

Question for written answer E-010383/2011
to the Commission
Rule 117
Hynek Fajmon (ECR)

Subject: Implementation of Council Directive 1999/74/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens

Chapter II, Article 5 of Council Directive 1999/74/EC prohibits the rearing of laying hens in unenriched cages in Member States from 1 January 2012. Eggs produced using new technology that complies with the provisions of the Directive will be more expensive and thus less competitive than was the case with the unenriched cages that have been used until now. The importation of eggs from countries where the Directive has not yet been fully implemented, and particularly from third countries where the Directive does not apply, represents a significant threat to Czech rearers.

I therefore put the following questions to the Commission:

1. What is the state of play as regards the implementation of Directive 1999/74/EC in individual EU Member States?
2. Is it true that the authorities in certain Member States will continue to allow the production of eggs in unenriched cages even after 2011?
3. Will a special code be introduced to enable eggs from enriched cages to be distinguished from eggs from unenriched cages in order to identify eggs produced in third countries where the rearing of laying hens in unenriched cages is not prohibited?