

Protection of animals: laying hens in systems of rearing (repl. direct. 88/166/EEC).

Communication included

1998/0092(CNS) - 11/03/1998 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to establish minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in various systems of rearing. **SUBSTANCE:** the Commission is proposing to replace Directive 88/166/EEC by a new Directive covering the welfare of all laying hens, not only those kept in cages. The proposal, accompanied by a Commission communication is based on the opinion of the Scientific Veterinary Committee (SVC) adopted at its meeting of 30 October 1996. General requirements applicable to all systems of rearing are introduced, including requirements for nests, perches and litter. However, derogations from the latter requirements are provided for in respect of cages, which must meet improved specifications. A phasing-in period for the new requirements is proposed, to allow existing systems to be written off over a ten year period. The provisions of the Annex have been brought up to date and set out in the form adopted in the Council Directives on the protection of calves and pigs. Provision is made for inspection and reporting by the competent authority and for inspections by the Commission.