



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)

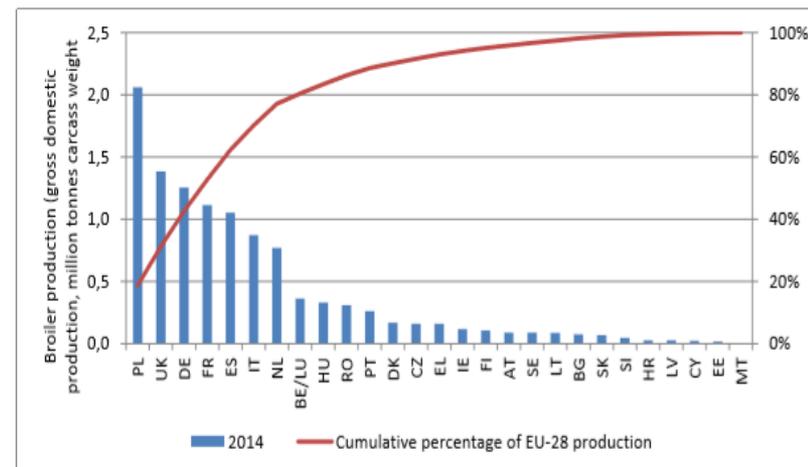


Figure 3.2: Broiler production in the EU-28 (source: AVEC, 2015)

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/m²***
 - ***up to 39 kg/m²** (if additional measures regarding management and facilities)*
 - ***up to 42 kg/m²** (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*



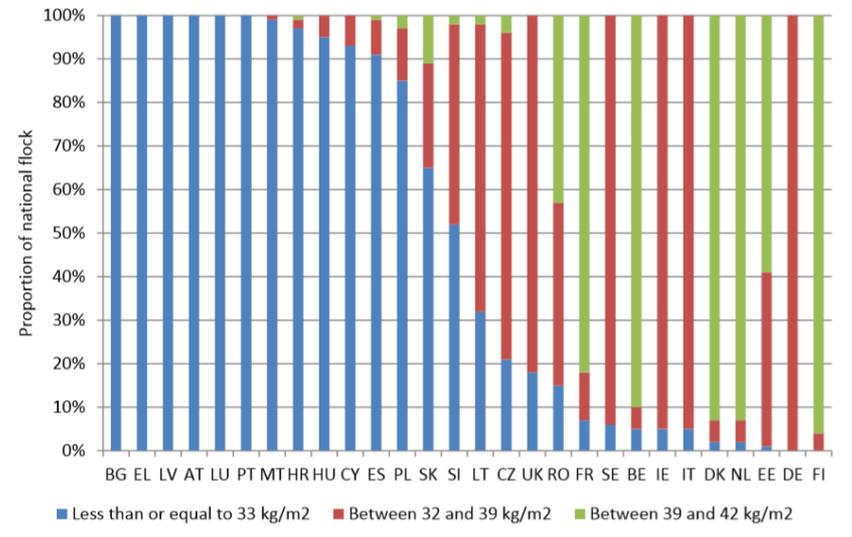
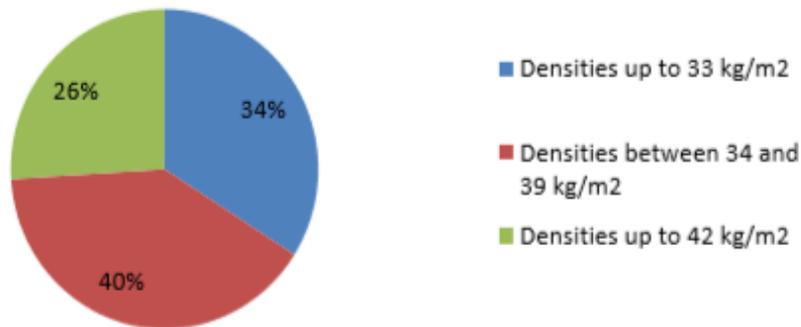
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Application of the Directive

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



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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*



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Thank you for your attention!

