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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.8.2026)

As announced in the Livestock Strategy¹, the Commission aims to present legislative proposals on the revision of the existing EU animal welfare legislation on laying hens and broilers at farm by the end of 2026.

Based on the impact assessment and stakeholder consultations, the Commission aims to propose proportionate rules, with a gradual approach, species-specific transition periods, and adequate time and support for farmers to adapt. Any cumulative impact on farmers will also be carefully considered in this process and taken into account when preparing an upcoming proposal. The practical experience of farmers that have already undergone a transition process into cage free farming is of particular importance for this exercise and has been carefully considered in the process.

The impact assessment will consider both the potential positive effects and the potential costs of modernised and harmonised rules, such as greater long-term regulatory stability for farmers' investments, reduced market fragmentation, enhanced consumer confidence, and opportunities for innovation.

¹ COM/2026/576 final.