

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004783/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE), Gilles Pennelle (PfE)
(3 December 2025)**

Subject: Egg shortage in France: is the EU endangering our food autonomy?

In France, egg shelves are partially or totally empty, when the country is the largest producer in the EU. Those in the trade are talking of stock outages of up to 13%, a decline in self-sufficiency and greater recourse to imports, particularly from other Member States.

This situation is the result of a number of factors: increased consumption, bird flu epidemics, the switch to cage-free farming (additional costs), a collapse in profitability and the high margins of distributors unbalancing the market, along with the cumulation of EU and national standards and procedures, which brake investment. It raises question marks over the EU's ability to reconcile high standards with food security.

1. Has the Commission assessed the cumulative effects of its policies (animal welfare, environment and the farm-to-fork strategy) on egg production in the EU, in particular in France?
2. Within the framework of the common agricultural policy and the internal market, what initiatives (while respecting national competences) can be taken to facilitate investment and speed up authorisations without lowering standards?
3. How will it ensure that the phasing-out of cage farming does not lead to a lasting decline in European production and greater dependence on imports of eggs and egg products that do not meet the equivalent standards?

Supporter ⁽¹⁾

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**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(2 February 2026)**

1. The Commission continuously monitors agricultural markets, including in the egg sector. The current tense market situation in France and the EU is primarily linked to the impact of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks. The current stock outages cannot be the result of EU's animal welfare policies as no legislative change in animal welfare rules affecting egg production has entered into force so far.
2. Under its Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan, France can implement rural development interventions to support investments and producer organisations improving competitiveness. At national level, Member States can grant state aid to provide liquidity support to farmers affected by rising costs or animal disease outbreaks. Authorisation procedures for new facilities fall under Member States' competence.
3. Any legislative proposal to phase out cages would follow all the steps of better regulation, including an assessment of impacts, and include appropriate transition periods to allow farmers to recover their investments and adapt their infrastructure. In its assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts, the Commission will pay particular attention to impacts on competitiveness, production and food security. As announced in the Vision on Food and Agriculture, the Commission will make sure that the legislative proposal will apply equivalent standards for products produced in the EU and those imported from third countries in a World Trade Organisation compliant way and based on the impact assessment. This will ensure that the phasing out of cages will not lead to greater dependence on imports of eggs and egg products that do not meet equivalent standards.

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