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#### NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Protective measures according to Art. 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 and in particular prohibiting the import of eggs originating from Ukraine <i>- Information from Bulgaria, supported by Romania</i>

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Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Bulgarian delegation on the above-mentioned subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 23 September 2024.

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**Protective measures according to Art. 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 and in particular prohibiting the import of eggs originating from Ukraine**

***Information from Bulgaria, supported by Romania***

Within the last few years, the agricultural sector has been subjected to a number of serious challenges and unprecedented crises, incl. market crises. The hen's egg market was not spared either, where already in 2023 unusually high import from Ukraine was observed. From the beginning of 2024, the disruptions are deepening and putting pressure on the egg market due to the sharp increase in the import of Ukrainian eggs.

According to Eurostat data, the total import of fresh hen's eggs for consumption from Ukraine to the EU for the period January - June 2024 has grown by 42.7% on an annual basis.

The import to Bulgaria of fresh eggs for consumption from Ukraine in the first six months of 2024 reached 2,618 tons - over five times more on an annual basis, with import prices significantly below those of Bulgarian eggs. The average declared price of the imported eggs from Ukraine for the first half of 2024 is about 0.10 EUR/egg, with a decreasing trend within the period – from an average of 0.11 EUR/egg for January to about 0.06 EUR/egg for May and June.

The extremely high volume of egg imports from Ukraine at low prices is putting serious pressure on prices in the domestic market. Within the first seven months of 2024, the average representative price of eggs from packing centers in Bulgaria has fallen by 25%, to 173.60 EUR/100 kg (about 0.11 EUR/egg) in July. The price in July 2024 is 17.1% lower than the annual average for 2023. National statistics report a decrease in the producer price in the second quarter of 2024 by nearly 23% compared to the same quarter of 2023 and by slightly below 22% compared to the average price for 2023, with relative price preservation of the main production costs (electricity, fuels, feed).

Selling eggs produced in Bulgaria outside the country is also difficult, as the import of Ukrainian eggs into the EU generally displaces Bulgarian eggs from traditional markets. The export of fresh hen's eggs for consumption from Bulgaria for the first five months of 2024 was 4,590 tons - 43.1% below the same period of 2023.

Unfortunately, the protective measures taken so far at the EU level through the adoption of *Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/1827 of 1 July 2024* did not achieve the expected deterrent effect and are not sufficient to alleviate the situation on the egg market in Bulgaria, but the trend of increasing import of eggs from Ukraine is deepening.

According to operational information from the Customs Agency, in July 2024 a substantially larger volume of hen's eggs for consumption was imported from Ukraine to Bulgaria than in July 2023, and this turned out to be the highest monthly quantity imported from Ukraine until now. The current duty has no restrictive effect on imports from Ukraine. Even after adding the duty, the prices for egg imports from Ukraine remain significantly lower compared to those of Bulgarian producers.

Poultry farming is a highly efficient industrial production based on widespread investment, mechanization and automation processes. Unprecedented high levels of imports from Ukraine put producers in a difficult position, creating tension and prerequisites for reducing their competitiveness, as well as the viability of farms in the sector, which plays an important role in the food chain.

**In light of the foregoing, in order to stabilize the egg market and prevent more serious economic concussions with a long-lasting effect, we urge the Commission to take protective measures according to Art. 4, paragraph 1 of *Regulation (EU) 2024/1392 of the European Parliament and of the Council* and, more specifically, to prohibit the import into Bulgaria of eggs originating from Ukraine.**