

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPEENS
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CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER
*
MIĘDZYNARODOWA KONFEDERACJA
EUROPEJSKICH PLANTATORÓW BURAKA

111/9 Boulevard Anspachlaan – B-1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 504 60 90 – Fax: +32 2 504 60 99
cibeoffice@cibe-europe.eu – www.cibe-europe.eu

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For more details see www.cibe-europe.eu

Contact: E. LACOSTE

elisabeth.lacoste@cibe-europe.eu

Tel.: + 32 2 504 60 90

European Beet Growers welcome EP agriculture committee call for a prolongation of the current sugar provisions after 2015 and up to 2020

On 23rd January 2013 EP Agriculture Committee MEPs agreed on the shape of the future Common Agriculture Policy and in particular of the future Single CMO and its provisions with regards to sugar. They call for a balanced and consistent package on sugar, including an extension of the current sugar provisions until 30 September 2020, with consolidated flexible market measures (withdrawal of quota sugar and release of out-of-quota sugar).

CIBE welcomes this package voted by a large majority of agriculture MEPs after intensive discussions. "This package addresses the supply issue and will permit to manage different situations of the EU sugar market as well as the volatility of the world sugar market", said CIBE President Jørn Dalby after the vote. Moreover, this resolution maintains and consolidates the contractual framework between sugar beet growers and undertakings. "This is a crucial point for us European beet farmers, confronted with the issue of the sharing of the added value along the sugar supply chain", added Jørn Dalby.

This package takes into account the preferential partners (in particular the duty-free and quota-free access to ACP/LDCs). It also grants refiners a privilege of access to raw cane sugar imports and the possibility for them to access non-preferential sugar at reduced duties when necessary. CIBE therefore stresses that this package on sugar will achieve a balanced sugar market in the future, secure a regular supply for users and consumers and maintain a stable framework for both European and ACP/LDCs further investments, so as to enable the improvement of competitiveness of the sugar beet sector and to ensure its sustainability.

"I would like to mention the work done by the *Rapporteur* M. Dantin and the efforts of the shadows, to acknowledge the priorities for the EU sugar beet sector, its dynamism and the need to consolidate the significant progress made by this sector since the 2006 reform. This work has taken into account the joint position of EU beet farmers (CIBE), EU sugar producers (CEFS), workers' unions (EFFAT) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, strongly countered by purely commercial interest groups", said Jørn Dalby.

CIBE President Jørn Dalby concluded that "this Agriculture Committee vote confirms the previous EP resolution voted in June 2011 and meets the position expressed by a majority of Member States within the Council. This is already a clear signal sent to the Commission so that in turn it extends the sugar provisions up to the end of the marketing year 2019/2020. This package is a good framework for the long-term sustainability of our sector and I now call on all the MEPs to approve it in plenary in the coming months".