

**Priority question for written answer P-003397/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Interpretation of area requirements for organic poultry

According to the Commission's new interpretation of the Organic Regulation ((EU) 2018/848), an organic poultry holding may have a maximum surface area of 1 600 m² per farm, rather than per unit of production, which has previously been the understanding in a number of Member States. Producers in countries including Denmark, Italy, Austria and Germany have pointed out that this change brings no benefits for animal welfare. On the contrary, it could well spell the end for a significant proportion of the EU's professional producers of chickens for slaughter.

There are already extensive EU requirements regarding space, feeding, climate and access to open air areas, all of which actually do ensure a high level of animal welfare. An artificial cap on farm size will not improve animal welfare, but rather reduce volume, push up costs and make it more difficult for European consumers to get hold of high-welfare chicken – despite the EU having set itself a target of 25 % organic production by 2030.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission agree that the rules should focus on specific animal welfare outcomes rather than arbitrary size restrictions?
2. Will the Commission reconsider its interpretation so that multiple production units per farm can still be permitted, provided that animal welfare requirements are met?
3. How will the Commission ensure that organic poultry producers in leading countries are not placed at a disadvantage compared with producers in Member States that have yet to invest, and that support thus continues to be provided for competitive and sustainable high-welfare production across Europe?

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