

Brussels, 26 September 2024

## PRESS STATEMENT

On September 24 European sugar beet growers held their first Economic and General Affairs Committee (EGAC) meeting on the 2024/25 beet campaign, taking stock of the start of the sugar beet harvest and processing season. The main result of this exchange is the big heterogeneity of the quality of beet, of the beet and sugar yield and the uncertainties regarding the ongoing harvest. Indeed, difficulties related to the satisfactory protection of the crop against pest and diseases, amplified by challenging climatic conditions, make early estimates increasingly problematic.

CIBE members stressed that the beet phytosanitary status should not be overlooked. SBR (Syndrome de basse richesse - Low sugar content syndrome) and RTD (rubbery taproot disease) remain present with possible significant damages, especially in South Germany. The summer drought and intense heat wave, especially in Romania, favoured the development of root fungus difficult to control. The presence of foliar diseases, mildew and especially cercospora, is significant in many European regions which received too much rainfall. The loss of effective active substances to protect the crop from harmful organisms is felt in all regions. Furthermore, the damages caused by the storm Boris in mid-September, which affected Austria, Romania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland, remain to be assessed.

CIBE EGAC Chairman Guillaume Gandon pointed out that *“preparing the next sowing season 2025/26, technical issues and market uncertainties are growing concerns among growers. Many sugar manufacturers already asked growers to decrease their beet area”*.


Once again, CIBE calls on the EU Institutions to actively support the development of effective tools to manage the multiple risks of sugar beet cultivation, to support the development on NGTs, to rapidly bring predictability and maintain strict limitation on imports from Ukraine as from June 2025 and to address the issue of competitiveness with third competitors, in particular by implementing mirror measures.

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