

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE

DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPÉENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE

DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG

EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

MIĘDZYNARODOWA KONFEDERACJA

EUROPEJSKICH PLANTATORÓW BURAKA

111/9 Boulevard Anspachlaan – B-1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 504 60 90 – Fax: +32 2 504 60 99

cibeoffice@cibe-europe.eu – www.cibe-europe.eu

PRESS RELEASE

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FACING A VOLATILE AND UNSTABLE WORLD SUGAR MARKET EUROPEAN BEET GROWERS CALL FOR TIMELY MARKET MEASURES AND MORE THAN EVER REMAIN FIRM ON THEIR POSITION FOR THE FUTURE

At their General Assembly in Budapest (Hungary, 26th–27th May 2011), the 18 beet-producing member countries of the International Confederation of European Beet Growers (CIBE) discussed the volatility of world sugar markets and the issues concerning the Sugar CMO as part of the present and future CAP.

CIBE members strongly reiterated their position that the stability of the EU market must remain a key priority today and in the future, to protect consumers from supply tightness and to prevent harmful, unnecessary and costly crises which could jeopardise EU sugar production capacity.

The newly-elected CIBE President Mr Jørn Dalby and the newly-elected President of the CIBE Economic & General Affairs Committee Mr Jos van Campen, stated “that after five years of restructuring which resulted in the EU becoming a net sugar importer, this challenging sugar marketing year showed clearly that the increased dependence of the European market on sugar imports decreases its stability. More than ever, EU domestic sugar beet production and appropriate management tools are necessary for a stable EU market and for the EU consumer.” However, CIBE members pointed out, that some improvement needs to be made so that market measures were decided and implemented on time. As a consequence, CIBE members expressed strong concern to a further opening up of the EU sugar market.

Discussing future options with the DG Agri Deputy-Director General Mr J. Pacheco, the CIBE President and the President of the CIBE Economic & General Affairs Committee stated firmly that “CIBE regards any new reform towards increased liberalisation to be undesirable, because it would be detrimental to growers and it would risk compromising the sustainability of European sugar beet production, especially as there is no objective reason to force us towards further reform”. CIBE members were unanimous in warning the Commission of their “red lines”: national quotas, minimum beet price and contracts.

CIBE members welcomed the proposition of the MEP, Mr A. Dess, in his report on CAP reform towards 2020, voted in the EP Committee for Agriculture on 25th May 2011, to extend the current sugar regime until 2020 and to preserve EU capacity of production. Anticipating the EU Commission’s legislative proposals on CAP reform, CIBE members requested as well a renewal of the current sugar regime in order to avoid any weakening of the EU sugar beet sector after 2015. As for the situation post-2020, it is CIBE’s opinion that this issue be examined taking into account in particular the international markets situation in 2020, and that therefore it is highly premature to commit to one option or another at this stage.