriction of property and economic rights	0	0	0	•	0
* Functioning of the enforcement system in the host Member State as regards investor rights	0	0	0	•	0
Other factor(s) please specify below	0	0	0	•	0

* Please specify the other factor(s).

A key factor hurting any development of cross border investment by EU citizens within the EU National are Government / administrative barriers to cross-border investments and discrimination of those - and often illegal - within the single market for capital, especially in the taxation area. We can provide specific evidence, in particular on investment income and on inheritance taxes: de facto double taxation, administrative illegal harassment, and tax discrimination are widespread within the EU: that is a major deterrent to invest cross-border.

Decisions to invest cross-border are not only hampered by national barriers or hurdles, or by a lack of investment protection or enforcement factors. It is also a lack of research availability that hinders individual investors to invest cross-border as they simply are not aware of investment opportunities abroad. A centralized information mechanism which includes easily accessible, reliable, understandable and comparable public information both for companies and individual investors, eg. investment research, educational tools etc. would therefore be very helpful to mobilize cross-border investments. Also, we think there is a need to strengthen corporate governance rules, among others by introducing a common definition of "shareholder to strengthen engagement with investee companies also in case of cross-border investments.

7b. [Optional] If you wish so, please provide additional information on any of your choices in the above questions.

We are pointing to:

- 1. Double taxation of investment income dividends in particular, of inheritance of real estate investments in another member state, illegal harassment by Member State tax administration
- 2. the inefficient and cumbersome withholding tax procedures on interests and dividend payments which lead numerous of our members to divest in those Member States which build up (procedural) hurdles for individual investors to reclaim their double taxed dividend/interest income.
- 2. The different treatment of delisting rules in various Member States is a problem individual investors should have a common/harmonised level of safeguards when having invested in companies who plan to exit capital market financing.
- 3. The Wirecard case is an example that raises severe concerns about the effectiveness of national/EU supervisory mechanisms and their endowment with sufficient powers and governance structures to oversee large companies with complex business models acting worldwide.
- *8a. Has your investment behaviour been negatively affected by specific investment protection and related enforcement factors in recent years?

at least 1 choice(s)

		the response(s) that apply to	you. Multiple selections are possible to reflect	
decisions made on different inve				
Yes, I have decided r				
Yes, I have decided to	-			
Yes, I have decided t				
Yes, I have decided t	o divest existing inves	stment.		
Yes, I have decided a	against expanding my	investment.		
No, I continue to inve	st in the same level.			
No, I have actually ex	cpanded current inves	stments.		
No, and I still plan to	expand my investme	nt.		
No, but I plan to redu	ce / redirect / delay /	divest my investments.		
* 8b. Which investment prote	ection and related e	nforcement factors hav	ve led to your (planned) change in	
investment behaviour (if ar			, (1	
at least 1 choice(s)	.,,			
• •	nvestment. Please tick th	e boxes for the factors that h	ave led to your investment behaviour changing	
(Multiple choices possible).			,	
Insufficient safeguard	ls related to good adr	ministrative conduct (e.g	. non-discriminatory treatment of foreign	
investors, adoption of	administrative decis	ions within reasonable ti	me).	
Differences in compe	nsation due to restric	tion on one's property a	nd economic rights.	
Difficulties in finding i rules).	nformation (e.g. on m	narket opportunities, bus	iness partners, investment protection	
	ne of investment prote	ection rights under EU la	W	
	•	-	notably on quality and independence of	f
court decisions.	inveness of national c	smoreoment meenamen	notably on quality and independence of	
Insufficient predictabi expectations.	lity and stability of the	e regulatory framework a	and lack of clarity on legitimate	
	ls in procedural rules	of the EU Member State	e(s), such as lack of legal standing to	
challenge laws which	•		came procedure, or lack of availability of	
interim measures				
Limited possibilities to	·			
Difficulty in establishin	,	reaches of EU law.		
Other factor(s) then the	ne ones in this list.			
* You selected 'other factor(s	s)', please specify w	hich.		
See reply to 7b: more in	nportant than most fa	actors listed in 8b for indi	vidual investors	
Which Member State(s) we	ere affected by your	decision to redirect yo	our investments (to other EU or non-E	U
countries)?				
at least 1 choice(s)				
ALL Member States	DK - Denmark	HU - Hungary	NL - Netherlands	
AT - Austria	EE - Estonia	IE - Ireland	PL - Poland	
BE - Belgium	EL - Greece	IT - Italy	PT - Portugal	
BG - Bulgaria	ES - Spain	LT - Lithuania	RO - Romania	
CY - Cyprus	FI - Finland	LU - Luxembourg	SE - Sweden	
CZ - Czechia	FR - France	LV - Latvia	SI - Slovenia	
DE - Germany	HR - Croatia	MT - Malta	SK - Slovakia	
E DE Goilliany	III Oldala	wii wana	_ or orana	

Which Member State(s) were affected by your decision to divest existing investments?							
at least 1 choice(s)							
ALL Member States	DK - Denmark	HU - Hungary	NL - Netherlands				
AT - Austria	EE - Estonia	IE - Ireland	PL - Poland				
BE - Belgium	EL - Greece	IT - Italy	PT - Portugal				
BG - Bulgaria	ES - Spain	LT - Lithuania	RO - Romania				
CY - Cyprus	FI - Finland	LU - Luxembourg	SE - Sweden				
CZ - Czechia	FR - France	LV - Latvia	SI - Slovenia				
DE - Germany	HR - Croatia	MT - Malta	SK - Slovakia				
Which Member State(s) we	ere affected by your	decision not to expand	d existing investments?				
at least 1 choice(s)		·	-				
ALL Member States	DK - Denmark	HU - Hungary	NL - Netherlands				
AT - Austria	EE - Estonia	IE - Ireland	PL - Poland				
BE - Belgium	EL - Greece	IT - Italy	PT - Portugal				
BG - Bulgaria	ES - Spain	LT - Lithuania	RO - Romania				
CY - Cyprus	FI - Finland	LU - Luxembourg	SE - Sweden				
CZ - Czechia	FR - France	LV - Latvia	SI - Slovenia				
DE - Germany	HR - Croatia	MT - Malta	SK - Slovakia				

9. Have you ever encountered any of the following delays when investing in another EU Member State? And what was the average duration of the procedure?

Please select for each delay if your company has encountered it and what the duration was.

	Not encountered	< 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1-2 years	2-3 years	> 3 years
* Delays in receiving government decisions relevant for the operation of an investment (e.g. on permits, approvals)	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Delay caused by renegotiation in an investment contract with the government while engaged in cross-border EU investments?	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Delay caused by the need for Investor-State mediation or other out of court settlement	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Delay caused by need for litigation in national courts to resolve an investor-state dispute	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other delays, please specify which	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	•	0

Please specify what other types of delays you have encountered and in which Member State(s).

Unable to answer question 9, not related to individual investors.

2-3 years or more in the case of inheritance tax illegally collected on cross-border real estate.

10. Please agree or disagree with the below statements regarding cross-border investment in the EU.

	Yes, I agree	No, I do not agree	I do not know / No opinion
* I have a clear overview on the applicable rules protecting investments and their content under the EU legal framework.	0	0	•
* There is a low risk of unfair expropriation or confiscation, or other acts impacting my investments (e.g. such as revocation of licenses).	0	0	•
* There are effective procedures for consultation on proposed laws and regulations (such as adequate minimum times for consultation, publication of comments received, and requirement to respond to comments).	0	0	•
* There is stability and predictability related to the investment protection laws (changes are not frequent).	0	0	•
* The conduct of public administration is transparent, predictable and duly motivated	0	0	•
* Public administrations respond to me in timely and effective manner to investor grievances (before grievances become legal disputes).	0	0	•
* The level of transparency and access to information on investment incentives are sufficient (e.g. clear laws and regulations, information on funding opportunities).	0	0	•
* I can enforce my investor rights in front of a national court (e.g. independence and impartiality of proceedings, quality of decisions, reasonable length of proceedings).	0	0	•
* There are sufficient mechanisms to raise concerns with public administrations to mitigate problems at an early stage.	0	0	•

11. Given the challenges related to investment protection, please rate the extent to which they have impacted your business

	5 - Very high impact	4 - High impact	3 - Moderate impact	2 - Small impact	1 - Very small impact	0 - No impact
* Loss in revenue	0	0	0	0	0	•
* Loss of jobs	0	0	0	0	0	•

* Loss of technology, knowledge or finance	0	0	0	0	0	•
* Bankruptcy	0	0	0	0	0	•
Additional impacts (please specify below)	•	0	0	0	0	0

Additional impacts

Again not applicable to EU citizens as individual non professional investors, whose cross-border issues seems to be largely ignored by this survey, although hey are by far the biggest net investors in the Union, and although they have even less leverage with regard to to foreign Member States Administrative Authorities.

C. Mitigation Measures and Policy Options

12. What mitigation measures have you adopted to address challenges related to investment protection?

Rank from a scale of 0 to 3 the impact your mitigation measures had in addressing the challenges or select tool not used if you did not use this specific measure.

Mitigation measures	0 - No impact	1 - Low impact	2 - Medium impact	3 - High impact	Tool not used
* Use joint venture with local companies	0	0	0	0	•
* Engage with the government agency	0	0	0	0	•
* Engage with other organizations	0	0	0	0	•
* Engage specialised consultants / law firms	0	0	0	0	•
* Use operational hedging	0	0	0	0	•
* Sign Political Risk insurance	0	0	0	0	•
Other (please specify below)	•	0	0	0	0

Other measures

unable to answer question 12, not related to individual investors

13a. What could be done to address the <u>problem of an uneven level of investment protection</u> in different Member States? Most options are not mutually exclusive and can be combined. Please rate the impact of the following options.

Please rank the impact of each policy option in addressing the stated problem.

Options	-3: Very negative impact	-2: Negative impact	-1: Slightly negative impact	0: No impact	1: Slightly positive impact	2: Positive impact	3: Very positive impact	Don't know / No opinion
* Option A: Do nothing - Baseline position, including existing investment protection rights.	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Option B: Increase visibility and transparency of existing EU and national rules without changing the content of the rules - Under this option, all EU and national rules relating to investment protection would be made accessible in one single access point. In addition, information on investment opportunities could be consolidated in a single access point.	©	©	•	•	•	•	©	

* Option C: Targeted specification and improvement of some rules on investment protection related to cross-border investments - This option would specify EU investment protection rules in key areas of concern and relevance for investors (e.g. Specifying the rules on compensation awarded expropriation, specifying the type of protection given for legal certainty and legitimate expectations, clarifying the rights stemming from the principle of good administration).	•	•	©	©	©	•	•	
* Option D: Specification and improvement of investment protection rules in a more comprehensive way (e.g. by also clarifying types of justified and unjustified restrictions) - This option envisages a Code which would include all rules on free movement of capital and intra-EU investment protection in a single comprehensive legislative package.		•		©	©	©	•	•

13b. [Optional] According to your expertise, what economic, environmental or social impact (if any) could these option have?

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Economic				
Environmental				
Social				

13c. [Optional [®]	Do v	you have sp	pecific re	commenda	ations for	the	above (or any	additional	suggestions'	?
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D : very positive but has to be done in addition to C, not alternatively

14a. What could be done to address investor <u>concerns on enforcement of rights and availability of effective remedies?</u> The below outlines possible policy options that are currently explored. Most options are not mutually exclusive and can be combined. Please rate the impact of the following options.

Please rank the impact of each policy option in addressing the stated problem.

Options	-3: Very negative impact	-2: Negative impact	-1: Slightly negative impact	0: No impact	1: Slightly positive impact	2: Positive impact	3: Very positive impact	Don't know / No opinion
* Option A: Do nothing - Baseline position, including existing enforcement mechanisms in the EU.	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Option B: Enhancing mechanisms to prevent problems or resolve investor-to-state disputes amicably - This will help avoid and resolve issues at an early stage (for instance, specialised SOLVIT for investments to resolve individual cases; investment contact points to enable dialogue between investment stakeholders and public authorities on structural issues which affect the investment environment).	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
* Option C: Improving enforcement of rights before national courts by streamlining selected procedural rules in relation to specific matters for which an internal market issue has been detected.	©	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

* Option D: Creating an Ombudsman-like EU administrative body where investors could bring cross- border investor-to-State complaints - This option would establish specialised mechanism in investment protection operating at EU level and competent to deal with individual cases. It could include mediation and would suggest how the alleged violation of EU law could be remedied (before bringing a case to court).	•		•	•	©	•	•	•
* Option E: Creating a specialised investment court at EU level - This option would establish an investment court at EU level that would deal with individual cases. Investors can bring claims in relation to intra-EU investments directly and obtain compensation through a binding decision.	©	•	•	©	©	©	•	•

14b. [Optional] According to your expertise, what economic, environmental or social impact (if any) could these option have?

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Economic					
Environmental					
Social					

14c. [Optional] Do you have specific recommendations for the above or any additional suggestions?

Introduce an EU-wide collective redress mechanism also for individual investors wanting to invest cross-border in listed securities (which is currently not the case, and not in the recent EC CMU Action Plan despite being clear priority recommendation from the HLF CMU to stop discriminating individual non professional equity and bond investors in the draft EU Directive on collective redress, and despite the Wirecard scandal that happened in between).

15. [Optional] Would you like to share additional experiences/challenges or recommendations? Leave us your Name/position/job title, the name of company and email address and we will be in touch with you.

	Fill in
Name	
Position / Title	
Company name	
Email address	

Background Documents

EC DG FISMA - Letter of accreditation

Glossary of Terms

Contact

investment-protection@ecorys.com