



# **Report from the Commission on the implementation of Directive 2007/43/EC**

***CDG ANIMAL PRODUCTS – SECTOR POULTRY & EGGS  
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# Background

- **Directive (EC) 2007/43/EC** (Broilers Directive) requires the Commission **to report on the application and influence** on the welfare of chickens kept for their meat and the **development of welfare indicators**
- **EU Strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015**
- **Commission Study** on the application of the broilers Directive and development of welfare indicators (2017)
- Commission **audit reports, EFSA opinions** and other **scientific studies**

# Key economic figures

- The EU-28 is a **major global producer**
  - 11.3% global broiler production (2014)
- EU-28 poultry meat production: **14.1 million tons (2014)**
  - of which **11.0 million tonnes** are **broiler** production (78%)
  - expected to increase by 3.8% 2015-2025
- Employs > 250.000 people (2017)

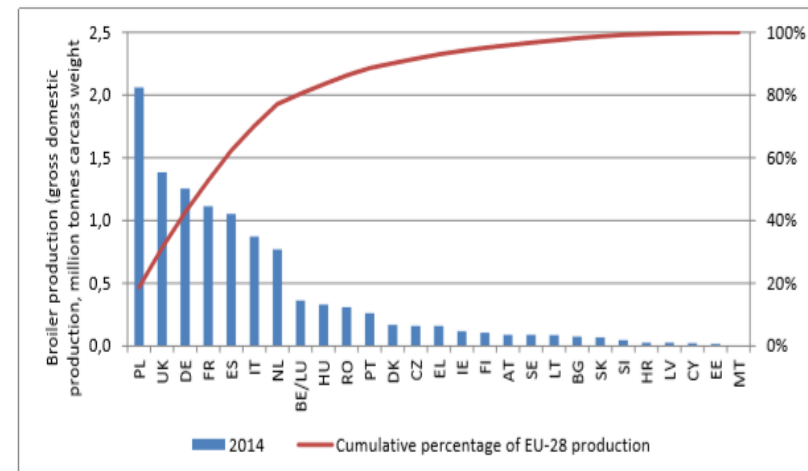


Figure 3.2: Broiler production in the EU-28 (source: AVEC, 2015)

# The Directive in summary

- Applies to holdings with **more than 500 chickens**
- Sets **detailed requirements** on housing facilities
- Limits the **maximum stocking density**
  - **to 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup>**
  - **up to 39 kg/m<sup>2</sup>** (if additional measures regarding management and facilities)
  - **up to 42 kg/m<sup>2</sup>** (if proven records of good animal welfare e.g. low cumulative daily mortalities, post-mortem inspections and communication of results)
- **Requirements for training, inspections/checks and penalties for infringements**



# Application of the Directive

## *Key findings reported by the 2017 Study*

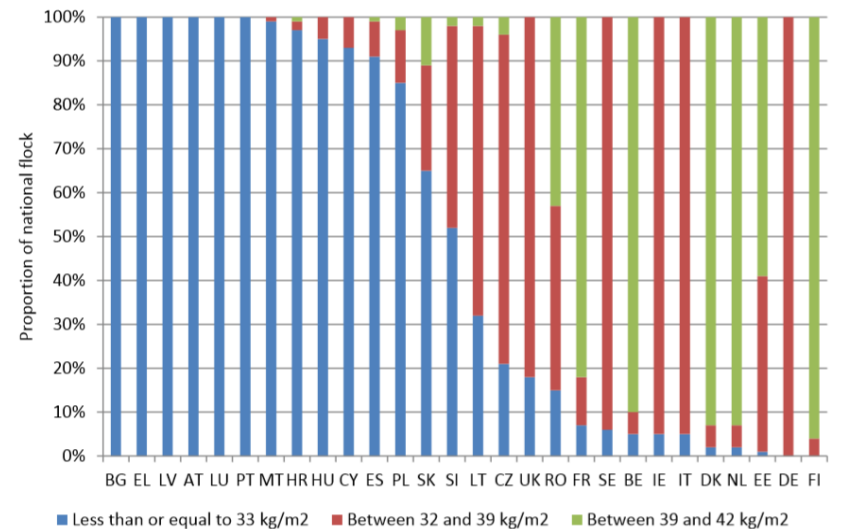
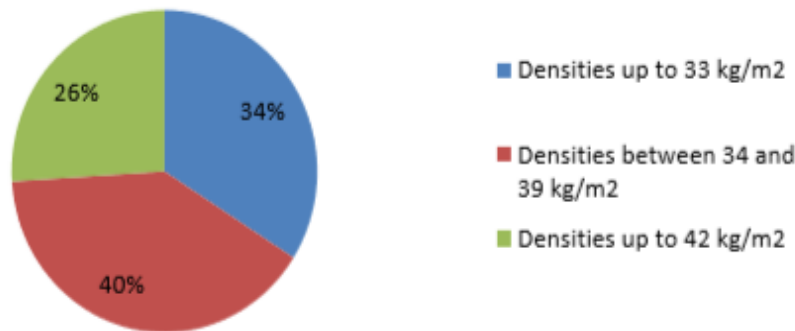
- **Fully transposed into national legislation** (beyond or stricter provisions in seven MS)
- **Training and guidance** for persons dealing with chickens
  - 3 MS did not offer appropriate training courses
  - 2/3 of certificates awarded follow training courses and 1/3 awarded in respect of experience
  - in some cases additional training to catching teams

# Application of the Directive

## *Key findings reported by the 2017 Study*

- **Stocking densities and inspections** – *issues: monitoring compliance & practical assessment*

% Broilers in the EU kept at each of the three stocking densities





# Welfare indicators

- **Mandatory indicators**

- **Maximum cumulative daily mortality rate** - for farms operating at highest stocking density
- *Routine post mortem inspection at slaughterhouses – but not defined measurable criteria*

- **Voluntary indicators**

- **Footpad Dermatitis (FPD)** – contact dermatitis (also hock burns, breast blisters)
  - in 18 MS with **targeted actions** in 15 MS (80% of the total EU broiler production)
  - monitored at the slaughterhouse
  - **good indicator** of animal welfare on farm



# Influence on the welfare of chickens

- ***Little assessment*** of the impact of the Directive
- ***Practices changed little*** as a result of implementation in a number of MS
- ***Positive*** impact of the systematic use of Foot Pad Dermatitis (FPD)
- Other positive aspects mentioned were ***training provision, guides to good practice and animal welfare***



# Costs of the Directive



- *Costs of implementation were **estimated in 6 MS***
- *Overall **no significant increased costs** from the implementation*
- *Even the large cost calculated was offset by estimates of **consumer willingness** to pay for the higher animal welfare delivered.*
- *The **competitiveness** of the sector in different MS has not been negatively affected by operating at lower stocking densities*



# Conclusions

- *Broiler farming is an important part of the **EU agricultural economy***
- *Controls based on monitoring **animal-based indicators** (FPD) have proved to be **effective** in driving improvements in broiler welfare*
- *Random inspections are still an important part of the control system*
- *Further work to **disseminate best practices** on control and farm management*

# Thank you for your attention!

