

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

14 June 2012

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EU Beet Growers united to support the prolongation of the sugar-CMO up to 2020 against the European Commission's proposal

The International Confederation of European Sugar Beet Growers (CIBE), representing 385 000 sugar beet growers from 18 Western & Central European Countries and 55% of world beet sugar production, held its 43rd Congress in Reims (France) from 12th to 15th June 2012. It examined the situation of the world sugar economy and the main economic and political issues currently facing beet agriculture in Europe, with a particular focus on the ongoing discussions on the sugar CMO post-2015.

The recent drastic and economically unjustified proposal of the European Commission to end all the sugar provisions as from 1st October 2015 was largely discussed, challenged and opposed. Representatives of the European Parliament and of the Member States, including the French Minister for Agriculture, representatives of the EU beet sector, as well as the Chairman of the ACP-LDC London Sugar Group, exchanged views on the necessity to reverse the Commission's proposal. Both representatives of the EU beet sector and of ACP-LDC countries agreed that it would be totally unjustified to increase instability and volatility with the unnecessary removal of the tools to manage market supply as from 2015 and called on the European Parliament and the Council to reconsider the Commission's approach.

EU beet growers expressed their strong opposition to the current Commission proposal and hope that the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament would adopt a consistent position, in line with the European Parliament resolution of 23 June 2011. With the support expressed by the COPA President Gerd Sonnleitner in his address on the CAP reform post-2013, CIBE President Jørn Dalby highlighted that *"Beet growing in the EU respects the principles of sustainability at economic, social and environmental levels. After a drastic restructuring process, in a highly volatile and unstable global context, while other third countries adopt strongly regulated sugar policies accompanied by currency policy, why should the EU now take the risk of removing efficient, zero cost tools, thus destabilising the European beet sector and leading to further closures of beet sugar factories?"*

Denouncing the doublespeak of the European Commission, in particular as regards the reinforcement of the role of farmers in the supply chain, and the attacks from some stakeholders, CIBE President Jørn Dalby concluded that *"CIBE will remain fully mobilized throughout 2012 and 2013 to convince policymakers of the need to prolong the sugar regime with the appropriate tools and to consolidate our exemplary contractual framework up to 2020, and this without any attempt to modify, phase out quotas until 2020 or to include new privileges in favour of cane sugar refiners, which would undermine our sustainability and be detrimental for consumers"*.

The full CIBE Congress resolutions adopted by its Board of Directors and presented by the CIBE President in his closing speech of the Congress are available on www.cibe-europe.eu.