

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



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INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

MIĘDZYNARODOWA KONFEDERACJA
EUROPEJSKICH PLANTATORÓW BURAKA

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European sugar beet growers, deeply concerned by the stalemate in the trilogue discussions on the reform of the CAP & CMO Regulation, call for better market safety net and crisis management

Ahead of the Agri Council meeting on 22-23 March 2021 which will discuss the state of play of the trilogue discussions between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission, on the CAP reform and in particular on the reform of the CMO Regulation, CIBE would like to express its support to the position of the European parliament on issues in relation to provisions on crisis management, but also its deep concerns vis-à-vis the Council which appears to block progress in these discussions.

The EU average sugar market price has been significantly below the EU sugar reference threshold during the past consecutive 37 months and remains at that level today, leading to several sugar beet factory closures in the EU. However, no exceptional market measures or safety net measures were implemented. This shows that the current safety net in the CMO Regulation, as far as sugar is concerned, is not appropriate and that some amendments to the CMO Regulation should be introduced. CIBE President Franck Sander urges the Agri Council to take into consideration this reality which hits growers. *“In our sugar beet sector we absolutely need an efficient safety net and crisis management tools to be able to tackle future market crises. We cannot understand the opposition by some Member States in the Council and the lasting hesitation by the Commission. Our market is now largely open to duty free imports and our sector is now market driven, there is no question on that, but we are exposed to highly risky world markets as well as to a highly risky economic and political context.”* CIBE considers that the proposals by the European Parliament to extend the list of products eligible for public intervention in particular to sugar, to improve the monitoring of markets and the crisis management tools, to improve the position of farmers along the supply chain and to avoid the double standard in the EU should be discussed and supported, and that the Commission should play its role to facilitate compromises.

“There is no time to lose and European beet growers and farmers would not understand if no progress could be made on such matters. They will be those directly impacted if ideology prevails and pragmatism fails. EU Institutions’ primary tasks remain to ensure the objectives of the Treaty as far as their livelihood and markets stability are concerned, and these tasks must not be put aside” concluded Franck Sander.