

# POSITION: **Animal Welfare during transport**

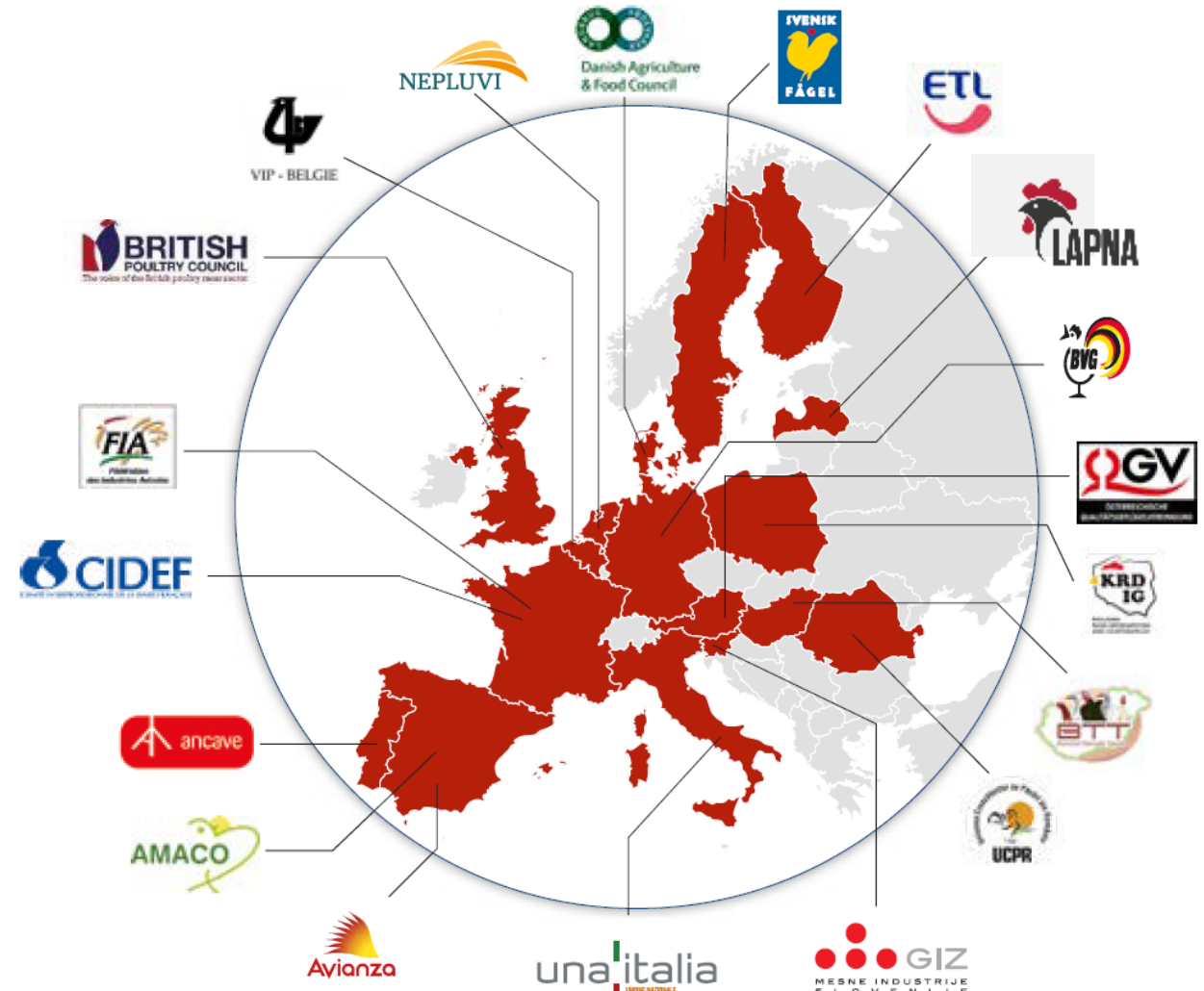
# AVEC, ELPHA & EPB



AVEC is the voice of Europe's poultry meat sector, a trade organisation representing **95%** of poultry meat produced in Europe (27+UK).



EUROPEAN POULTRY  
BREEDER ASSOCIATION



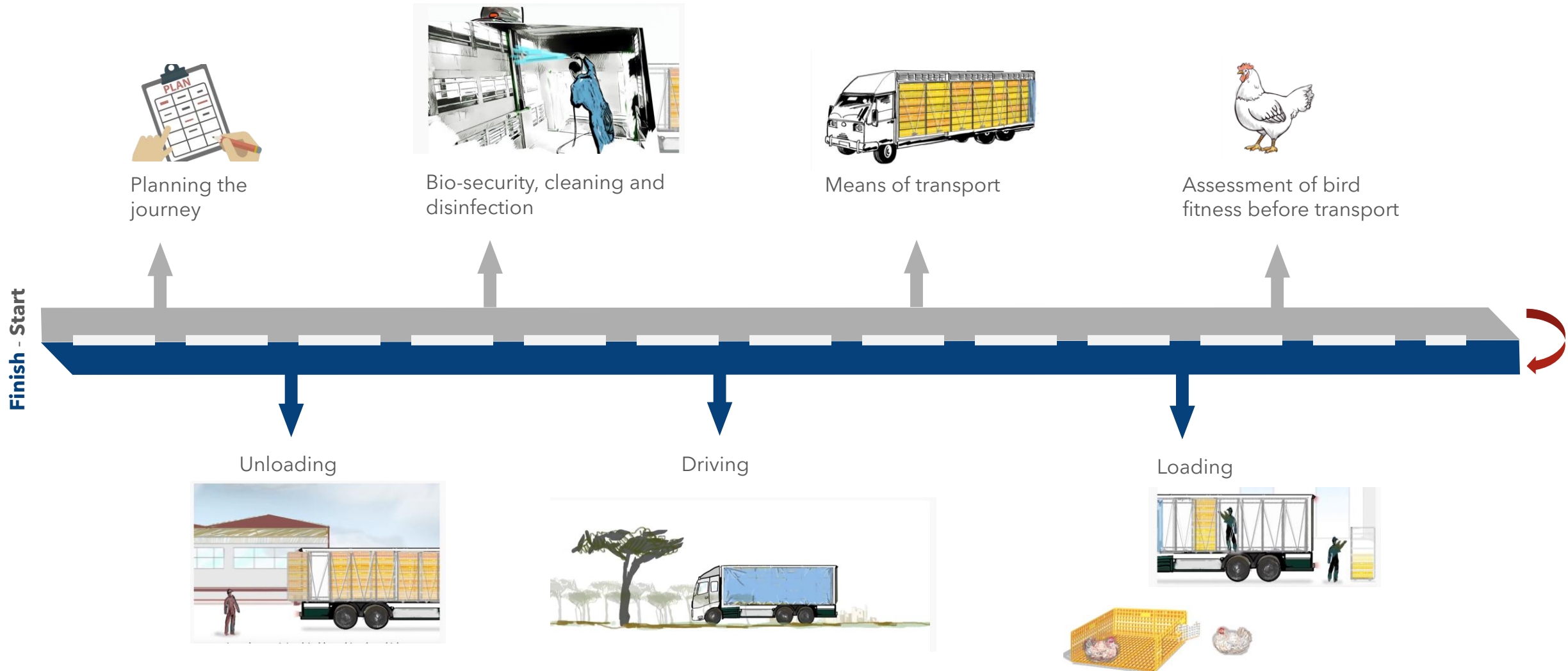


# Covering the chain, from **Breed to Meat**



# Animal welfare during transport

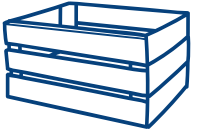
# Stages of a **poultry transport**



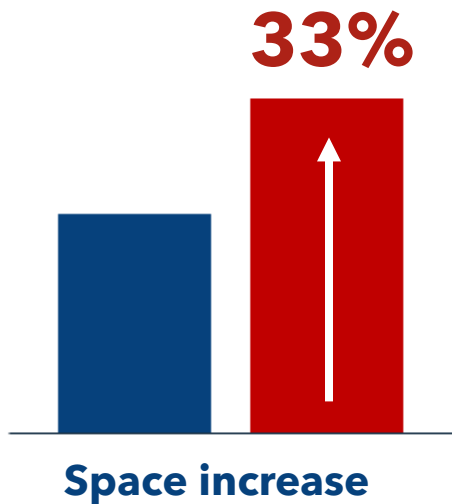
# AW on Transport: Concerns for Poultry



# 1 | Crate Density



Calculations for broilers



Variations of up to **75%**  
for heavy birds or turkeys



## Cold Weather Considerations

Specified animal count per crate is crucial in **cold temperatures** to prevent cold stress (End-of-lay hens & Day Old Chicks).



## Animal Welfare

Increased space in crates **increases the risk of injury, tipping and mortality** for animals during transport.

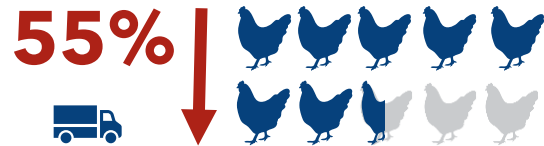


## Logistics and Environmental Impact

Significant increase in space requirements = more vehicles and prolonged unloading + surge in transport movements = challenges for companies' **environmental impact**.

**We must keep current rules in place**

## 2 | Crate Height



Less animals per  
truck



**PROPOSAL** - "Height of the container should **prevent** the comb or head of the bird from **touching the ceiling** when birds sit naturally or change position".



Excessive headspace poses risks of **increased bird movement**, potentially leading to **injuries** and **compromising animal welfare**

**We must keep current rules in place**





# Case Study – 1 Company, 2 Trucks, Same Journey

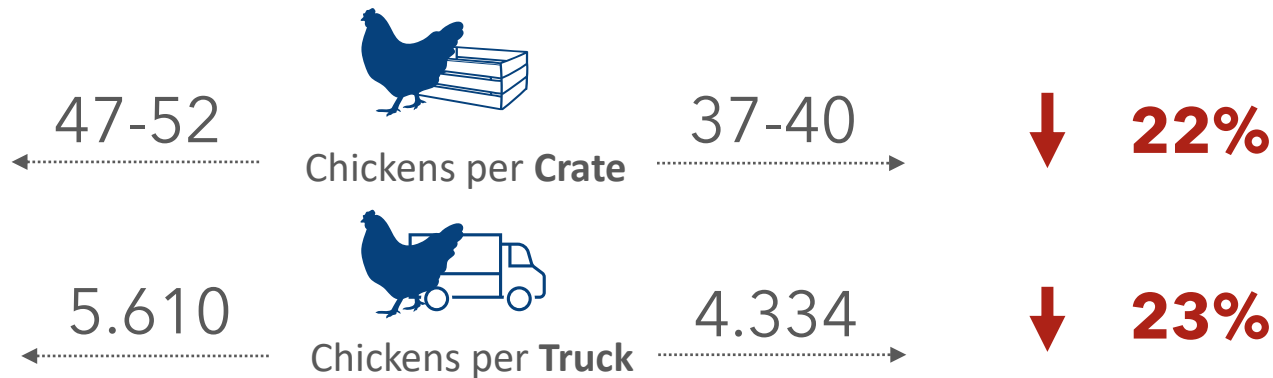
## Current

EU Standard  
(160 cm<sup>2</sup>/kg)

VS

## Proposed Rules

EFSA Proposal  
(200-210 cm<sup>2</sup>/kg)



\*The average **weight** of the transported birds was **3.2 kg**.

\* The transport **distance** was **19 km**.

**Study source:** [“Impacts of Reduced Stocking Density on Broiler Welfare During Transport: Evidence from a Hungarian Study Under Moderate Climatic Conditions”](#) - L. Szöllősi, D. Fróna, L. Mihály-Karnai, A. Csorbai

Stork Marel Atlas container loaded according to:



(a) the current EU regulation (lower crate: 47 chickens per crate)



(b) the EFSA recommendation (lower crate: 37 chickens per crate).

# Case Study – 1 Company, 2 Trucks, Same Journey

## Current

EU Standard  
(160 cm<sup>2</sup>/kg)

VS

## Proposed Rules

EFSA Proposal  
(200-210 cm<sup>2</sup>/kg)

0,36%



Mortalities

0,61%

↑ **69%**  
(relative)

0,57%



Rejections

0,78%

↑ **38%**  
(relative)

5,3%



Injured  
wings/ legs

8,3%

↑ **57%**

3,4%



Bruising

6,8%

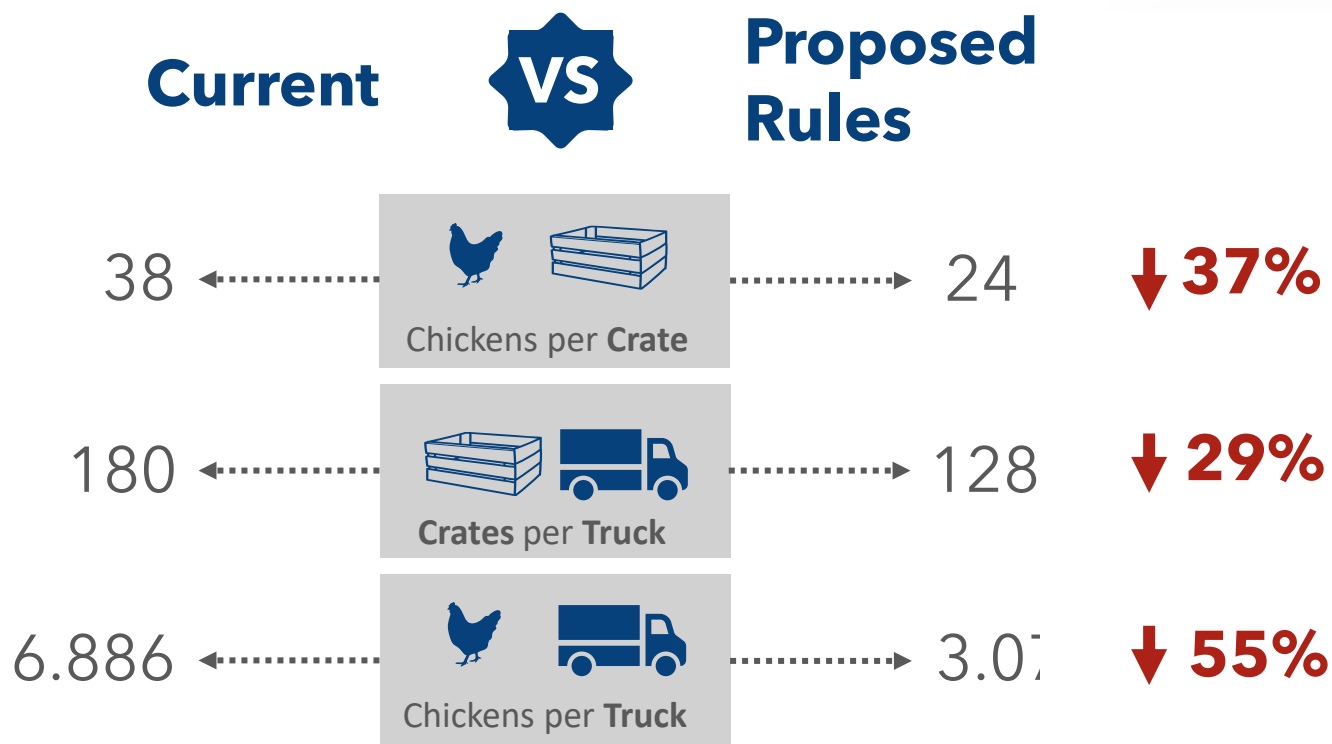
↑ **98%**



Study source: "[Impacts of Reduced Stocking Density on Broiler Welfare During Transport: Evidence from a Hungarian Study Under Moderate Climatic Conditions](#)" - L. Szöllősi, D. Fróna, L. Mihály-Karnai, A. Csorbai



# Case Study – Comparison of Meyn containers with the modification of the interior height for birds of 2.9 Kg

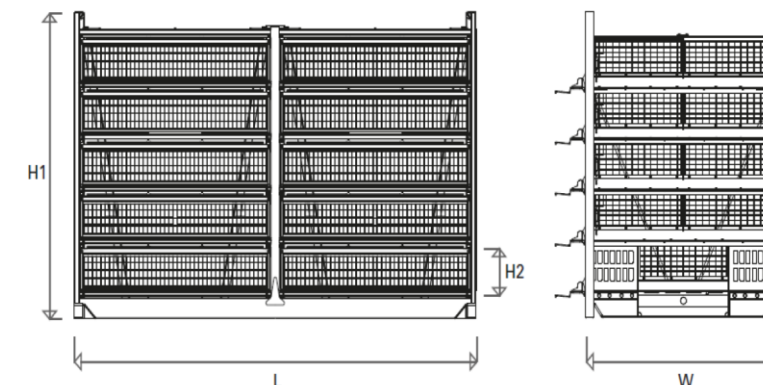


Source: [Avianza Report on the Proposal for an EU Regulation in the field of Transport Impact on Profitability, Efficiency, and Quality of Poultry Meat Production](#)



**Meyn live bird container**

Type EVO



# 3 | Water & Feed During Transport



**PROPOSAL** to provide **feed** and **water** to animals during transport.



Poultry typically undergo a **feed withdrawal period of 8 to 12 hours** before transport to allow their intestinal tracts to empty and maintain integrity.

**Fasting** animals during transport is **crucial** for maintaining slaughterhouse **hygiene** by minimising droppings and fecal contamination of carcasses.





# 4 | Definition of "Journey Time"



**PROPOSAL:** Revised definition of Journey Time includes **loading + unloading**



The catching, loading, transport and unloading will be **rushed** - meaning **worse animal - and human - welfare.**

When the birds arrive at the slaughterhouse there is a mandatory resting period post transport to reduce the inner stress of the birds prior to slaughter. This **resting period would be eliminated = worse animal welfare and meat quality.**



**Loading and unloading should be excluded from the definition of journey time**



# Transport of **day-old chicks**



**PROPOSAL:** Limiting transport time for DOC to **24h**



No more export of parent stock and grand parent stock

No possibility for developing countries in growing poultry for meat – and for eggs

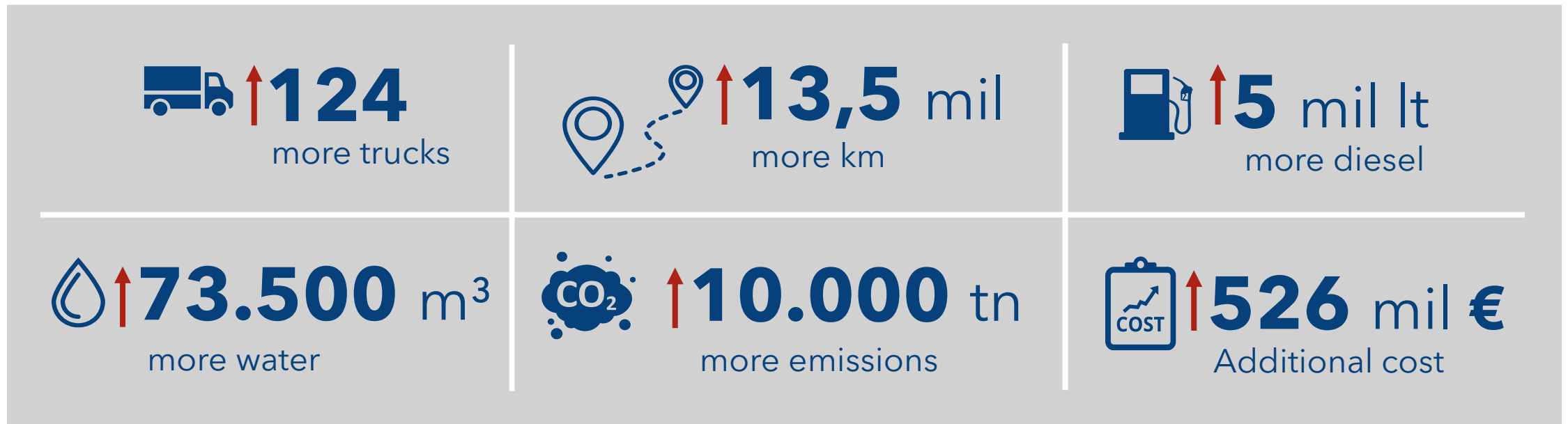
No eggs or meat on shelves in developing countries

Breeding companies leaving EU

**We need 72h to transport DOC (road & air)  
& no feed/water obligation**



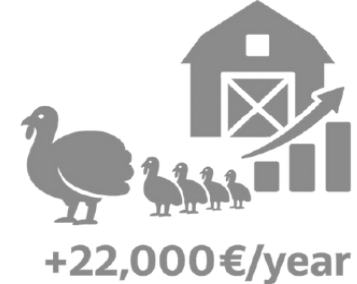
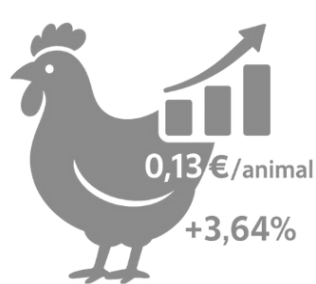
# ■ ■ **Case Study** – Impact assessment of the Draft Regulation on the Transport of Live Animals



**Source:** ITAVI. Figures are calculated on an annual basis of production for all poultry species (CHICKEN, TURKEYS, DUCKS, GUINEA FOWLS, QUAILS)



# Case Study – Ecological and Economic Negative Consequences of Additional Space During Poultry Transport in Germany



**Source:** SCIENCE TO BUSINESS GMBH: The impact of institutional change - Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 - towards poultry industry and consumer markets.



# **Case Study** – Impact Assessment on Transport Regulation

## Loading and unloading time as part of transport time



- Additional pressure on the catching process, which is exactly what needs to be done carefully
- No welfare gain



## Occupancy rate in transport Containers

**↑ 59%**  
shipments

**+ 10 million km**  
/ year

- Uncertainty about welfare gains

## Mandatory veterinary presence

- Impracticable given huge shortage of vets
- No added value



## Container height

**↑ 99,1%**  
transports

**+ 16 million km**  
/ year

**+ 100 million**  
investments

- No welfare gains, risk of additional injuries



# What about **affordability** for **consumers**?



€3.25 → €3.96

▲ **22%** Price increase per  
kg of whole chicken



Source: [Avianza Report on the Proposal for an EU Regulation in the field of Transport Impact on Profitability, Efficiency, and Quality of Poultry Meat Production](#)

# Animal welfare and Sustainability

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# AVEC's proposal

At AVEC, we are committed to the continuous improvement of animal welfare in balance with economic and environmental sustainability.

Alternative methods to enhance animal welfare without imposing undue financial burdens on consumers or exacerbating environmental concerns are necessary. The EU poultry sector **advocates for:**



the development of **output-based animal welfare indicators**, grounded in scientific and objective criteria to assess welfare performance

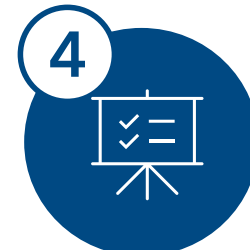


## **effective farm management**

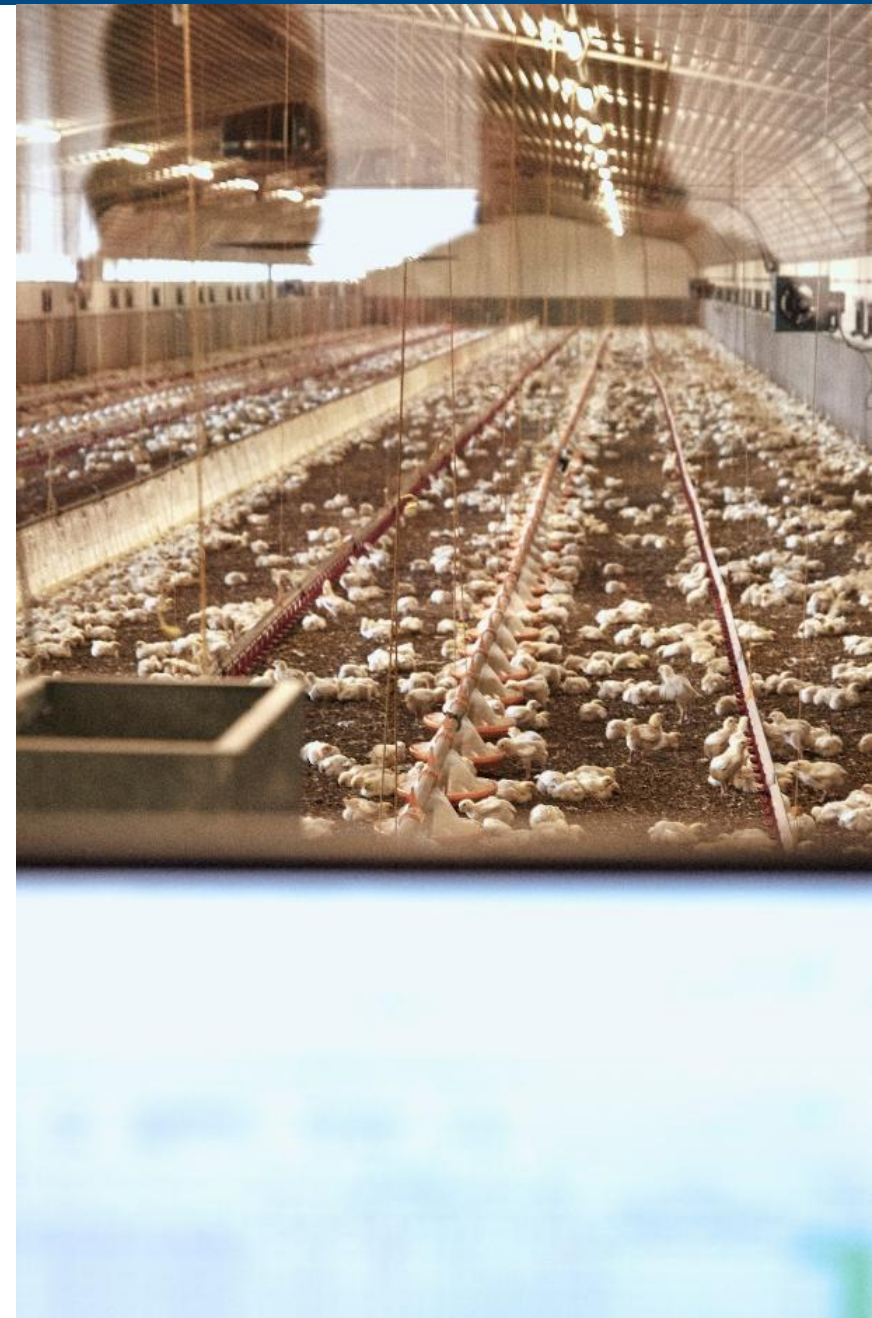
The Greenwell study\* indicates that farm management and day-old chick quality can have a major effect on the welfare performance of a flock and that there is room for welfare improvement in all production systems



## **comprehensive farmer training**



**a framework that incentivises and encourages progress** through realistic and achievable objectives for producers.





# AVEC **Manifesto** for 2025-2029

## Top 5 Policy priorities



Clear **labelling**  
**of origin**



Full  
**reciprocity**  
with imported  
products



Outcome-based  
**animal**  
**welfare KPIs**



Financial support/  
**incentives** for  
poultry farmers



More **R&D** on  
**sustainable**  
**practices** for  
the poultry sector



*Always remember*

**European Poultry  
Meat is part of the  
solution**