

EN

E-002864/2022

Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(28.9.2022)

Stocking densities and specific provisions on open-air runs for hens producing free range eggs are laid down in point 1 of Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008<sup>1</sup>. Open air runs can consist of different pieces of land (paddocks) but the Regulation does not specify in detail how paddocks that belong to the same open-air run are linked.

The design of installations like an underpass or tunnel would need to encourage their use by the laying hens respecting the natural behaviour of hens and the animal welfare provisions as laid down in Directive 1999/74/EC<sup>2</sup> and Directive 98/58/EC<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 163 24.6.2008, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 53–57.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 221 8.8.1998, p. 23.