

# Confédération Internationale des Betteraviers Européens

INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG  
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION  
OF EUROPEAN BEET GROWERS



CONFEDERACION INTERNACIONAL  
DE REMOLACHEROS EUROPEOS

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## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E** **21 November 2008**

### **EUROPEAN SUGAR BEET GROWERS STRONGLY REGRET THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SUGAR TAX IN THE CAP HEALTH CHECK AGREEMENT**

The beet/sugar sector will remain the only agricultural sector and furthermore the only sector in Europe where a production charge is levied for the General Budget as an own resource of the European Union!

The abolition of the sugar production charge, which has been weighing on our sector for years, would have totally fitted in with the Health Check's objectives. According to the Commissioner for Agriculture, the Health Check was an effort to streamline, modernize, and simplify the CAP in order to meet the new challenges. But for the European beet/sugar sector this was only words.

The European beet/sugar sector has made huge efforts since 2006 to restructure and improve its competitiveness. The production charge remains an unnecessary and unfair element which penalises our sector compared to competitors.

The Health Check was an opportunity to correct this absurd, anachronistic and above all heavy burden on the European beet/sugar sector. European beet growers are shocked that this opportunity was missed.

This signal maintaining the sugar tax has serious repercussions for European beet growers. European beet growers will therefore persevere and support all the other possibilities to defend their competitiveness and their market.

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