



Our contact:

Hanna Tereshko

Director of Project 1882 Ukraine

hanna.tereshko@project1882.org

9 April 2026

Mr Klymenok

Head of the Animal Health and Welfare Department of the Department of Food Safety and Veterinary Medicine, Ukraine

Dear Mr Klymenok,

We are writing to you regarding the issue of a ban on keeping hens in cages in the egg industry in Ukraine.

Battery cages have been banned in the EU since 2012 according to the EU Council Directive 1999/74/EC¹ and replaced by cage-free systems and so-called enriched cages. However, even though enriched cages provide a bit more space and some enrichment to the hens, enriched cages are far from sufficient from an animal welfare perspective. A cage is a cage, with all limitations it implies. One of the main recommendations from EFSA¹ in their scientific opinion Welfare of laying hens on farm, from 2023, was that all birds shall be housed in non-cage systems. There is a strong trend in the EU for banning all cages, including enriched cages. Continuous work of animal advocacy organisations, demand from consumers and corporate commitments have caused a constant decline of enriched cage use year after year. Finally, thanks to the End the Cage Age initiative², the EU is moving towards a full ban of all types of cages for hens and other animals within the agricultural system. The European Commission is expected to present a proposal for a ban on cages for hens and other animals in the agricultural system, in 2026.

¹ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7789>

² <https://www.endthecageage.eu/en/>

In 2014, Ukraine took an obligation to its legislation with the EU animal welfare standards.³ However, while Ukraine bans battery cages from 2026, leaving the enriched cages allowed, the EU is moving towards a ban on all cages. Another expected new EU legislation is the one that will require EU animal welfare standards for imported animal products imported from non-EU countries. This means that Ukrainian egg producers will not be able to export their products to the EU because of the method of production, which does not correspond to the EU standards. To avoid such a situation, the best decision for Ukraine would be to skip the enriched cages phase and move directly to cage free methods of production. This would help not only to avoid a future violation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, but also unnecessary investments of Ukrainian enterprises.

As part of the ongoing work on new EU animal welfare legislation, the European Commission conducted a public consultation at the end of 2025. The public consultation received more than 190 000 responses, of which 99% came from citizens. The responses received showed overwhelming support for ending the keeping of hens in cages: phasing out cages for hens was considered very important.⁴

To truly strengthen animal welfare and facilitate Ukraine's path to EU membership, we are convinced that a national ban in Ukraine on all cage keeping of hens is necessary. We, signing organisations, call for a nationwide ban on keeping hens in cages in Ukraine. We make this call with the best interests of Ukraine in mind and for improved animal welfare for millions of animals.

Yours sincerely,

Benny Andersson, CEO, Project 1882

Katrina Krigere, CEO, Dzīvnieku brīvība, Latvia

Gemma Willemsen, Corporate Strategisch Advies, Dierenbescherming, the Netherlands

Alexandra Ștefan, Manager, Freedom and Respect for Every Earthling, Romania

Daniel Kostić, Campaign manager, OBRAZ obránci zvířát, Czech Republic

Gabrielė Vaitkevičiūtė, Director, Tušti narvai, Lithuania

Jürgen Plinz, Member of the Board, Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V., Germany

Martin Smrek, Executive director, Humánný pokrok, Slovakia

Siri Martinsen, Head of NOAH, Norway

Jasmina Filipič, Veterinarian, AETP (Animal Enterprise Transparency Project), Slovenia

Brigitte Gothière, Director, L214, France

Petya Altimirska, Chairperson of CAAI (Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the Industry), Bulgaria

Ervin Nagy, President, Una Terra Foundation, Hungary

³ https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/984_011#Text

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-archives/72576>