

Question for written answer E-006291/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Sophie Auconie (PPE)

Subject: Size of cages for laying hens

Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 lays down criteria for the protection of laying hens. The Directive defines in particular the standards that systems must respect, whether they use rearing in enriched cages, unenriched cages or alternative cageless systems.

The ban on unenriched cages, which entered into force on 1 January 2012, created at the time considerable imbalances on the egg market, particularly for biscuit producers, who faced an increase in the price of eggs.

- More than one year after the entry into force of this ban, what stage has been reached in the implementation of this provision in the Member States?
- Have the imbalances on the markets in connection with this ban been reabsorbed since then?
- What legislative provisions does the United States have in place in this regard, and could European poultry farmers be at a disadvantage should the EU and the United States agree to conclude a free trade agreement?