

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2025)

The Commission is actively addressing food waste with initiatives and regulations due to its significant environmental, economic, and social impact. These efforts aim to reduce food waste without compromising food safety and human health.

1. According to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion of 10 July 2014 on the public health risks of table eggs due to deterioration and development of pathogens¹, any augmentation of the date of minimum durability over 28 days after laying for eggs produced by hens of the species *Gallus gallus* would result in an increase of the relative risk of illness for humans in absence of minimal temperature conditions that would mitigate the growth of pathogens during storage and transportation of eggs.

2. While there is no use-by-date set for eggs in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004², there's a date of minimum durability of 28 days after laying, limited to eggs produced by hens of the species *Gallus gallus*. Based on EFSA's opinion, the Commission will not change this timeframe. The Commission does not envisage either to extend the maximum time limit, currently set up at 28 days in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, between laying and the delivery of eggs from all species to the final consumer.

3. Rules on marketing standards for eggs have been recently reviewed to ensure the smooth functioning of the eggs market and a high level of traceability to guarantee food safety and proper consumers' information. Only packing centres have the premises and technical equipment suitable for repacking eggs; consequently, the Commission does not intend to modify existing legislation.

¹ EFSA Journal 2014;12(7):3782.

² OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 55–205.