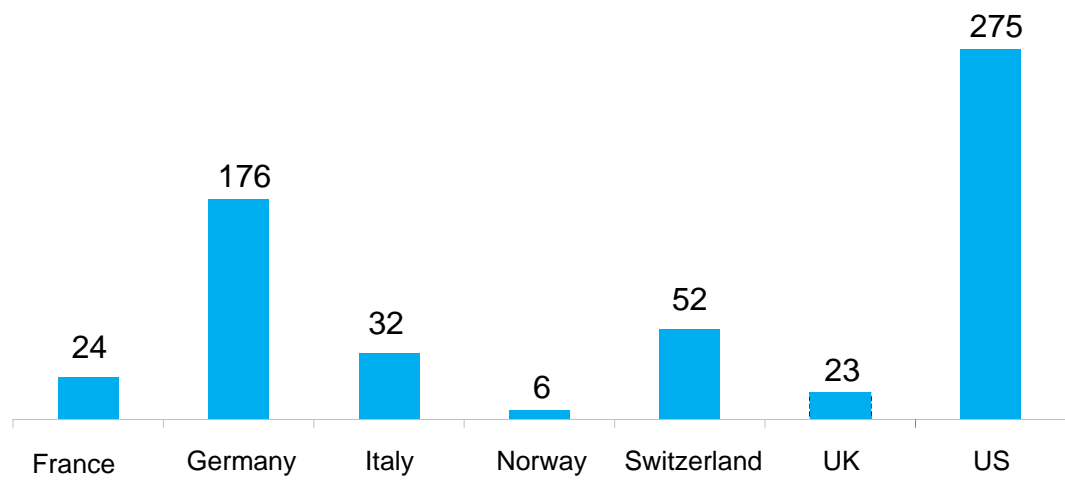


France



Foreign Bribery Cases Prosecuted up until end 2011:



KEY FIGURES

	New in 2011	Total
Bribery cases:	2	24
Major cases:	0	6
Bribery investigations ongoing:	5	

Highest Sanctions: unknown
 29 % of businesspeople said they lost business in France to bribes
 Last major case: 2010

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- Easier to prove the act of corruption since new law passed in May 2011
- Potential removal of need for official complaint/report to start prosecution
- Extension of “plea bargaining” procedure for cases of corruption.

NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

- Failure to criminalise ‘trading in influence’ in connection with foreign public officials
- The maximum fine of €750,000 (US \$1 million) is too small compared to the proceeds of bribery.

CASE STUDY – Alstom SA

French engineering giant, Alstom faced legal action for allegedly attempts to bribe Zambian officials in 2002 by its subsidiaries. In February 2012 the World Bank Group debarred the two subsidiaries for three years. The companies agreed to a settlement of **US \$9.5 million**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Introduce a Procureur General de la Nation (Independent Public Prosecutor), appointed by Parliament and with authority over prosecutors, in particular to avoid undue political pressure.
- Penalties that result from plea-bargaining options must be dissuasive and match the crime, and should oblige firms to introduce corrective actions to prevent corruption in the future.