



International Federation of  
Organic Agriculture Movements –  
EU Regional Group

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## ***Working for organic farming in Europe***

Mr. Jean-François Hulot  
Head of Unit, Organic Farming  
DG AGRI F.5  
Rue de la Loi 130  
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Brussels, 16/10/2009

### **Correction of (EC) 889/2008: Stocking density for young fattening chicken**

Dear Jean-François,

The stocking density according to the EU-regulation for fattening poultry is currently max. 21 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and max. 10 animals/m<sup>2</sup>.

During the first four weeks in which the poultry is in a heated building we do not think it is good practice to have an upper limit at 10 animals/m<sup>2</sup> as the animals do not use this much space. The weight of the animals at week 4 is about 850 – 900 g, which is far below the weight of the conventional animals that are ready to be slaughtered at that age. With reference to the CO<sub>2</sub> burden we do not wish to heat unused space, not to mention the cost of the building and for heating of excessive areas.

The IFOAM EU Group therefore suggests making the following correction for fattening poultry in fixed stables in Annex III of Regulation (EC) 889/2008 for the period when the animals are kept in a heated and protected area:

For fattening chicken (broilers) a maximum of 21 kg/m<sup>2</sup> during the first four weeks of age (from week 0 to 4) should be allowed.

We regard this point to be of technical character and we therefore pledge the Commission to deal with this aspect at SCOF-level at an earlier stage than the foreseen general review of the regulation for poultry production.

An IFOAM EU position paper on other poultry issues is currently being prepared and will follow shortly.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marco Schlüter', on a light-colored rectangular background.

Marco Schlüter, Director

cc: SCOF Committee