



CAP towards 2020: Extension of the Single CMO for sugar necessary to ensure a smart, sustainable and inclusive future for the sugar sector

(6th November 2012) Today's event in the European Parliament brought together EU beet farmers (CIBE), sugar producers (CEFS), workers' unions (EFFAT) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to call for an extension of the Single Common Market Organisation (CMO) for sugar until 2020.

During the lunch debate, the four participating organisations stressed that extending the Single CMO for sugar until 2020 was the best way to ensure that the sugar sector can contribute to a smart, sustainable and inclusive future for Europe and the ACP/LDC (Least Developed Country) suppliers:

The EU sugar sector has been through a major restructure since the 2006 reforms and 83 factories – almost one in two – have closed. As a result, more than 22,000 direct jobs have been lost and more than 150,000 farmers have ended beet cultivation. Therefore, reform of the Single CMO for sugar “should not entail further hardship for those working in the sector, especially at a time of considerable economic and social crisis,” said Harald Wiedenhofer, EFFAT General Secretary.

A robust and competitive sugar industry will drive the rural economy, especially in areas with a long tradition of beet growing. “While the sector is becoming more competitive, it needs some time to ensure its investments pay off. The sector needs stability and predictability,” said CEFS President Johann Marihart.

“The future for beet in Europe looks promising, provided that its dynamism and all the efforts made so far are not undermined by inconsistent decisions which would jeopardise its sustainability”, reinforced CIBE Vice President Jos Van Campen. “The contract model in the beet sector is also exemplary”.

Speaking on behalf of the ACP Group, Ambassador Gomes of Guyana, also called for a smart, sustainable and inclusive future for some of the world's least developed countries. Highlighting that many are long standing trading partners with small and vulnerable economies, he insisted on “coherence between the EU's agricultural, development and trade policies”.

“The European market must remain stable to maintain a viable market for suppliers, particularly those in ACP/LDC countries” he said.

In short, there was clear agreement that extending the current EU CMO for sugar until 2020 would help to maintain decent employment and contribute towards development goals at a time when it is most needed. Above all, it would guarantee stability while providing sufficient sugar supplies at sustainable prices for growers, processors, suppliers, workers and consumers.

For further information:

CIBE (International Confederation of European Beet Growers)

www.cibe-europe.eu

CEFS (Comité Européen des Fabricants de Sucre)

www.cefs.org
www.eurosugar.org

EFFAT (European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions)

www.effat.eu
www.eurosugar.org

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group

www.acp.int