

## CIBE CONGRESS PRESS RELEASE

47<sup>th</sup> CIBE Congress,  
12 June 2025, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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### **Stop the haemorrhage to safeguard sovereignty for Europe's sugar beet supply!**

European Sugar Beet Growers held their 47<sup>th</sup> Congress in Rotterdam from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 hosted by the Dutch cooperative Royal Cosun. They examined the structural challenges faced by sugar beet growers in Europe: in cultivation and processing, in climatic conditions and adoption of low-carbon practices, in economic conditions, costs of production, income and in market disturbances and trading conditions.

High level speakers, including Mrs Esther de Lange, head of cabinet of Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen, Mr Arwin Bos Chairman of Royal Cosun Board and Mr Nikolaus Berlakovich first Vice-President of Copa-Cogeca actively participated in this event which gathered over 200 delegates and guests.

*"The sector has staggered from one crisis to another since 2017. Now, it is no longer cyclical downturn, but deep structural changes and a deep depression experienced by growers. It results from multiple factors: the green transition, the cultivation conditions and the huge problem of our depleting toolbox for crop protection, the climate, and of course the macroeconomic developments, including the increasing costs of inputs, the trading context and EU-Ukraine trade relations",* stated CIBE President Marcel Jehaes.

*"The closure of 20 beet sugar factories in Europe since 2017 and the 5 closures announced this year alone, the end of sugar beet growing in over 30 000 farms, and the dramatic loss in competitiveness and resilience, should alert the EU institutions and all governments and convince them to take actions. The EU's policy framework desperately needs a reset",* highlighted Guillaume Gandon, Chair of the CIBE Economic and General Affairs Committee.

Following the Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food, which has been discussed intensively, CIBE calls on governments and the European institutions to put in place the appropriate short- and long-term policies and tools for a robust and sustainable European beet sector that is attractive, resilient, competitive and economically viable, and to enable our sector to meet the demand for Europe's agri-food sovereignty, bioeconomy and carbon neutrality.

Our proposals and the full CIBE Congress resolutions adopted by its Board of Directors and presented by the CIBE President Marcel Jehaes in his closing speech of the Congress are available on [www.cibe-europe.eu](http://www.cibe-europe.eu).


**Contact: E. LACOSTE**

Tel.: + 32 2 504 60 90

111/9 Boulevard Anspachlaan – Brussels 1000

[cibeoffice@cibe-europe.eu](mailto:cibeoffice@cibe-europe.eu)

[www.cibe-europe.eu](http://www.cibe-europe.eu)

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