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**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**  
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**SUGAR: THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GUILTY  
OF INCREASING THE SHORTAGE OF SUGAR  
ON THE WORLD MARKET**

At their meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the 18 beet-producing member countries of CIBE examined the situation regarding the outlets for sugar from the 2009 harvest.

With almost 90% of the beet harvested, they estimate the quantity of sugar available for exports onto the world market at 2.4 million tonnes, i.e. 800 000 tonnes more than the export licenses already authorised.

Therefore, beet growers request an immediate provision to export above the ceiling of 1.374 million tonnes set by the WTO due to the fact that sugar exports on the world market cannot be considered as subsidised in WTO terms because current world market prices are high.

If the Commission does not take this decision without delay, it will be guilty of contributing to the increasing shortage of sugar on the world market by storing more than 1 million tonnes of sugar, while the world sugar deficit is estimated at 7.2 million tonnes in 2009/10.

For the same reason, the WTO must support this decision, otherwise it will be complicit in a situation where an inappropriate storage policy will cause a new price increase in world prices of a commodity which is indispensable for the food security of the poorest countries.

For these reasons, CIBE calls upon the European Commission, the Council of Ministers of the EU and the Swedish Presidency to immediately correct this unjustified and inappropriate European sugar export policy.