

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.5.2026)

1. Under the revised Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)¹, the EU may impose safeguard measures if duty-reduced or duty-free imports cause persistent economic, societal or environmental difficulties. The revised DCFTA also requires Ukraine to adopt certain EU production standards, such as animal welfare rules for laying hens by the end of 2028. Eggs from non-EU countries without equivalence with EU egg marketing standards² must be marked with the ISO 3166 country code and labelled as ‘non-EU standard’ (farming method) on packaging.

The Commission will ensure that the future animal welfare legislation establishes EU standards for non-EU products compliant with World Trade Organization rules³. The Commission is preparing a modernised animal welfare proposal that includes phasing out cages for certain sectors.

2. The Commission takes food safety risks associated with Ukrainian egg imports very seriously and implements a risk-based approach to address any identified concerns. When a non-compliance is detected through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, contacts are systematically established with Ukrainian authorities to implement corrective actions. For recurring issues, measures including increased intensified testing, suspension of imports, or temporary bans may be introduced.

3. Origin labelling is required for processed products only if omitting it would mislead consumers⁴. If the final food's origin differs from its primary ingredient, that ingredient's origin must be indicated⁵. Farming method is not mandatory for processed food ingredients. The consumer's ‘right-to-know’ must be balanced against tracking complexities and potential increased production costs for EU SMEs⁶. The Commission doesn't plan to extend mandatory origin labelling to these products.

¹ The revised DCFTA with Ukraine entered into force on 29 October 2025.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2465 of 17 August 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marketing standards for eggs, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008; C/2023/5509; OJ L, 2023/2465, 08.11.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/2465/2024-10-14.

³ As announced in the Vision on Agriculture and Food: COM/2025/75 final.

⁴ See Article 26(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004, OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, pp. 18.

⁵ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 of 28 May 2018 laying down rules for the application of Article 26(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers, as regards the rules for indicating the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food OJ?, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/1169/oj>.

⁶ Small and Medium Enterprises.