

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAIVIERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
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INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

MIĘDZYNARODOWA KONFEDERACJA
EUROPEJSKICH PLANTATORÓW BURAKA

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Agri Council & EP political agreement on CAP reform: “sugar deal” extends the sugar quota system only to 2017

Yesterday, after one and a half years of hard work and difficult deliberations, the Committee for Agriculture of the European Parliament and the Agriculture Council, under the Irish Presidency, succeeded in agreeing to define the future Common Agricultural Policy, in particular with regard to the future Single CMO and its provisions concerning sugar. This important political agreement between the two co-legislators extends the current sugar provisions, including the sugar quota system, after 30 September 2015 and until 30 September 2017. It also sets up a scheme for the period as from 1st October 2017.

The European beet growers are concerned by this result. They consider that prolonging the Single CMO up to 30 September 2017 instead as 30 September 2020 as proposed by the European Parliament is definitely too short a deadline. Following this result, CIBE President Jørn Dalby stated that “This was not what our sector and the ACP-LDC sugar producing countries need. After a drastic restructuring process of our sector between 2006 and 2009, the European legislators impose on us a further drastic and fundamental change in just a couple of years! This is not good timing. We would have needed more time to further improve our competitiveness in a stable context. Now, the end of the quota system in 2017 will put us in a highly unstable and volatile situation, without any market measures to stabilize the market. It is very disappointing that the Council under the Irish Presidency did not consider this and did not follow the proposal of the European Parliament.”

However, the European legislators decided to maintain the contractual framework between growers and sugar producers after 2017 and for the entire period of the Single CMO Regulation. Jørn Dalby added: “We have to wait for the final texts and the details so as to be able to fully analyse this agreed framework. While the contractual framework will certainly not fully compensate the end of market measures in 2017, it is nonetheless a positive aspect for us as it plays a determinant role in the good functioning of the beet supply chain. Its maintenance reflects the exemplarity of our sector in terms of fair balance of rights and obligations between growers and processors. This structure is crucial for the growers’ income. I thank particularly EP Rapporteur M. Dantin and his team for this point as it can be attributed to his strong commitment and work on this issue from the beginning to the end and I congratulate him on this perseverance.”

Jørn Dalby concluded: “We have spent a lot of energy over the past eighteen months explaining the benefits of this highly sustainable crop. Now we will continue as much as possible to do our job, but the European Commission has also to do its job too. It is crucial that up to 2017 and after 2017, the European Commission be responsible so as to ensure the European market balance and to allow beet growers and sugar producers to secure the sustainability and dynamism of an important sector of European agriculture”.