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PRESS RELEASE

EU-MERCOSUR DEAL: ANOTHER BLOW TO EUROPE'S BEET GROWERS AND SUGAR MANUFACTURERS

As the European Commission considers presenting the EU-Mercosur agreement for ratification, the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers (CEFS) and the International Confederation of European Beet Growers (CIBE) warn of the devastating consequences this deal would have on the EU's homegrown sugar sector.

Instead of strengthening Europe's food security and resilience, the EU-Mercosur agreement would undermine them. "It grants Brazil and Paraguay significant new access to the EU sugar market, while turning a blind eye to the use of substances banned in Europe and to environmental damage and social abuses abroad," said Marie-Christine Ribera, CEFS Director General.

This deal would come on top of a string of concessions already granted to major sugar exporters in the world. The cumulative impact threatens to accelerate the decline of EU beet production, weaken Europe's industrial base, and further destabilise rural regions. At the same time, Europe will import more sugar of a lower standard, while our EU exports of sugar-processed products to the US will be negatively affected by increased taxes, threatening billions of euros of EU exports. "European sugar beet growers have had enough, such a trade policy is incomprehensible, unacceptable and always a lose out to us" said Elisabeth Lacoste, CIBE Director.

Europe cannot afford a trade policy that sacrifices its farmers and manufacturers. The EU-Mercosur agreement, if ratified in its current form, would do exactly that. We therefore urge the College of Commissioners to fully consider the multiple impacts that such a ratification would entail.

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