

E-3746/08  
Reply  
(15 September 2008)

The Council confirms the general tenor of its reply to question E-0843/08, namely that the products currently used in the Council's restaurants and canteens are made from liquid, pasteurised eggs, packaged in *Tetrapak* cartons and conforming to food industry standards.

According to the information available to the Council, neither the origin of the eggs nor the method of their production are indicated on the packaging, but no alternative product of this kind appears to be available on the Belgian market.

The General Secretariat of the Council has nevertheless contacted its catering contractor to ask it to check with its suppliers whether it is possible to obtain products which are certified as not deriving from battery hens.

The Council draws attention to the fact that, in accordance with Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, the Member States are required to abolish systems of rearing in battery cages, i.e. those stipulated in Chapter II of the above Directive (unenriched cage systems), as from 1 January 2012.