

Brussels, 13 December 2023

## PRESS STATEMENT ON THE IMPACTS OF SUGAR IMPORT FLOWS FROM UKRAINE

During yesterday's [CIBE](#) Economic and General Affairs Committee meeting, European sugar beet growers took stock of the situation of sugar imports from Ukraine. Since June 2022 and the temporary suspension of customs duties and quota on imports of Ukrainian agricultural products, sugar imports from Ukraine into the EU continue to rise sharply. For this marketing year, more than 30 times of Ukraine's annual import quota (of 20 000 tonnes) is foreseen by Ukrainian authorities.

Contrary to the Commission's recent statements, the impacts of these import flows on sugar beet growers are significant. European sugar beet growers strongly emphasized the urgency of implementing measures to correct these strong negative impacts on EU sugar beet growers and beet processing factories in many Member States, not only those neighbouring Ukraine, and to avert further destabilisation of regional markets and farming activities.

They feel betrayed and are outraged about the double standard by the Commission, with the rapid ban in the EU of numerous active substances used to protect sugar beet, such as neonic-treated seed, while at the same time turning a blind eye to massive imports of sugar from beet in the Ukraine where the use of these active substances is allowed and which is therefore not compatible with the European Green Deal.

At this stage, inaction of the Commission is a clear incentive to encourage the relocation of investments and factories from the EU into Ukraine. *"We strongly stand in solidarity with Ukraine, but European growers can't afford to be the adjustment variable. Together with Copa-Cogeca and other organisations whose members are also heavily affected, we have proposed concrete provisions. We are now urging the Commission and the Council to act and decide accordingly, as some Member States are already taking stand-alone decisions to close their borders to such damaging flows of imports"* concluded Guillaume Gandon, chair of the CIBE Economic and General Affairs Committee.

### Contacts:


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)

 [@SugarBeetEurope](https://twitter.com/SugarBeetEurope)