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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.9.2025)

Carcases of spent hens are classified as Category 3 material, inter alia, if they comply with Article 10(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009¹, i.e., they have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse and have been considered fit for slaughter for human consumption following an ante-mortem inspection. That classification applies regardless of whether the slaughter was performed in a mobile or in a permanent slaughtering establishment or plant. Certain poultry by-products are considered Category 2 material despite being slaughtered as mentioned above, for example digestive track content referred to in Article 9(a) of the Regulation. Category 2 material poses a higher risk to public and animal health than Category 3 material.

In addition, it is already possible under the current rules to transform Category 2 material (including those of poultry origin) into biogas, in accordance with Article 13(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009. Furthermore, any interested party can initiate the procedure for the authorisation of a new alternative method of use or disposal of animal by-products, to be used in addition to the standard processing methods, in accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

The Commission considers the current rules proportionate, as they duly mitigate risks to animal and public health and allow for the valorisation of the material via various uses, not posing risks.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1069/oj>.