

## **VANDEMOORTELE EGG SOURCING CHARTER**

### **CONTEXT**

VANDEMOORTELE purchases eggs, mainly for use in our bakery products and the sauces.

Cage egg production present inherent animal welfare problems, most notably by their small size and barren conditions. Hens are unable to engage in many of their natural behaviours and endure high levels of stress.

Cage-free egg production, while not perfect, does not entail such inherent animal welfare disadvantages and is a very good step in the right direction for the egg industry.

An important step in 1998 was Council Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes which gave general rules for the protection of animals of all species kept producing food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes, including fish, reptiles or amphibians. These rules are based on the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes Search for available translations of the preceding and they reflect the so-called Five Freedoms.

The Five Freedoms is a core concept in animal welfare. It states that an animal's primary welfare needs can be met by safeguarding the following five freedoms:

- Freedom from Hunger and Thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- Freedom from Discomfort by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

- Freedom from Fear and Distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

## **VANDEMOORTELE'S COMMITMENT**

At VANDEMOORTELE we care about animal welfare. We believe it is our responsibility to supply our customers with eggs that have no connection to negative animal welfare issues.

That's why we commit to use only cage-free eggs (\*) as of 2019.

For the eggs used in our sauces we even go further and use only free-range eggs and this already since 2016.

*(\*) apply to all the eggs, egg powders, egg yolks, egg yolk powders, egg whites, egg white powders we purchase.*

Jules Noten\* CEO

\*On behalf of Jules Noten Comm. V