

**Question for written answer P-001438/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Export of shell eggs from Ukraine to the EU

On 14 February 2018, Avangardco was given permission to export class A shell eggs to the EU from its Avis laying hen facility in Ukraine as of 28 February 2018<sup>1</sup>. In 2012, the German Government – which assessed the relevant project documents when deciding whether to grant an export credit guarantee – had found that the housing systems at Avis were not compliant with EU law<sup>2</sup>. Nonetheless, Avangardco went on to claim that the Commission ‘found Avis to be in full compliance with all the requirements that apply to any suppliers of table eggs admitted to the EU Internal Market including Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens’<sup>3</sup>.

The capacity of the Avis facility cited by Avangardco in a press release from February 2018 on the Commission’s approval<sup>4</sup> is exactly the same as that cited in the company’s 2013 and 2014 annual reports<sup>5</sup>: 1.616 billion shell eggs per year from 5.2 million laying hens. That seems to suggest that no change has been made to the housing systems since the German Government issued its statement.

Did the Commission really find the Avis facility to be fully compliant with Council Directive 1999/74/EC?

If so, how does the Commission explain the discrepancy between its own evaluations of the housing system and those carried out by the German Government

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<sup>1</sup> [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/UA/EPP\\_UA\\_en.pdf](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/traces/output/UA/EPP_UA_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/17/106/1710626.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>

[https://avangardco.ua/fileadmin/files/INVESTOR\\_RELATIONS/Annual\\_Reports/Annual\\_Report\\_2017\\_Final.pdf](https://avangardco.ua/fileadmin/files/INVESTOR_RELATIONS/Annual_Reports/Annual_Report_2017_Final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://avangardco.ua/en/press-centre/press-releases/detail/avangardco-receives-eu-approval-to-export-shell-eggs/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://avangardco.ua/en/investor-relations/annual-reports/>