

UNECE, Geneva

Exporting eggs and egg products to the EU

- Requirements and opportunities for transition countries

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Abbreviations

ADNS Animal Disease Notification System
 AH Animal Health
 AW Animal Welfare
 BIP Border Inspection Post
 CBC Capacity Building Component
 CEO Chief Executive Officer
 CVO Chief Veterinary Officer
 DRSU Drug and Residue Surveillance Unit
 EHO Environmental Health Officer
 EU European Union
 FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
 FH Food Hygiene
 FVO Food and Veterinary Office
 GDP Gross Domestic Product
 GHP Good Hygienic Practices
 GIS Geographical information system
 GLP Good Laboratory Practices
 GMP Good Manufacturing Practice
 HACCP Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
 HRD Human Resources Development
 I&R Animal Identification and Registration
 ICAR International Committee for Animal Recording
 MoA Ministry of Agriculture
 MOH Ministry of Health
 MSQA Meat Safety Quality Assurance
 MT Metric Tonne (1000 kg)
 NGO Non-Governmental Organization
 OIE World Organisation for Animal Health
 PIC Property Identification Code
 PISG Provisional Institutions of Self Government
 QMS Quality Management System
 RD Rural Development
 SC Steering Committee
 SOP Standard Operational Procedures
 SPS Sanitary and Phytosanitary
 SWOT Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
 TADinfo Transboundary Animal Disease Information System (FAO)
 TAIEX Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (EU)
 TOR Terms of Reference
 TRACES Trade Control and Expert System
 UN United Nations
 UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
 VBI Veterinary Border Inspection
 VMP Veterinary Medicinal Products
 VPH Veterinary Public Health
 WB World Bank
 WFP World Food Programme
 WHO World Health Organization
 WTO World Trade Organization

To facilitate reading abbreviations have been avoided as much as possible.

For making the mentioned legislation in this report more accessible the list with agricultural acronyms of AgriculturalLaw.com¹ might be helpful.

¹ <http://www.agriculturelaw.com/links2/abbreviations2.htm>

I. Preface

In general the transition countries have a vast agricultural potential which surpasses their national needs. To benefit their economies such countries are looking for export opportunities, especially to developed economies such as the European Union.

The purpose of this report is to investigate the export opportunities for eggs and egg products to the European Union and includes veterinary, sanitary and marketing standards which are required to be met .

To meet the mentioned standards it is important for the exporting countries to build up a regulatory, institutional and technical infrastructure in equivalence with the European Union.

By this report the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) intends to facilitate the egg industry in the transition countries in developing national infrastructures for export to the EU.

II. Assignment

The report has been realized by order of the UNECE/Trade and Timber Division/ Agricultural Quality Standards in Geneva. This report has been drafted after the UNECE approved the outline.

III Approach

Only a clear perception of the EU egg and egg product market can be the right base for balancing the pro's and cons of exporting to the European Common Market.

This report aims to provide a clear understanding of the EU egg market as the basis for sound decision making by the transition countries.

Before drafting, the outline of this report has been discussed with and approved by UNECE.

Paragraph 1 provides a statistical overview of the egg market in the European Union and paragraph 2 outlines the legal framework which governs the egg industry . In paragraph 3 the existing private quality assurance regulations and their importance are discussed. Paragraph 4 states the EU import conditions for eggs and egg products which are currently in force. Paragraph 5 lists the requirements for establishing an operational egg supply chain to the EU as laid down by the EU

authorities. Further some potential market segments have been identified within the existing EU legal limits. In paragraph 6 the report is summarized and the leading thread running through it has been highlighted.

IV Summary

Statistics show that the European Union is a net exporter of eggs and egg products. There is no direct need for imports, although this does not mean that there are no imports. The EU does import eggs and egg products, mainly due to price reasons.

To get full access to the EU market the transition countries have to build up a regulatory, institutional and technical infrastructure in equivalence with the European Union. In the EU these structures are mainly governed by the General Food Law, (EC) 178/2002, as umbrella legislation as described in paragraph 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6. The availability of a transparent tracking and tracing system is an important issue and needs to be in place. The exporting countries to the EU need an official EU authorization for the products concerned

Recently exporting 3rd countries of table eggs to the EU need to have a national salmonella control program in place to comply with EU requirements to provide equivalent guarantees for imports of certain poultry commodities. The equivalent guarantees of the exporting country must be submitted and approved by the EU Commission. To date no 3rd country has applied for EU approval. Therefore for the time being no export of table eggs to the EU is authorized. In the short run only egg for processing and egg products can be exported to the EU.

Author: Ton van Dijk,
Nateland Consultancy, Netherlands

1. EU egg market overview

1.1 The egg chain

There are approximately 28.000 egg producers in the EU, and the majority are private family owned companies. The large layer farms are often placed in a private company with limited liability. However the shares are owned by the farmer and his family.

There are also, approximately two hundred major packing stations (wholesalers), egg traders and approximately 100 egg processors. These are mainly private family owned companies of which the larger ones operate with a limited liability structure without a stock market quotation.

The ten most important companies operating in the consumer market have another structure. The important retailers as Ahold, Aldi, Lidl, Carrefour, Tesco a.s.o. are limited liability company with a stock market quotation. The same counts for the food processors and the hotel chains.

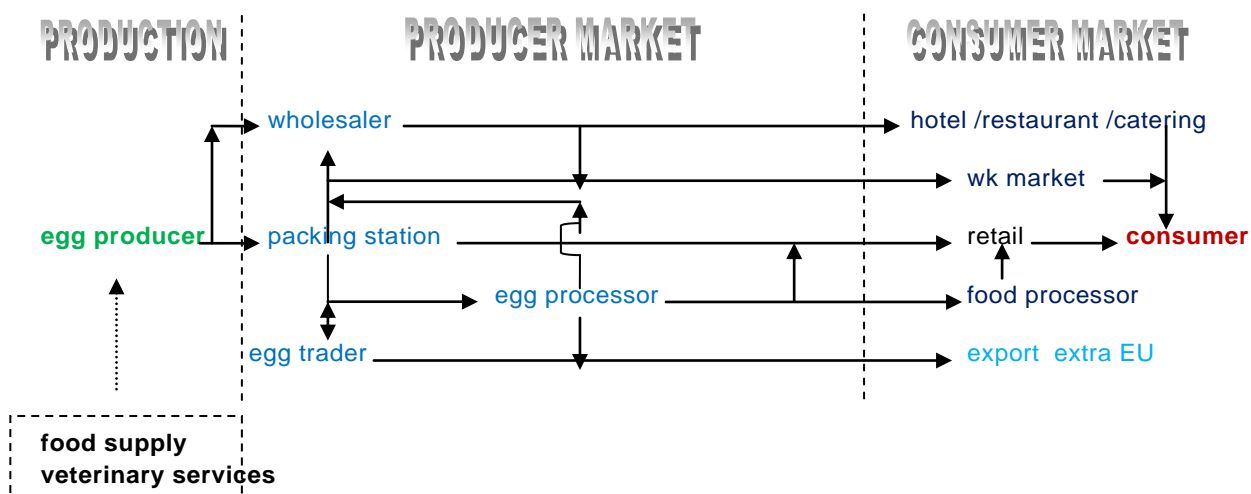


Figure 1: diagram of egg chain

The farm based egg market is characterized by many producers, a few buyers and homogeneous products. So the egg industry is volume and cost price driven. Egg prices are very price inelastic. Therefore the time sequence of the egg price is cyclical² and the long term average sales price equals the average long term production cost price.

² See figure 2

Weekly evolution of the Community Egg Prices

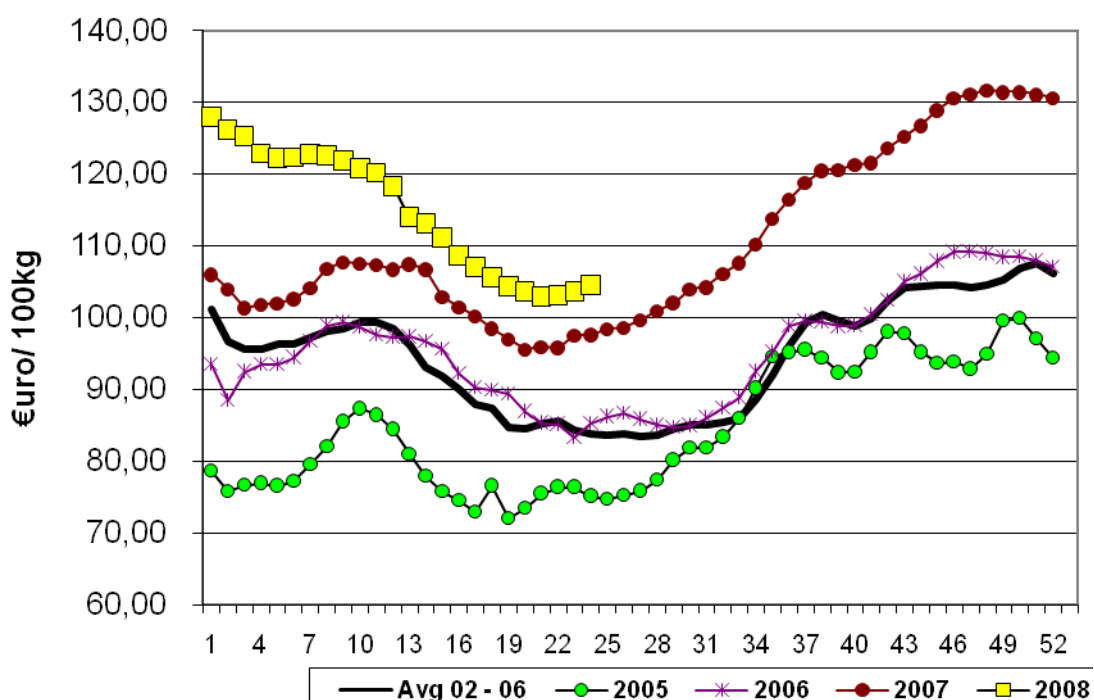


Figure 2: time sequence market price of eggs (Source: EU CIRCA)

The numerous egg producers have no individual influence on the egg price, they are volume adapters. Even the packing stations and or egg processors have no real market influence. The huge multinational retailers are sitting in the driver's seat. The overall price level the farmer receives depends on the total demand and supply: oversupply means low farm prices and shortage means high farm prices. However the retailers set the consumer price of eggs. This results in a situation that the retailer takes the major share of the egg chain generated added value.

	Cage eggs		Barn eggs		Free range eggs	
	Ct/pc	%	Ct/pc	%	Ct/pc	%
Producer price	6.1	48	8.0	46	9.4	42
V A³ packing stations	2.0	16	3.0	17	4.0	18
V A retail	4.5	36	6.5	37	8.8	40
Consumer price	12.6	100	17.5	100	22.2	100

Table 1: Partition of the Dutch consumer price of eggs in 2003 (Source: LEI, GfK, Anevei)

³ V A = Value Added

Table 1 shows that in 2003, 30 to 40 % of the consumer price is taken at retail level. This results in very small margins for the intermediate trade and egg producers. In 2008, the situation is not really different to that in 2003.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Eggs for Consumption	6.185	6.302	6.697	6.772	7.100	6.820	6.686	6.609	6.479
Total Eggs	6.996	6.962	6.956	6.906	7.190	7.465	7.203	7.183	7.096

Table 2: Egg production EU-27 (x 1000 mtons), estimate expert group

Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

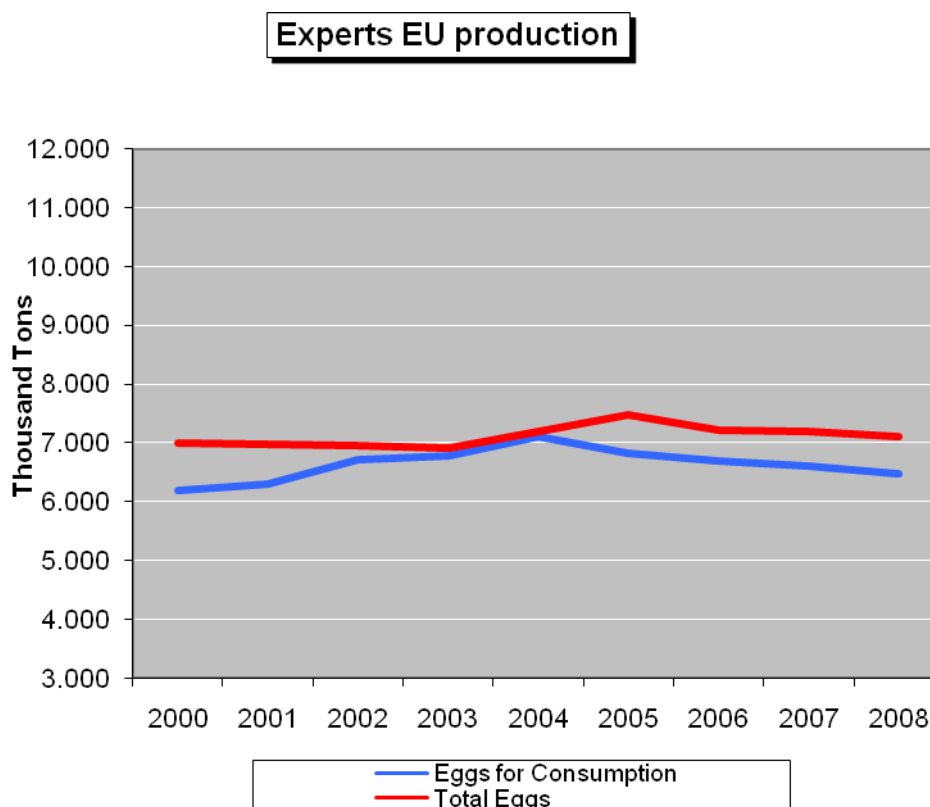


Figure 3: egg production EU-27 (Est. expert group)

Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

In 2008, according to the EU expert group, the production of table eggs in the EU-27 is forecast to be Almost 6.5 million mtons, or abt. 108 billion eggs. Due to overproduction the farm price of eggs has been very low in 2005 and 2006 and egg production has been decreasing in 2006 and 2007. The experts expect that in 2008 egg production will more or less stabilize.

In a number of member states there is continuing growth in non-cage production as consumers and opinion formers have concerns on egg production from conventional cages, preferring barn, free range or organic eggs. Such concerns have been promoted by animal welfare pressure groups. .

From 1st January 2012 egg production in conventional cages is forbidden. Only enriched cages will be allowed from that date. In some member states as Germany, the Netherlands and Austria the national law even demands higher standards. In Germany from 2009 and in the Netherlands from 2012 only colony cages (Kleingruppenhaltung) will be allowed.

In the EU-25 about 22.7 % of the total table egg production is alternative production, as shown in Table 3 – produced by the EU Commission.

<i>Cage</i>	<i>Free range</i>	<i>Barn</i>	<i>Organic</i>	
248.887	29.942	36.957	6.116	321.902
77,3%	9,3%	11,5%	1,9%	

Table 3: EU-25 Nr. of laying hens by way of keeping (x1000) (2006)

Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

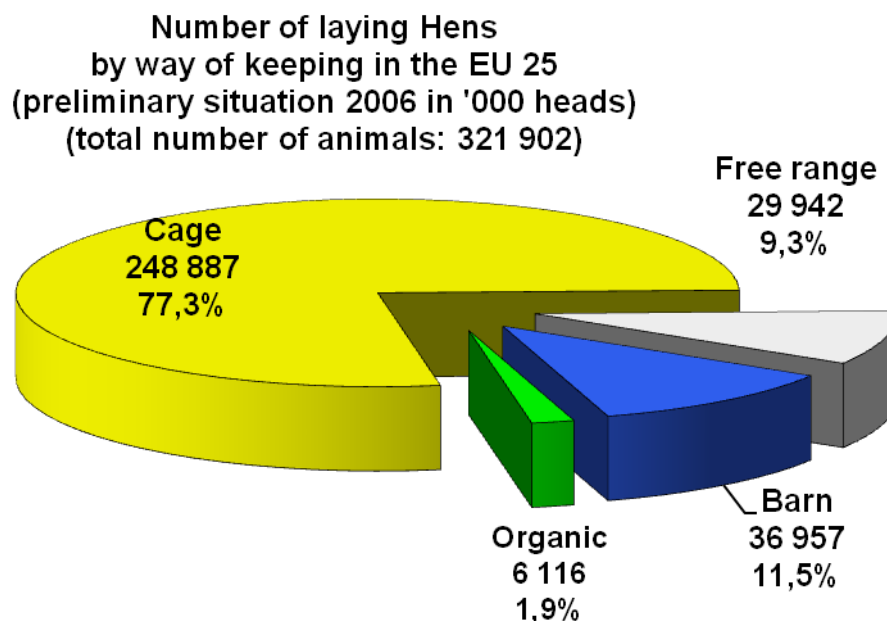


Figure 4 : Nr of laying hens by way of keeping in 2006

Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

1.2 Balance sheet eggs incl. egg products EU 25/ EU-27

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2007	
	Eur 25	± %	Eur 25 (prov)	± %	Eur 25	± %	Eur 25 (prov)	± %	Eur 27 (prov)	± %
Gross indigenous production	7.097		7.003	-1,3%	6.738	-3,8%	6.821	1,2%	7.290	
Import of eggs and egg products (egg equivalent)	25		29	17,6%	39	33,7%	51	30,4%	46	
Export of eggs and egg products (egg equivalent)	197		196	-0,7%	203	3,5%	204	0,8%	188	
Internal use	6.925		6.837	-1,3%	6.575	-3,8%	6.668	1,4%	7.147	
Hatching eggs	456		622		490		643		647	
Losses	38									
Industrial use	42									
Consumption	6.389		6.215	-2,7%	6.085	-2,1%	6.025	-1,0%	6.500	
Population (million)	458,973		459,629	0,1%	461,008	0,3%	462,391	0,3%	491,987	
Consumption (kg/head)	15,09		14,87	-1,4%	14,26	-4,1%	14,42	1,1%	14,53	
Price (Ecu/100 kg) *	86,33		86,08	-0,3%	95,73	11,2%			110,42	
Selfsufficiency (in %)	102,5%		102,4%	-0,1%	102,5%	0,1%	102,3%	-0,2%	102,0%	

Table 4: Balance sheet for eggs incl egg products EU-25/ EU-27 (x 1000 mtons)

Source: EU Commission(CIRCA)

The EU is more than self-sufficient in consumption eggs. A surplus of 2.0 % or 142.000 mtons (equivalent of 2.3 billion eggs) has to be exported to 3rd countries. During recent years the consumption per capita has been declining from 15.0 kg to 14,5 kg

1.3 Balance sheet egg products EU-27

Unfortunately, the EU Commission does not publish a balance sheet for egg products. However based on the information from a presentation⁴ given at the IEC London Conference in April 2008 a close estimate could be made for the EU-27 in 2006

Production	1.750.000
Import of eggproducts	33.900
Export of egg products	114.300
Consumption	1.669.600
Population (million)	461
Consumption (kg/head)	3.62
Selfsufficiency (in %)	104.8

Table 5: balance sheet egg products EU-25 2006 (mton egg equivalent)
Source: EUWEP

Of the per capita total egg consumption of 14.5 kg, is 3.62 kg (= 25.0 %) consumed as egg products. The consumption of egg products in the EU is growing. The estimate for 2008 is 27 %

The EU has a yearly overproduction in egg products of 4.8 %

⁴ **Egg processors in the EU-25: an economic overview**
IEC London presentation by Ton van Dijk, Nateland Consultancy
April 2008

1.4 EU import of eggs and egg products from 3rd countries

	<i>In</i>	<i>Egg Equivalent</i>			EU 27	EU 25
0407	0030	Eggs for Consumption	04070030	2007	10.247	10.247
			04070030	2006	8.098	2.528
0408	Egg Yolks		Eggyolk	2007	10.186	10.172
			Eggyolk	2006	9.271	9.121
	1180	Dried	04081180	2007	10.186	10.172
			04081180	2006	9.271	9.121
	1981	Liquid	04081981	2007	0	0
			04081981	2006	0	0
	1989	Otherwise preserved	04081989	2007	0	0
			04081989	2006	0	0
0408	Eggs Not in Shell		eggnoshell	2007	15.570	15.541
			eggnoshell	2006	15.831	15.582
	9180	Dried	04089180	2007	15.495	15.467
			04089180	2006	15.425	15.193
	9980	Fresh or cooked	04089980	2007	75	74
			04089980	2006	405	389
3502	Egg Albumin		eggalbu	2007	7.810	7.808
			eggalbu	2006	8.942	8.942
	1190	Dried	35021190	2007	6.750	6.748
			35021190	2006	7.632	7.632
	1990	Other	35021990	2007	1.060	1.060
			35021990	2006	1.310	1.310
	Total Eggs (except Haching) in Egg Equivalent			2007	43.814	43.769
				2006	42.141	36.173

Table 6: Import eggs and egg products EU-25/ EU-27 (in mt)

Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

There is no significant difference between the total import of the EU-25 and the EU-27. In other words Bulgaria and Romania are not importing any significant quantities of consumption eggs and egg products.

In 2006 the figures show that Bulgaria and Romania might have imported some shell eggs from 3rd countries.

The graph below shows the most important countries the EU is currently, and has recently, import from. It is interesting to note the growing interest of the new member states (NMS) as their entrance as members of the EU approached. This results from the removal of EU import barriers.

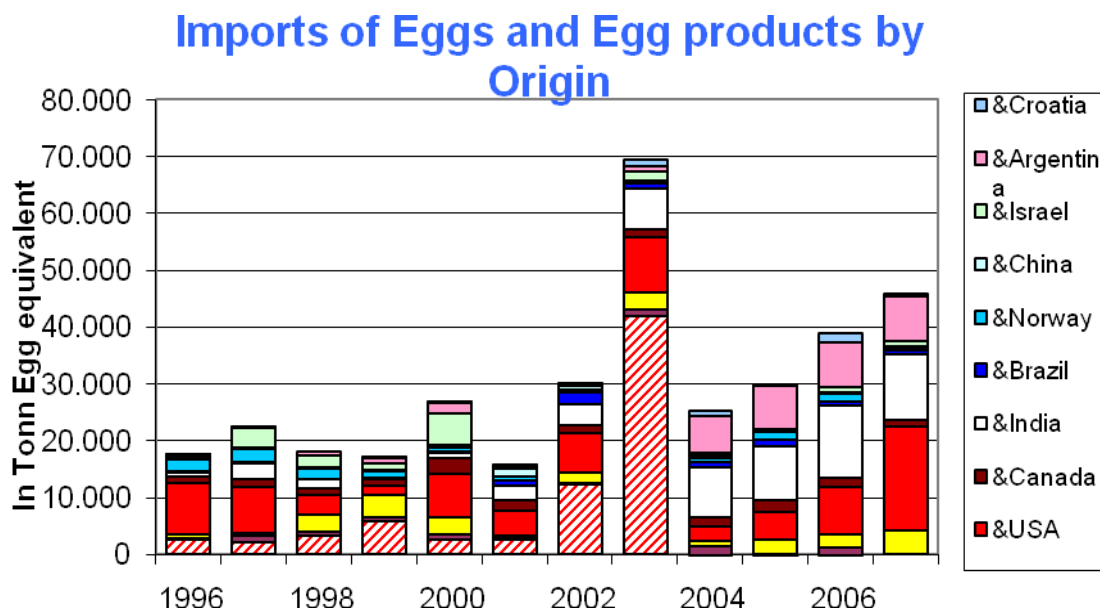


Figure 5: Imports of eggs and egg products by origin

Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

The main importing countries of the EU are Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, Belgium and Italy.

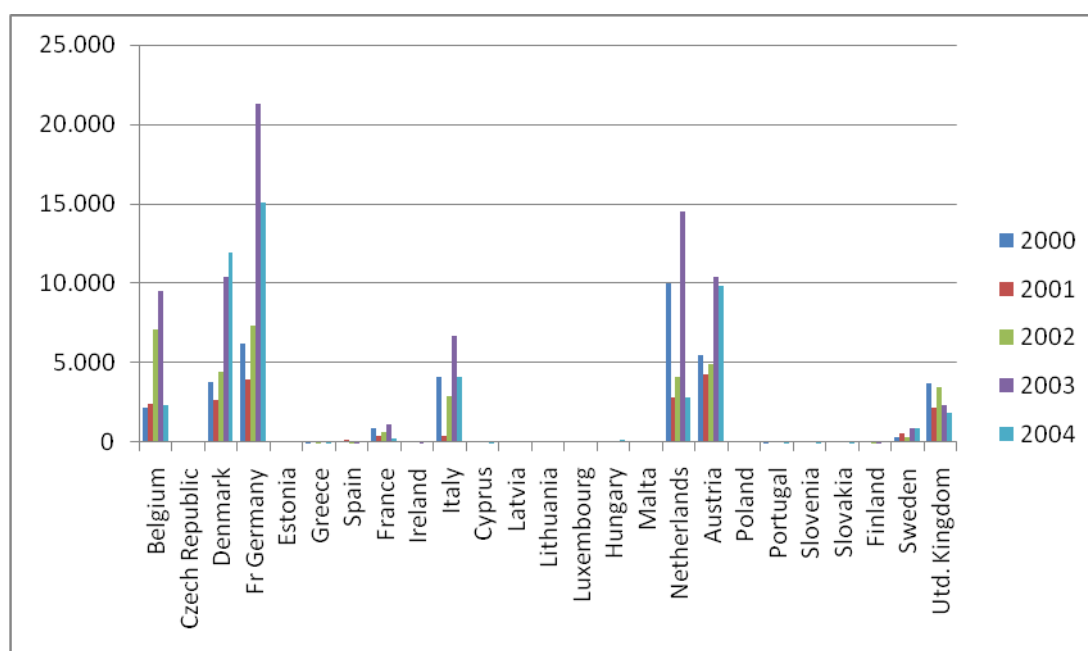


Figure 6: Breakdown, by member state, of imports of eggs and egg products (tonnes in egg equivalent)
Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

1.5. EU export of eggs and egg products to 3rd countries

	<i>In</i>	<i>Egg Equivalent</i>		EU 27	EU 25
0407	0030	Eggs for Consumption	2007	55.562	52.935
			2006	61.125	58.078
0408		Egg Yolks	2007	5.769	5.769
			2006	5.692	5.692
	1180	Dried	2007	1.479	1.479
			2006	2.099	2.099
	1981	Liquid	2007	3.505	3.504
			2006	2.966	2.966
	1989	Otherwise preserved	2007	785	785
			2006	627	627
0408		Eggs Not in Shell	2007	11.876	11.819
			2006	15.854	15.851
	9180	Dried	2007	4.268	4.211
			2006	7.320	7.320
	9980	Fresh or cooked	2007	7.608	7.608
			2006	8.535	8.532
3502		Egg Albumin	2007	92.257	92.257
			2006	89.721	89.720
	1190	Dried	2007	91.826	91.826
			2006	89.050	89.048
	1990	Other	2007	431	431
			2006	672	672
	Total Eggs (except Haching) in Egg Equivalent		2007	165.463	162.779
			2006	172.393	169.341

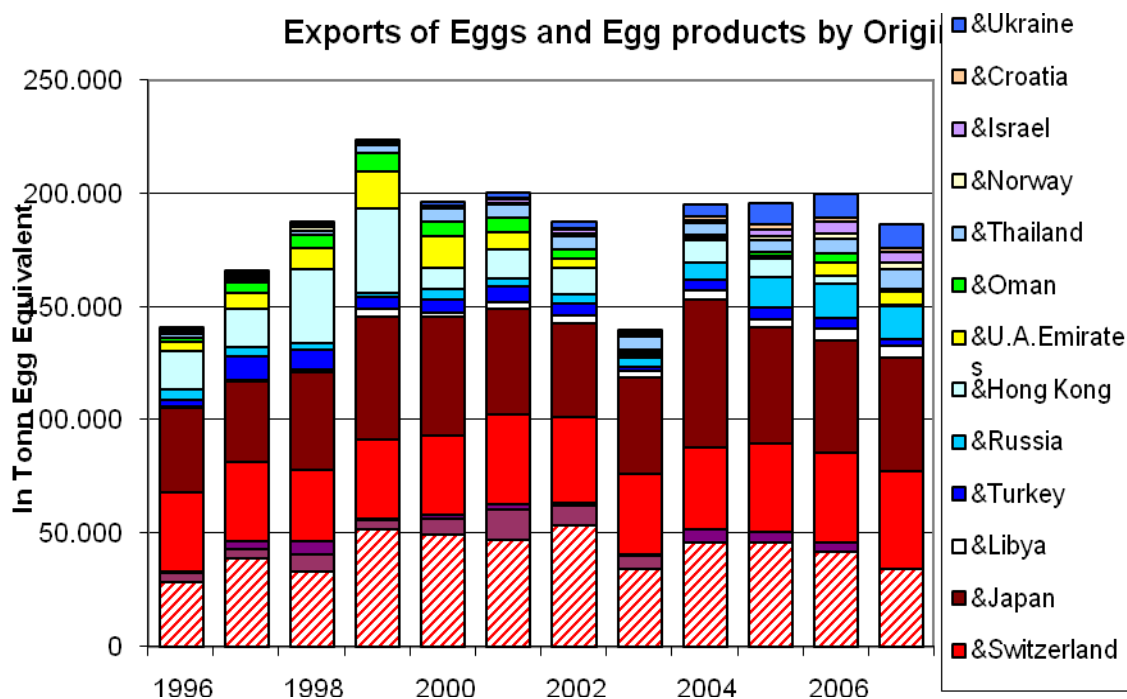
Table 7: Export eggs and egg products EU-25/ EU-27 (in mt)

Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

For almost all products the EU-25 export to 3rd countries equals the EU-27 exports. The only difference is for consumption eggs. Here, it looks that Romania and Bulgaria have been exporting abt. 3.000 tons consumption eggs to 3rd countries.

Figure 6 shows that the most important 3rd countries the EU is currently exporting egg and egg products to, are Ukraine, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Japan and Switzerland.

Exports of EU consumption eggs is mainly to Switzerland and the Gulf States. To the other mentioned regions the export involves dry egg products.



(Ton – some of the figures and title of the figure above are not aligned on my copy)

Figure 7: Exports of Eggs and Egg products by origin
Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

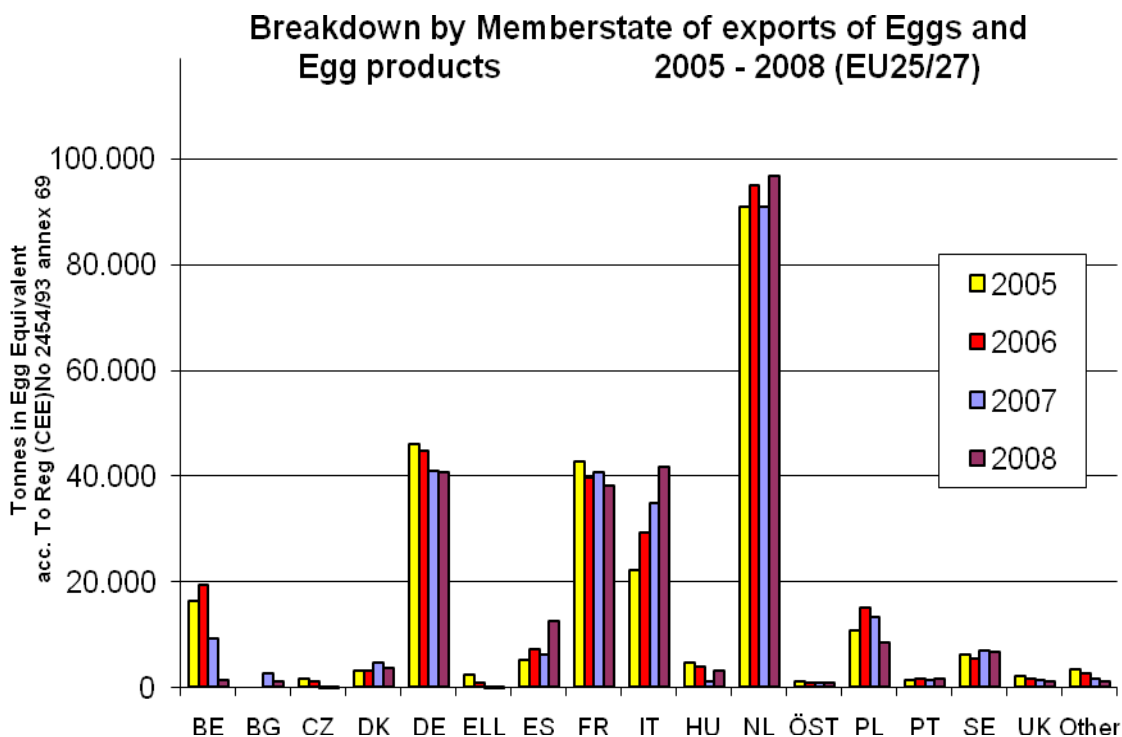


Figure 8: breakdown by member state of exports of eggs and egg products
Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

The Netherlands is the largest exporter of eggs and egg products in the EU, followed by Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Spain and Sweden.

1.6. Potentially important segments of the EU market for export of eggs and egg products

As figure 9 below shows, The EU is a net exporter of eggs and egg products.

The import peak in 2003 and the dip in the trade balance is the result of the Avian Influenza outbreak in the Netherlands.

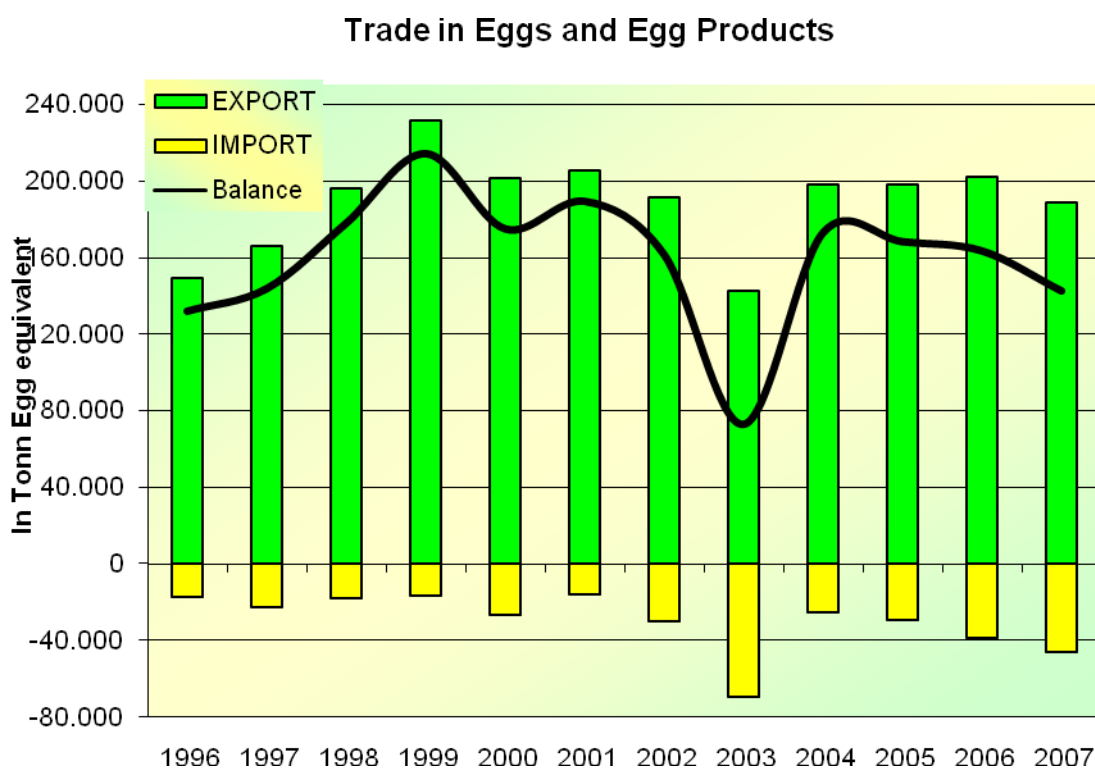


Figure 9: Trade in eggs and egg product in the EU

Shell eggs which are imported into the EU have the egg product industry as their destination. The egg product industry buys these eggs if the egg price in the country of origin is lower than the EU egg price. With these imports the egg product industry attempts to level the EU egg prices. The most important import countries for shell eggs in 2007 was the USA and Albania. The import of shell eggs is, for the most part, in the hands of 4 import companies.

The EU uses relatively more egg yolk than egg white. This results in an oversupply situation of egg white, which has to be exported to 3rd countries. Due to this situation occasionally importing egg yolk is more interesting than home production. The imported egg yolk powder originates from low price countries such as the USA/Canada, India and Argentina. The main importers are Germany (3 companies) and Denmark (1 company).

The import of whole egg powder is due only to reasons of its low price. In particular, the highly competitive pasta industry is the buyer. The product originates from the USA/Canada, India and Argentina.

Due to the overproduction situation in the EU, there has been hardly any import of albumin powder. The small amounts currently imported are from Argentina, Mexico and India because of existing joint ventures between companies in the EU and in the import countries. Moreover, as a result of existing GATT tariff rate quota's, Argentina and Mexico can export duty free to the EU.

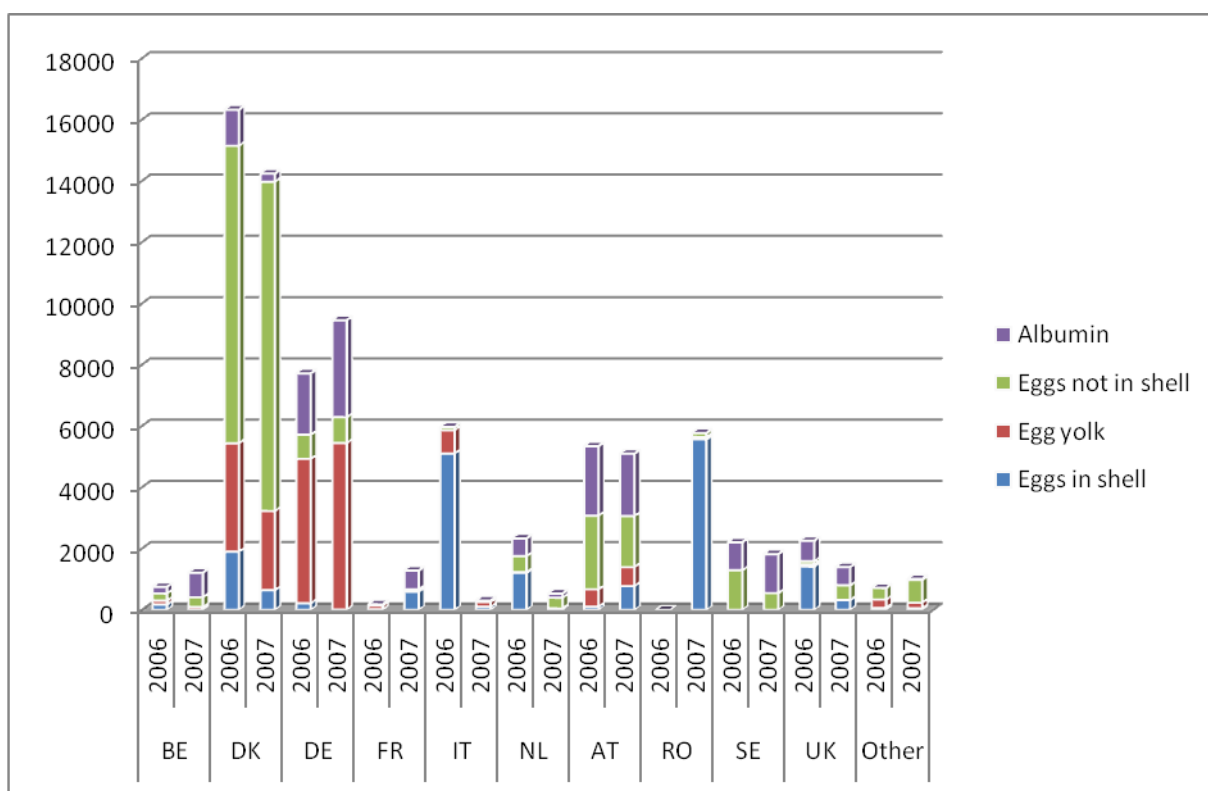


Figure 10: Breakdown of EU import by country and product (mton egg equivalent)
Source: EU Commission (CIRCA)

Due to the fact that the EU is a net exporter of consumption eggs and egg products the import needs of the EU are relatively small. The starting point for a successful export to the EU is that the product and the production chain has to comply with the public and private EU legislation.

Regarding **shell eggs**, only eggs destined for breaking (egg product industry) are allowed to be exported to the EU due to the COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1168/2006 of 31 July 2006. This Regulation lays down the rules for a EU approved national salmonella control program to reduce the incidence of salmonellas of public health significance in eggs. Also, 3rd countries have to comply to this Regulation in order

to be allowed to export table eggs to the EU. To date, no 3rd country has applied for EU approval of their national salmonella control program.

The egg yolk powder market in the EU is mainly a commodity market. For the standard quality product the price is the determining buying factor. To reduce the egg white surplus, the EU is importing over 4.000 mtons of egg yolk powder. Low cost countries have an opportunity in this market.

The EU pasta industry is a large user of standard quality whole egg powder. They are looking for the lowest price. For low cost 3rd countries this market offers an opportunity.

The albumin market is a different story. As noted earlier, the EU has overproduction of egg white due to the more than proportional egg yolk consumption. The egg processing industry will not allow newcomers to enter the market by following low prices.

However, the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is targeting to break down the import walls further. This means that in general the opportunities for 3rd low cost countries will be growing in the near future.

1.7. Main importing countries of eggs and egg products in the EU

As Figure 10 shows, the major importing countries in the EU are, in order of importance: Denmark, Germany, Austria, Romania, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Belgium and France.

2. EU legislation applicable for the production of eggs and egg products (production, processing, trade, consumption)

The EU legislation consists of:

- a. Directives
- b. Regulations

In general a directive lays down minimum rules (i.e. sets the framework). This means that each member state is authorized to lay down stricter rules than in the directive. Each country has to implement the directive in its own national legislation.

On the other hand a regulation lays down rules which are directly applicable for each member state. A regulation sets the detail for the framework directive.

This report focuses on the most principal methods of egg production. The small organic egg production has been omitted. Moreover, the rules for organic egg production in the EU are laid down in special legislation based on COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2092/91 of 24 June 1991 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs (OJ L 198, 22.7.1991, p. 1)

The full text of all the legislation (EU directives and regulations) can be easily found in the EU reference center [EUR-Lex](#)⁵

2.1. Legislation to assure food safety

The protection of human health and of consumer's interest in relation to food is given top priority in the European Community. The principles for this have been laid down in the **General Food Law**.

The General Food Law is the basic law for all valid legislation downstream in the food chain (retail/ processing/ distribution and basic egg production). So from the stable to the table!

2.1.1. GENERAL FOOD LAW⁶ REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety

⁵ [EUR-Lex](#): Reference centre, providing online access to European Union official journals, treaties, legislation under preparation and in force, and case law, ..., <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>

⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:031:0001:0024:EN:PDF>

The aim and the scope of the General Food Law has been laid down as follows:

- a. This Regulation provides the basis for the assurance of a high level of protection of human health and consumers' interest in relation to food, taking into account in particular the diversity in the supply of food including traditional products, whilst ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market. It establishes common principles and responsibilities, the means to provide a strong science base, efficient organizational arrangements and procedures to underpin decision-making in matters of food and feed safety.
- b. This Regulation lays down the general principles governing food and feed in general, and food and feed safety in particular, at Community and national level. It establishes the European Food Safety Authority. It lays down procedures for matters with a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety.
- c. This Regulation shall apply to all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed. It shall not apply to primary production for private domestic use or to the domestic preparation, handling or storage of food for private domestic consumption.

In bringing the General Food Law into effect the European Commission has adopted three Regulations:

1. (EC) 2004/852 on the hygiene of foodstuffs
2. (EC) 2004/853 laying down specific hygiene rules
3. (EC) 2004/854 laying down rules for the organization of official controls on animal products for human consumption

**2.1.1.1. REGULATION (EC) No 852/2004 ⁷
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 29 April 2004
on the hygiene of foodstuffs**

The scope of this regulation has been defined as follows:

This Regulation lays down general rules for food business operators on the hygiene of foodstuffs, taking particular account of the following principles:

- a. primary responsibility for food safety rests with the food business operator;
- b. it is necessary to ensure food safety throughout the food chain, starting with primary production;
- c. it is important, for food that cannot be stored safely at ambient temperatures, particularly frozen food, to maintain the cold chain;

⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:139:0001:0054:EN:PDF>

- d. general implementation of procedures based on the HACCP principles, together with the application of good hygiene practice, should reinforce food business operators' responsibility;
- e. guides to good practice are a valuable instrument to aid food business operators at all levels of the food chain with compliance with food hygiene rules and with the application of the HACCP principles;
- f. it is necessary to establish microbiological criteria and temperature control requirements based on a scientific risk assessment;
- g. it is necessary to ensure that imported foods are of at least the same hygiene standard as food produced in the Community, or are of an equivalent standard.

This Regulation shall apply to all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and to exports, and without prejudice to more specific requirements relating to food hygiene.

**2.1.1.2. REGULATION (EC) No 853/2004⁸
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 29 April 2004
laying down specific hygiene rules for
on the hygiene of foodstuffs**

This Regulation lays down specific rules on the hygiene of food of animal origin for food business operators. These rules supplement those laid down by Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. They shall apply to unprocessed and processed products of animal origin.

Unless expressly indicated to the contrary, this Regulation shall not apply to food containing both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin. However, processed products of animal origin used to prepare such food shall be obtained and handled in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation.

**2.1.1.3. REGULATION (EC) No 854/2004⁹ OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 29 April 2004
laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls
on products of animal origin intended for human consumption**

The scope of this regulation is:

1. This Regulation lays down specific rules for the organization of official controls on products of animal origin.
2. It shall apply only in respect of activities and persons to which Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 applies.

⁸ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:139:0055:0205:EN:PDF>

⁹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:139:0206:0320:EN:PDF>

3. The performance of official controls pursuant to this Regulation shall be without prejudice to food business operators' primary legal responsibility for ensuring food safety, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority, and laying down procedures in matters of food safety **1**, and any civil or criminal liability arising from the breach of their obligations.

2.2. Legislation valid for the egg packing and trade stage

2.2.1. COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1234/2007¹⁰ of 22nd October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)

This Regulation lays down the conditions of marketing within the Community of the eggs produced in the Community or imported from third countries. Those conditions of marketing shall also apply to eggs intended for export outside the Community.

2.2.2. COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 589/2008¹¹ of 23rd June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 234/2007 as regards marketing standards for eggs

Council Regulation (EC) 1234/2007 lays down the basic requirements which eggs must satisfy to be marketed in the Community. For the sake of clarity, new detailed rules for the implementation of those requirements should be laid down. These detailed rules have been laid down in this Commission Regulation.

2.2.3 COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 598/2008¹² of 24th June 2008 amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the marketing standards for eggs

This Regulation amends Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008 above.

2.3. Legislation valid for the egg processing stage

The most important EU Regulations which are in force for the egg processing industry are **(EC) 852/2004** and **(EC) 853/2004**, the so called Hygiene Regulation. See paragraph 2.1.1.1. and paragraph 2.1.1.2.

Based on the Hygiene Regulation, the following Regulations are also of importance for the egg processing industry.

¹⁰ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:299:0001:0149:EN:PDF>

¹¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:163:0006:0023:EN:PDF>

¹² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:164:0014:0015:EN:PDF>

2.3.1. COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2073/2005¹³ of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs

This Regulation lays down the microbiological criteria for certain micro-organisms and the implementing rules to be complied with by food business operators when implementing the general and specific hygiene measures referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. The competent authority shall verify compliance with the rules and criteria laid down in this Regulation in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, without prejudice to its right to undertake further sampling and analyses for the purpose of detecting and measuring other micro-organisms, their toxins or metabolites, either as a verification of processes, for food suspected of being unsafe, or in the context of a risk analysis.

This Regulation shall apply without prejudice to other specific rules for the control of micro-organisms laid down in Community legislation and in particular the health standards for foodstuffs laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the rules on parasites laid down under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) and the microbiological criteria laid down under Council Directive 80/ 777/EEC.

2.3.2. REGULATION (EC) No 1774/2002¹⁴ OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 3 October 2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption

This Regulation lays down animal and public health rules for:

- a. the collection, transport, storage, handling, processing and use or disposal of animal by-products, to prevent these products from presenting a risk to animal or public health;
- b. the placing on the market and, in certain specific cases, the export and transit of animal by-products and those products derived therefrom referred to in Annexes VII and VIII.

2.4. Legislation valid for Animal Health and Welfare

There are 2 EU regulations and 4 EU directives which egg producers are required to comply with

2.4.1. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/74/EC¹⁵ of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens

¹³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:338:0001:0026:EN:PDF>

¹⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:273:0001:0095:EN:PDF>

¹⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1999:203:0053:0057:EN:PDF>

This Directive lays down the minimum standards for the housing of hens in the different housing systems:

- a. Egg production in traditional and enriched cages
- b. Barn egg production
- c. Free range egg production

**2.4.2. COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 2002/4/EC¹⁶
of 30 January 2002
on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by
Council Directive
1999/74/EC**

The Directive lays down specific requirements for the registration of laying farms and the method of production with a distinguishing number in the light of tracing and tracking of the produced shell eggs in the consumer market.

**2.4.3. REGULATION (EC) No 2160/2003¹⁷
of the European Parliament and of the Council
of 17 November 2003
on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents**

The purpose of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 is to ensure that proper and effective measures are taken to detect and control salmonella and other zoonotic agents at all relevant stages of production, processing and distribution, particularly at the level of primary production, in order to reduce their prevalence and the risk they pose to public health.

**2.4.4. COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1168/2006¹⁸
of 31 July 2006
implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community
target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes
in laying hens of *Gallus gallus* and amending Regulation (EC) No
1003/2005**

The Community target referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 for the reduction of *Salmonella Enteritidis* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* (Community target) as laid down in this regulation shall be as follows:

An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least:

- a. 10 % if the prevalence in the preceding year was less than 10 %;

¹⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:030:0044:0046:EN:PDF>

¹⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:325:0001:0015:EN:PDF>

¹⁸ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:211:0004:0008:EN:PDF>

- b. 20 % if the prevalence in the preceding year was between 10 and 19 %;
- c. 30 % if the prevalence in the preceding year was between 20 and 39 %;
- d. 40 % if the prevalence in the preceding year was 40 % or more;

**2.4.5. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2005/94/EC¹⁹
of 20 December 2005
on Community measures for the control of avian influenza and
repealing Directive 92/40/EEC**

This Directive sets out:

- (a) certain preventive measures relating to the surveillance and the early detection of avian influenza and increasing the level of the competent authorities' and the farming community's awareness of, and preparation for, the risks of that disease;
- (b) the minimum control measures to be applied in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds and the early detection of possible spread of avian influenza viruses to mammals;
- (c) other subsidiary measures to avoid the spread of influenza viruses of avian origin to other species.

¹⁹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:010:0016:0065:EN:PDF>

3. Private regulations of the EU egg sector

Especially in the densely populated areas in the North-west of the European Community - Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, UK, Scandinavia and Austria, consumers are increasingly asking that eggs are produced in conformity with rules that go beyond the basic EU legislation in the domain of animal welfare, environment and food safety. In response to this social movement, the egg trade and egg producers have put in place private quality assurance systems, in some cases mainly for the alternative egg chain (barn eggs and free range eggs).

Encouraged by the animal welfare and environmental and consumers' groups, the retailers nowadays are selling about 90 % of their eggs under a (private) quality assurance label.

The most important quality assurance systems are: KAT (Germany), Lion (UK), Label Rouge (France) and IKB (Netherlands)

3.1. KAT²⁰

KAT was established as a non-profit association in 1995. The managing board consisting of 13 members from the egg industry, the food trade, the feedstuffs industry and animal welfare groups is elected by the members for a three-year term. The KAT association is currently the most important monitoring authority for eggs from alternative hen-rearing systems in Germany and neighbouring EU countries. The KAT criteria for laying hen rearing extends well beyond EU regulations. KAT ensures that the regulations are complied with and are uniformly implemented in both Germany and other European countries, with the aim of being able to guarantee comprehensive egg monitoring and traceability from the feedstuffs producer via the laying establishment to the retail consumer. The KAT exclusivity principle ensures that all companies engaged in egg production and marketing are organised within KAT and therefore allowed to use the KAT label. For the retail consumer this means confidence in the origin of the KAT-compliant eggs.

3.2. Lion²¹

The Lion Quality mark on egg shells and egg boxes means that the eggs have been produced to the highest standards of food safety.

²⁰ <http://en.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.de/en/verein/kat>

²¹ <http://www.britegg.co.uk/lionquality05/startlionquality.html>

The Lion Quality Code of Practice was launched in 1998 and includes compulsory vaccination against *Salmonella* Enteritidis of all pullets destined for Lion egg-producing flocks, independent auditing, improved traceability of eggs and a "best-before" date stamped on the shell and pack, as well as on-farm and packing station hygiene controls.

The Lion Quality mark, which is a registered trademark, can only be used by subscribers to the BEIC on eggs which have been produced in accordance with UK and EU law and the Lion Quality Code of Practice.

Approximately 85% of UK eggs are now produced to Lion Quality standards.

3.3. Label Rouge²²

Label Rouge eggs are laid by hens that, like Label Rouge poultry, have been reared outdoors using traditional farming methods.

The Label Rouge tag has been used for eggs since 1998. Label Rouge eggs must be produced according to official Label Rouge specifications approved by the French authorities. Today, there are 14 specifications that have been validated for 11 Defense and Management Organizations, proof that the Label Rouge egg production sector is growing steadily.

3.4. IKB-EI²³

IKB-EI is a quality assurance system, with transparently controls all stages in the egg chain.

The system is managed by the Dutch Product Board for Poultry and Eggs. The high standards are guaranteed by the EN 45011 accreditation

Farmers and companies participate in the IKB programme on a voluntary basis. Once they have signed the IKB agreement they are however obliged to meet a series of requirements and must be able to prove compliance if so requested. Checks are regularly carried out to see whether the participants comply with the system's regulations. An extremely important aspect of the IKB programme is the exchange of information between the individual links in the chain. A sound information system ensures that the origins of any egg can be traced at any stage in the production chain. The IKB quality system is constantly adjusted on the basis of the market's requirements. Ever more farmers and companies in the egg sector are participating in the various IKB schemes. This is resulting in a growing range of products of a guaranteed, high quality in which consumers may rightly have every faith. IKB operates on behalf of, and in the interest of the egg sector.

²² http://www.poultrylabelrouge.com/015_Oeufs_LR.php

²³ https://bedrijfsnet.pve.agro.nl/pls/pbs/bntwpve.bnt2_menu tree_bdr.popupwindow?p_cnr_id=30772&p_pfe_id=0

4. EU import conditions and regulations for poultry and poultry products²⁴

Import rules in the European Union for poultry (including hatching eggs) and poultry products (including egg products) are fully harmonised and the European Commission acts as the competent authority on behalf of the 27 Member States. The EU Commission is the sole negotiating partner for all non-EU countries in questions related to import conditions.

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection is responsible for food safety in the European Union. The import rules seek to guarantee that all imports fulfill the same high standards as products from EU Member States - not only with respect to hygiene and all aspects of consumer safety, but also regarding their animal health status.

Importation of poultry and poultry products into the European Union are subject to veterinary certification which is based on the recognition of the competent authority of the non-EU country under EU legislation.

This formal recognition of the reliability of the competent authority is a pre-requisite for the country to be eligible and authorized for export to the European Union. Legally legitimate and adequately empowered authorities in the exporting country must ensure credible inspection and controls throughout the production chain, which cover all relevant aspects of hygiene, animal health, animal welfare and public health.

All other interested parties and private businesses should contact their competent authority and communicate with the European Union via this channel.

Animals and animal products entering the Community are inspected at a Border Inspection Post (BIP) where Member States' official veterinarians ensure they fulfill all the requirements provided for in the EU legislation. More information can be found on the webpages²⁵ of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection.

²⁴ Source: http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/poultry/index_en.htm#criteria

²⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/bips/index_en.htm

4.1. Legislation related to the import of poultry products

4.1.1. COMMISSION DECISION 2006/696/EC²⁶ of 28 August 2006

laying down a list of third countries from which poultry, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, meat of poultry, ratites and wild game-birds, eggs and egg products and specified pathogen-free eggs may be imported into and transit through the Community and the applicable veterinary certification conditions, and amending Decisions 93/342/EEC, 2000/585/EC and 2003/812/EC

This Decision lays down veterinary certification conditions for imports into and transit through the Community of:

- a. poultry, hatching eggs and day-old chicks;
- b. (b) meat, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of poultry, ratites and wild game-birds;
- c. (c) eggs and egg products and specified pathogen-free eggs.

4.1.2. COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2002/99/EC²⁷ of 16 December 2002

laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption

This Directive lays down the general animal health rules governing all stages of the production, processing and distribution within the Community and the introduction from third countries of products of animal origin and products obtained therefrom intended for human consumption.

4.2 Criteria for the authorization of a third country

Third countries of origin must be on a positive list of eligible countries.

The main criteria are:

- The exporting countries must have a competent veterinary authority which is responsible throughout the food chain. The authorities must be empowered, structured and resourced to implement effective inspection and guarantee credible certification of the relevant veterinary and general hygiene conditions.
- The country or region of origin must fulfill the relevant animal health standards. This implies that the country should be a member of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and should meet that organization's standards and reporting obligations. In addition, approved countries have to notify within 24 hours outbreaks of avian influenza and Newcastle disease and must submit virus isolates to the EU Community Reference Laboratory.
- Adequate veterinary services must ensure effective enforcement of all necessary health controls.

²⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:295:0001:0076:EN:PDF>

²⁷ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_018/l_01820030123en00110020.pdf

- Imports are only authorised from approved establishments (e.g. slaughterhouses, cutting plants, game handling establishments, cold stores, meat processing plants), which have been inspected by the competent authority of the exporting country and found to meet EU requirements. The authority provides the necessary guarantees and is obliged to carry out regular inspections.
- The veterinary authorities must have at its disposal one or more laboratories that comply with certain minimum requirements, ensuring sufficient capability for disease diagnosis.
- The national authorities must also guarantee that the relevant hygiene and public health requirements are met. The hygiene legislation contains specific requirements on the structure of establishments, equipment and operational processes for slaughter, cutting, storage and handling of meat. These provisions are aimed at ensuring high standards and at preventing any contamination of the product during processing.

The food hygiene legislation is laid down in the Regulations (EC) 178/2002, (EC) 852/2004, (EC) 853/2004, (EC) 854/2004. (see paragraph 2.1.1., 2.1.1.1., 2.1.1.2., 2.1.1.3.)

4.3 Authorization of 3rd countries

The national authority of a third country must submit a formal request to the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission to be authorised for the importation into the EU of the commodities concerned.

After the request is received the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection will send out a questionnaire to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of the country applying for authorization, which should be completed and returned.

Based on the results of the inspection and the guarantees given by the exporting country, the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection proposes the authorization of the country for the animals or products concerned, the specific animal health conditions under which imports from that country will be authorized and the list of approved establishments in the country. These are then discussed with representatives of all EU Member States.

If the Member States have a favorable opinion on the proposal, the European Commission adopts the specific import conditions.

Commission Decision 2006/696/EC²⁸ lays down the veterinary requirements which must

²⁸ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:295:0001:0076:EN:PDF>

be fulfilled when exporting poultry and certain poultry products and a list of those third countries from which imports of these commodities are authorized.

4.4 Residue monitoring

A monitoring system must be in place to verify compliance with EU requirements on residues of veterinary medicines, pesticides and contaminants. The residue monitoring plan of the exporting country must be submitted and approved by the EU Commission.

More information can be found on the webpage's of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection²⁹.

4.5. Salmonella control

Exporting 3rd countries of table eggs to the EU need to have a national salmonella control program in place to comply with EU requirements to provide equivalent guarantees for imports of certain poultry commodities. The equivalent guarantees of the importing country must be submitted and approved by the EU Commission.

The requirements of the salmonella program are laid down in the EU hygiene legislation and moreover in the following regulations:

- a. **(EC) 2160/2003**³⁰ on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents
- b. **(EC) 1168/2006**³¹ implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of certain salmonella serotypes in laying hens of *Gallus gallus* and amending Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005

To date, no 3rd country has applied for an approval of their national salmonella control program.

This means that for the time being it is not allowed to export table eggs to the European Community.

²⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/third_countries_en.htm

³⁰ See paragraph 2.4.3.

³¹ See paragraph 2.4.4.

4.6 New veterinary legislation coming into force on 12 September 2008³²

Commission Decision 2006/696/EC sets out a list of third countries from which poultry and poultry products may be imported into, and transit through, the European Community and lays down the veterinary certification conditions.

Commission Decision 93/342/EEC and Commission Decision 94/438/EC are laying down the criteria for classifying third countries with regard to avian influenza and Newcastle disease and the criteria for classifying third countries and parts thereof with regard to avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

EU legislation for the control of avian influenza has recently been updated by Council Directive 2005/94/EC.

Imports from third countries should meet conditions equivalent to those applied within the European Community and which are in line with the revised requirements for international trade in poultry and poultry products laid down by the standards of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the OIE.

Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, admission to or retention on the lists of third countries provided for in EU legislation from which EU Member States are authorised to import certain poultry commodities covered by that Regulation is subject to the submission to the European Commission by the third country concerned of a programme equivalent to national control programs for Salmonella to be established by the EU Member States, and its approval by the European Commission.

The EU and certain third countries wish to permit trade in poultry and poultry products coming from approved compartments and therefore the principle of compartmentalization for imports of poultry and poultry products should be further laid down in EU legislation. The compartmentalization principle has been laid down recently by the OIE in order to facilitate worldwide trade in poultry and poultry products and therefore it should be incorporated into EU legislation.

In the interests of clarity and coherence of EU legislation, Decisions 93/342/EEC, 94/438/EC and 2006/696/EC are now repealed and replaced by a new Commission Regulation.

This **Regulation, (EC) No 798/2008, enters into force on 12 September 2008, applies from 1 January 2009** and lays down veterinary certification requirements for imports into and transit, including storage during transit, through the European Community of the following commodities:

³² Source: <http://www.vetimpleg.eu/>



(a) poultry (= including farmed game birds), hatching eggs, day-old chicks and specified pathogen-free eggs;

(b) meat, minced meat and mechanically separated meat of poultry, including ratites and wild game-birds, eggs and egg products.

It also lays down a list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which the mentioned commodities may be imported into the Community.

4.7. Technical regulations and marketing standards for eggs and egg products

Table eggs to be exported to the EU have to comply with the valid EU animal welfare and marketing standards in the EU:

-  COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 1999/74/EC³³, laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens
-  COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 589/2008³⁴ of 23rd June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards for eggs

³³ See paragraph 2.4.1.

³⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:163:0006:0023:EN:PDF>

5. Establishment of an operational egg supply chain to the EU

5.1. Identifying potential market segments

In looking for potential market segments we distinguish opportunities in the short term and in the long term.

5.1.1 In the short term

In the short term, the export of table eggs to the EU is not allowed due to the fact that no 3rd country currently has a national salmonella programme in place, which is approved by the EU Commission. This leaves the segment of shell eggs for breaking as input for the egg product industry and egg products for the food industry.

The EU egg product industry is regularly interested in buying standard quality breaking stock. However, the principle buying factor is price (incl. import levy). Some major egg processors are importing directly. However, the bulk of egg imports to the EU from 3rd countries is through two egg traders³⁵

5.1.2. In the long term

In the long term the opportunities might be more challenging.

If the potential exporting transition countries on macro - and micro level are willing to comply with the valid EU legislation as discussed earlier, they will receive a full EU authorization to import consumption eggs and egg products to the EU. Due to the fact that the retailers only sell table eggs under a private quality assurance label the exporting egg producers preferably also have to join one of the private Quality Assurance labels³⁶ in the EU.

In conformity with the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU, the import levies will strongly be decreased or will disappear. This will nudge the transition countries in their export ambitions.

What the trade effects might be if the Russian Federation wants to give up its application for WTO membership is hidden in the future.

5.2. Action plan

To obtain full access to the EU market, the transition counties will be required to build up a regulatory, institutional and technical infrastructure in equivalence with the

³⁵ See Annex 2

³⁶ See paragraph 3

European Union. In the EU these structures are mainly governed by the General Food Law, (EC) 178/2002, as umbrella legislation as described in paragraph 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6. The availability of a transparent tracking and tracing system is an important issue and needs to be in place.

It is advisable to consult the regarding EU bodies before setting up a detailed time schedule for the micro and macro actions. The usage by potential exporters to the EU of the existing experience in the EU will pay off in the pace, quality and costs of the development of necessary regulatory, institutional and technical infrastructures.

5.3 Export helpdesk for developing countries³⁷

The Export Helpdesk is an online service, provided by the European Commission, to facilitate market access for developing countries to the European Union.

This free and user friendly service for exporters, importers, trade associations and governments, provides the following online:

- Information on EU and Member States' import requirements as well as internal taxes applicable to products;
- Information on EU preferential import regimes benefiting developing countries;
- Trade data for the EU and its individual Member States;
- A market place where exporters in developing countries can establish contacts with importers from the EU;
- Links to other authorities and international organizations involved in practical trade operations and trade promotion.
- The possibility to lodge detailed information requests about real-life situations encountered by exporters.

³⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/global/development/thd_en.htm

6. Summary

The statistics show that the European Union is a net exporter of eggs as well in egg products. There is no direct need for imports, which does not mean that there are no imports. The EU does import eggs and egg products. However, this is mainly due to price reasons.

To obtain full access to the EU market, the transition countries are required to build up a regulatory, institutional and technical infrastructure in equivalence with the European Union. In the EU these structures are mainly governed by the General Food Law, (EC) 178/2002, as umbrella legislation as described in paragraph 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6. The availability of a transparent tracking and tracing system is an important issue and needs to be in place. The exporting countries to the EU need an official EU authorization for the products concerned

Recently, exporting 3rd countries of table eggs to the EU need to have a national salmonella control program in place to comply with EU requirements to provide equivalent guarantees for imports of certain poultry commodities. The equivalent guarantees of the exporting country must be submitted and approved by the EU Commission. To date, no 3rd country has applied for EU approval. Therefore for the time being no export of table eggs to the EU is allowed. In the short run only egg for breaking and egg product can be exported to the EU.

IMPORTANT EU ORGANIZATIONS

European Commission

- Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) Brussels³⁸
- Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO) Brussels³⁹
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Parma⁴⁰ (I)
- European Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) Brussels⁴¹

European Egg Producers and Trade Organizations

- COPA-COGECA Brussels⁴²
The united voice of farmers and their co-operatives in the European Union
- EUWEP⁴³ (European Union of Wholesale with Eggs, Egg-Products, Poultry and Game), based in London, EUWEP is the umbrella organization of:
 - European Egg Packers and Trade Association (EEPTA), based in London
 - European Egg Processors Association (EEPA)⁴⁴, based in Brugge (B)

National Egg Producers and Trade Organizations

- Germany
 - BDE (Bundesverband Deutsches EI) Berlin⁴⁵
 - ZVE (Zentral Verband Eier) Bonn⁴⁶
 - BVEP (Bundesverband der Deutschen Eiprodukten-Industrie) Bonn⁴⁷
- United Kingdom
 - BEIC (British Egg Industry Council) London⁴⁸

³⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm

³⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

⁴⁰ http://www.efsa.eu.int/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_home.htm

⁴¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/index_en.htm

⁴² <http://www.copa-cogeca.be/Main.aspx?page=CCEvents&lang=en>

⁴³ <http://euwep.info/>

⁴⁴ <http://www.eepa.info/>

⁴⁵ <http://www.zdg-online.de/111.0.html>

⁴⁶ <http://www.epega.org/zve>

⁴⁷ <http://www.epega.org/bvep>

⁴⁸ <http://www.britisheggindustryCouncil.com/WhatistheBEIC/Welcome.asp>

- Spain
 - ASEPHRU (la asociacion española de productores de huevos) Madrid ⁴⁹
- France
 - CNPO (L'organisation du Comité National pour la Promotion de l'œuf) Paris ⁵⁰
- Netherlands
 - Product Board for Poultry and Eggs , Zoetermeer ⁵¹
- Italy
 - UNA (Unione Nazionale Avicoltura), Rome ⁵²

⁴⁹ <http://www.aseprhu.com/>

⁵⁰ <http://cnpo.fr/>

⁵¹ <https://bedrijfsnet.pve.agro.nl/>

⁵² <http://www.unionenazionaleavicoltura.it/pres-english/storia.asp>

Main players in the EU egg market

Egg and egg product traders

- Jürgen Fuchs GmbH & Co. KG, 61440 Oberursel Hessen, Deutschland
- Agra Produkt GmbH Hamburg⁵³
- Manton Group Ltd, United Kingdom⁵⁴

Egg Packers

- Eurovo Italy⁵⁵
- Deutsches Frühstücks-Ei GmbH, Neuenkirchen, Germany⁵⁶
- Noble Foods Ltd, United Kingdom⁵⁷
- Kwetters BV, Veen, Netherlands⁵⁸

Egg Processors

- Eurovo Italy⁴⁷
- Noble Foods Ltd, United Kingdom⁴⁹
- Ovobest GmbH Neuenkirchen Germany⁵⁹
- Igreca SA, Seiches-sur-le-Loire, France⁶⁰
- Sanovo Foods SA, Odense Denmark⁶¹
- INTEROVO Group BV, Ochten, Holland⁶²
- Adriaan Goede BV, Landsmeer, Holland⁶³

⁵³ <http://www.agraprodukt.de/engl.html>

⁵⁴ <http://www.britovo.com/index.htm>

⁵⁵ <http://www.uovo.it/>

⁵⁶ <http://www.deutsche-fruehstuecksei.de/>

⁵⁷ <http://www.noblefoods.co.uk/index.asp>

⁵⁸ <http://www.kwetters.com/EN/index.html>

⁵⁹ http://www.ovobest.de/experia-cgi/v2.2/viewhtml.pl?DescriptionFile=ovobest-menu.def&language=en&calling=ovobest_aktuell_en&menudepth=1

⁶⁰ <http://www.igreca.com/>

⁶¹ <http://www.sanovo.com/SANOVO+FOODS+AS,+Denmark.57.aspx>

⁶² <http://www.weko.nl/english/index.html>

⁶³ <http://www.adriaangoedebv.nl/>