



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B – Sustainability

Brussels

Dear [REDACTED],

I would like to thank you for your email of 31 August¹ asking questions regarding the raising of organic “brother cocks” with organic female pullets intended for laying hen organic production.

First of all, I would like to clarify that the term pullets is defined in Article 3, point (29) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848² as follows: “*pullets*’ means young animals of the *Gallus gallus* species that are of an age of less than 18 weeks;”. This term may cover both male and female according to this definition.

Secondly, I would like to highlight that the specificities of raising “brother cocks” have been taken into account in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464³. I would invite you to consider in particular the following provisions laid down in its Chapter II section 4 related to poultry:

- Article 13, point (c): “*For the purposes of this Section, the following definitions shall apply: (...) (c) ‘brother rooster’ means male chicken of laying hen strains intended for meat production;*”
- Article 15(3), point (b)(ii): “*For poultry houses subdivided into separate compartments in order to house multiple flocks: (...) (b) the following maximum flock sizes in a single compartment of a poultry house shall apply: (ii) 10 000 pullets;*”

Please also note the provisions of Section 2 of Part IV of Annex I to this Regulation, which set in particular the stocking densities and minimum indoor and outdoor surfaces for brother roosters and the relevant transitional provisions set under Article 26(7) of this Regulation.

Hence, there are specific rules to be complied when raising organic brother roosters.

¹ Ares(2022) 6060585

² [EUR-Lex - 02018R0848-20220101 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ [EUR-Lex - 02020R0464-20211125 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts as set out in your email of 31 August 2022 and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. 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.

Yours sincerely,

