

Confédération Internationale des Betteraviers Européens

INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION
OF EUROPEAN BEET GROWERS



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DE REMOLACHEROS EUROPEOS

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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COMMISSIONER MANDELSON MUST STOP THE CONCESSIONS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS!

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION MUST RESPECT THE COMMITMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL!

After 9 years of WTO trade talks, the European negotiators are ready to destroy the results of the European sugar reform. The European negotiators deliberately ignore the texts adopted by the EU Council and the European Parliament in 2005.

The enormous effort made by the European community and by the European sugar-beet sector in economic, human and financial terms (more than 6 billion euros allocated for the reform) will prove insufficient and unsustainable if the terms of the new proposals, which were drawn up by the Chair of the WTO Agriculture negotiating committee on May 19, are applied.

The severe socio-economic consequences are unacceptable. The possible deal will mean job losses for workers and unbearable losses for farmers and for the European sugar industry. This threatens the viability of the sector. Even Commissioner M. Fischer Boel stated recently that such consequences for the sugar-beet sector had not been taken into account in the sugar reform! She even conceded that the sugar sector might be the hardest hit of all the EU sectors!

Two months ago in an open letter, all stakeholders (CIBE, CEFS, EFFAT, ACP and LDC) strongly warned the European Council and the European Parliament. CIBE now urgently asks the European Commission, and particularly Commissioner P. Mandelson, to reverse the very badly engaged current negotiations, because many points have been totally mistreated and red lines have been crossed.

The sugar-beet sector in Europe has taken its responsibility in terms of restructuring. The Commission must now take its own responsibility in international trade negotiations, respect the commitments it has undertaken and refuse to negotiate further on the current basis.

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