



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 Directorate B. Quality, Research and Innovation, Awareness The **Director**



Dear,

Thank you for your email of January 2021 concerning the number of poultry in organic farming. I apologise for the late reply.

Article 12 (3) (e) and (f) of 1st current Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 on¹ organic production limits the number of poultry per poultry house and the total usable area of poultry houses for flesh poultry:

(e) Each poultry house may not have more than:

- i) 4 800 chickens;*
- (il) 3 000 laying hens;*
- iii) 5 200 guinea fowl;*
- iv) 4 000 female Muscovy or Peking ducks or 3 200 male Muscovy or Peking ducks or other ducks,*
- v) 2 500 capons, geese or turkeys;*

(f) the total usable area of poultry houses for flesh in any production unit may not exceed 1 600 m²

However, it appears that some organic operators in several Member States have incorrectly applied the provisions of Article 12 (3) (e) of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 considering that it was possible to have more than one poultry house on the same site.

Commission¹ Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the
 [redacted] of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of
 [redacted] and to organic production, labelling and control. OJ L 250, 18.9.2008, p.1.

² Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on production
 organic and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, OJ
 L 250, 18.6.2018, p.1.

The size of organic poultry holdings was the subject of intense discussions during the negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission which preceded the adoption and publication of future Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production; the co-legislators decided to limit the number of poultry per compartment and the area occupied on the ground for flesh poultry.

The provisions of the new Regulation and one of its implementing acts, Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/464²³, will enter into force on 1 January 2022.

Article 3 (69) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 defines a poultry house *as a fixed or mobile building intended to house flocks of poultry, including any area covered by a roof, in particular a veranda; the building may be subdivided into separate compartments, each with a single flock;*

According to points 1.9.4.4 (m) and (n) of Part II of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/848:

(m) the total usable area of poultry houses intended for the subsistence of poultry in any production unit shall not exceed 1 600 NÜ;

(N) the total number of laying hens per poultry house compartment shall not exceed 3 000 individuals.

For poultry other than laying hens, the maximum number of animals per compartment is laid down in Article 15 (3) (b) of Commission Regulation 2020/464:

For poultry houses subdivided into separate compartments in order to house multiple flocks:

(b) the maximum number of animals per compartment in a poultry house shall be as follows, depending on the type:

- i) 3 000 parents Gallus gallus;*
- ii) 10 000 pullets;*
- iii) 4 800 poultry for fattening Gallus gallus;*
- iv) 2 500 capons;*
- v) 4 000 chickens;*
- vi) 2 500 turkeys;*

Having regard to) 2 500 geese;

Wine) 3 200 male Beijing ducks or 4 000 female Beijing ducks;

ix) 3 200 male Muscovy ducks or 4 000 female Muscovy ducks;

x) 3 200 Mulard male ducks or 4 000 female mulch ducks;

xi) 5 200 guinea fowl;

This opinion is provided on the basis of the facts set out in your email of January 2021 and expresses the views of the Commission services and does not commit the Commission

Commission³ Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464 of 26 March 2020 laying down certain rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the documents necessary for the retroactive recognition of conversion periods, the production of organic products and the information submitted by Member States. OJ L98.31.3.2020, p. 5

European. In the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the European Court of Justice to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

