The System of Legal Protection and Access to Courts in the European Union

1. The European Union founded on the rule of law

2. The specialty of the European Union and its citizens: Van Gend en Loos 1963

3. The organization of the 3 courts: European Court of justice, the General court and the staff cases Tribunal

4. Different type of actions

4.1 The infringement proceedings: actions against Member States
   4.1.a. the starting of the infringement proceedings: system of complaints: EU pilot; ex officio cases
   4.1.b. the infringement proceedings and their reinforcement after Lisbon: the non-communication cases with sanctions (art 260.3 TFUE)
   4.1.c. the infringement proceedings for failure to comply with a previous court judgment ex art 260.2 TFUE
   4.1.d the effects of the infringements proceedings and the rulings

4.2 Reference from national courts: preliminary rulings
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   4.2.2 matters which may referred
   4.2.3 discretion and obligation to refer
   4.2.4 the effects on the national proceedings = suspension
   4.2.5 the effects of the ruling
   4.2.6 one specific category: the "infringement " preliminary rulings
   4.2.7 the procedure and the Commission's role

4.3 Direct actions
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   4.3.2. who can bring the action: difference between institutions and individuals: the new conditions of admissibility after Lisbon and time limits to bring actions
   4.3.3. grounds for the annulment
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4.4 **Actions for failure to act**
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   4.4.3 definition of the position and time limits
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