



15 December 2025

CEFS AND CIBE URGE THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE URGENT EU SUGAR MARKET SITUATION

As the sugar beet processing campaign enters its peak period, CEFS and CIBE alert the European institutions to the extremely worrying situation sugar market situation. This year alone has seen the closure of five sugar factories announced, with yet another having announced that it will not process sugar beet during the next campaign. European average sugar prices have fallen 38% since their peak in December 2023 and have reached unsustainable levels. They follow the collapse in world prices, which is due to excessive production in Brazil, India and Thailand and large net short positions of speculators on market futures.

Sugar beet acreage in the EU was cut by almost 11% for Marketing Year (MY) 2025/26. With better climatic and agronomic conditions and consequently higher yields, EU sugar production is not expected to fall to the same extent. EU sugar market prospects for MY 2025/26 are cause for concern, with the potential for large ending stocks. In addition, increasing imports through the Inward Processing Procedure (IPP) – a circumvention of preferential and least-developed country partners to the benefit of low cost Brazilian sugar – are disturbing the Union market since world market prices are exceptionally low and EU sugar production unexpectedly high. Furthermore, new import TRQs from Ukraine, and possibly Mercosur, are adding pressure and reflect an EU sugar trade policy that systematically disadvantages the EU sector.

As sowing decisions for the next MY 2026/27 are being made now, sugar manufacturers have announced to growers their decision to further significantly reduce beet areas in 2026/27.

CIBE President Marcel Jehaes and CEFS President Giovanni Tamburini call on the European Commission and Member States to listen to our concerns and to urgently take actions to stop the chaotic trade situation and stabilise the EU sugar market situation. Two steps should be taken without delay:

- the immediate suspension of raw sugar imports under IPP (already requested along with ACP Sugar and EFFAT some weeks ago); and
- a structured dialogue with the European Commission and stakeholders to discuss how the sugar market situation might be stabilised, e.g. using and improving tools within the CMO Regulation.

CIBE and CEFS call on the EU institutions to support as soon as possible the stabilisation of the EU market and envisage actions to help mitigating the huge volatility they are experiencing and to avoid that the sector experiences another deep crisis.