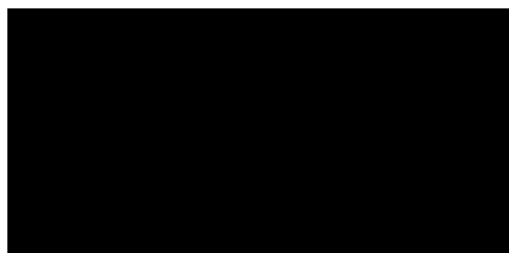




EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate B – Sustainability
The Director

Brussels

██████████ AGRI.B.4(2026)8586158



Subject: Minimum outdoor area mobile poultry houses

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email of 3 March 2026 ⁽¹⁾ in which you seek for clarification on the minimum outdoor area for mobile poultry houses.

For the sake of clarity, I will reply following the order of your questions:

1. Concerning the minimum outdoor area of 2.5 m²/bird for fattening poultry in mobile houses, does it apply to laying hens?

No, the first sentence of Article 15(6) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464 ⁽²⁾ provides that *“Mobile poultry houses may be used for poultry provided that they are moved regularly during the production cycle in order to ensure the availability of vegetation to the birds and at least between each batch of poultry.”* This provision applies to all kind of poultry kept in mobile houses. For indoor areas, the second sentence of Article 15(6) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464² provides that *“The stocking density for*

⁽¹⁾ GREX-COP: (BE) AOB: minimum outdoor area mobile poultry houses - [Ares\(2026\)2330979](#)

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464 of 26 March 2020 laying down certain rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the documents needed for the retroactive recognition of periods for the purpose of conversion, the production of organic products and information to be provided by Member States C/2020/1772 *OJL* 98, 31.3.2020, pp. 2 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/464/oj

fattening poultry laid down in Sections 4 to 9 of Part IV of Annex I may be increased to a maximum of 30 kg live weight/m² provided the surface of the ground floor of the mobile house does not exceed 150 m²." This provision applies specifically to fattening poultry referred to in Sections 4 to 9 of Part IV of Annex I of that Regulation. For outdoor areas, only Section 4 of Part IV of Annex I provides for a specific rule on the stocking density and minimum surface for outdoor area for mobile houses. Therefore, as not specifically set for mobile houses in the case of laying hens, the minimum surface for outdoor area for laying hens (minimum 4 m² per bird) is the one set in Part IV of Annex I to Regulation 2020/464⁽²⁾.

2. Should the minimum outdoor area for mobile houses be respected at all times, or throughout the flock's entire life or production cycle?

As the regulation sets a minimum surface per bird for outdoor areas, it must be respected at all times.

3. If the answer to the second question is negative, what would the acceptable minimum instantaneous outdoor area per bird be?

Please see reply to your second question above.

The present opinion is provided on the basis of the facts set out in your email of 3 March 2026 and expresses the view of the Commission services and does not commit the European Commission. In the event of a dispute involving Union law it is, under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, ultimately for the Court of Justice of the European Union to provide a definitive interpretation of the applicable Union law.

Yours sincerely,

