

NEWS RELEASE



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Top European companies named 'Good Eggs' as three quarters of Europe's hens remain in battery cages

More than 20 top European companies will join multinationals McDonald's Europe, and Unilever, alongside the European Parliament, in becoming "Good Eggs" today (Wednesday 16 April) at an award ceremony in Brussels; a move which will release over ten million hens from cages.

The Good Egg Awards are given by leading international animal welfare group Compassion in World Farming to celebrate companies who have chosen to stop sourcing eggs from hens kept in battery cages.

The growing trend for more ethically produced eggs could leave behind more than three quarters of Europe's poultry farmers who are still using the barren battery cage.

Across Europe, more than 75 per cent of hens are kept in battery cages, but some countries' national figures, such as Spain and Portugal, rise to 97 per cent. Yet today's announcement makes it clear that the food business is turning its back on cages and wants more free-range eggs.

"Pressure on producers to supply more barn and free-range eggs is mounting. Our Good Egg Awards demonstrate a growing demand for European cage-free eggs, currently led by some of the world's biggest brands. With a Europe-wide ban on barren cages set to come into force in 2012, one has to ask why producers aren't being encouraged to make more of such a clear market opportunity," says Rowen West-Henzell, Food Policy Manager for British-based Compassion in World Farming.

“European producers and food companies who’ve yet to go cage-free need to wake up to this change and act now. Consumers no longer want to eat food that has been produced in cruel systems,” continues Miss West-Henzell.

More than 300 million hens are kept for eggs across Europe. Over three quarters of them are confined in barren battery cages - small wire cages which prohibit many natural behaviours and provide a space per hen smaller than the size of an ordinary sheet of typing paper.

Keith Kenny, Senior Director, McDonald’s Supply Chain Europe said of their award, “We are very pleased to be recognised by Compassion in World Farming for the work we are continuing to do throughout the EU to phase out the use of eggs laid by caged birds from our menus. Our customers are increasingly interested in animal welfare and sustainability. We also believe this is the right thing to do. This is the latest step in McDonald’s evolution from being a fast food company to a company that serves good food, fast.”

“Eradicating the use of ‘caged’ whole eggs from our supply chain throughout the EU is a complex challenge, but we are confident of achieving this before the end of 2010.”

Nils van Dam, Senior Vice President (Spreads, Cooking Products & Dressings) for Unilever Europe, said: "We are delighted to receive this Good Egg Award for our dressings brands, including Hellmann's, Amora and Calvé. Our commitment to move to free-range or barn eggs is part of our plan to move to more sustainable sourcing. Eggs are a key component of our mayonnaise and dressings products and therefore the switch to free-range and barn eggs is quite challenging when you consider we source around 475 million eggs per year. Therefore we are very pleased to announce that most Western European countries will be moved to non-caged eggs by 2010 and all countries before 2012, starting with UK in June this year."

List of European Good Egg Award winners and commendations:

McDonald’s Europe (EU 27)

Unilever (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Republic of Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain & UK)
European Parliament

Belgium

Sodexo Belgium

Ikea Belgium (catering facilities)

Netherlands

Dutch Ministry of Agriculture

CBL (Central Bureau voor Levensmiddelen, Central Office for Food Retail) representing all supermarkets in the Netherlands:

- Albert Heijn
- Aldi
- Boni Markten
- Boon Sliedrecht
- CoopCodis
- Deen Supermarkten
- Dekamarkt
- Deli XL
- Samenw. Dirk van den Broek Bedr.
- EM-TÉ Supermarkten
- Hoogvliet Supermarkten
- Jan Linders
- *Jumbo Supermarkten (awarded 2007)*
- De Kweker
- Kruidenier Foodservices
- Lekkerland
- Lidl Nederland
- Metro Nederland
- Nettorama
- Plus Retail
- Poiesz Supermarkten
- Sanders Supermarkten
- C1000
- Sligro
- Stationsfoodstore
- Super de Boer
- Vakcentrum
- Groothandel in Levensmiddelen Van Tol
- Vomar Voordeelmarkt

Austria

Die BIO-Hotels e.V

Republic of Ireland

Quay Co-op

France

Hôtel Negresco

Italy

NaturaSi S.p.A. Restaurants

Municipality of Verucchio

Argelato town

Portugal

Biocoop - Productos de Agricultura Biológica, crl

Naturocoop – Cooperativa de Consumo, crl

Biomiosotis (SoComeBio, Lda)

Spain

Ecoveritas, S.A.

Poland

Biohurt

Organic Farma Zdrowia S.A.

Hungary

Marton Tésztaüzem Kft.

Lázár Vendéglője

Spar Hungary

Czech Republic

Biopekárna Zemanka

Latvia

Vincents Restaurant

Slovakia

Bio Restaurant West

UK

UK award winners will be announced at the dedicated awards ceremony in London at the Houses of Parliament on 29 April. Contact Compassion in World Farming for more information.

Commendations:

Carrefour Belgium

Ekovirtuve SIA (Latvia)

The Green Market (Latvia)

Slnečnica (Slovakia)

Pipers (Slovakia)

Egg production league table of selected EU countries (with those ranking lowest having the highest proportion of eggs produced in battery cages).

Country	Rank	% Laying hen flocks cage-free
Austria	1st	70
Sweden	2nd	61
Netherlands	3rd	53
Denmark	4th	47
United Kingdom	5th	38
Republic of Ireland	equal 6th	32
Poland	equal 6th	32 (2002 est.)
Czech Republic	equal 8th	30
Slovakia	equal 8th	30
Germany	10th	29
Italy	11th	28
France	12th	21
Estonia	13th	20 (2003)
Finland	14th	14
Belgium	15th	13
Greece	16th	10
Cyprus	17th	9 (2003)
Hungary	18th	7
Portugal	equal 19th	2 (2003)

Spain

equal 19th

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No data was available for: Malta, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia

Notes to the Editors

- Photos and broadcast quality footage of battery cages are available
- A scientific briefing on the welfare of laying hens is available
- For more information on Compassion in World Farming and the Good Egg Awards contact Annabel Davis or Emily Durrant on + 44 (0)1483 521973 / 2 or + 44 (0) 7771 926005 annabel@ciwf.org or emily@ciwf.org

More information about the Good Egg Awards including information about award winners, quotes and statistics can be found on www.thegoodeggawards.com