

# International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE  
DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE  
DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



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INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG  
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

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EUROPEJSKICH PLANTATORÓW BURAKA

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## European sugar beet growers at a turning point- new CIBE President elected

European Sugar Beet Growers held their 46<sup>th</sup> Congress in Gdańsk from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. They examined the main economic and political issues currently facing sugar beet growing in Europe, with a special focus on the management of risks, the trade policy, the issues of the European Green Deal and the consequences of the war in Ukraine.

High level speakers, including EU Commissioner for Agriculture Januz Wojciechowski, Polish Deputy Minister of agriculture Mr Norbert Kaczmarczyk, Jerzy Chróścikowski, Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of Senate of the Republic of Poland), Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski, Chairman of the Council for Agriculture and Rural Areas to the President of the Republic of Poland and former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, representatives of the European Parliament, of whom MEP Ms Ulrike Müller, representatives of the European Commission and the President of COPA Ms Christiane Lambert, participated in this event which gathered around 150 delegates and guests.

*“European Beet Growers are staggering from one crisis to another. The post-quota crisis was followed by the Covid-19 crisis, then the energy crisis and the crisis of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and its dramatic consequences on input costs, without mentioning recurring risks in the protection of the beet crop”* stated CIBE President Franck Sander. *“However, the increase in world sugar prices is a good signal for our EU domestic price for the season to come. We really hope that higher prices on the EU market will allow to recover some profitability during the next season. This is crucial after years of depressed prices”*, he added.

*“By the diversity of its valorizations, sugar beet symbolizes the multifunctionality of agriculture through the production of sugar, alcohols for different uses (spirits, cosmetics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, hydroalcoholic gel, fuel bioethanol), biogas, biomaterials (car dashboards, packaging) and animal feed. It plays an important role in the crop rotation in many European regions and can contribute greatly to the challenge of low carbon agriculture. European sugar beet can help address the challenges of food, energy and climate change. To that end, it needs to remain attractive, and our sector should get the necessary tools and support to respond to effectively to these challenges”* underlined Franck Sander.

European sugar beet growers are working for better risk managements tools and safety nets, for increasing investment in precision agriculture, in new breeding techniques, in alternatives to chemical plant protection products, in innovation, in low carbon farming, in the developments of non-food outlets for sugar beet products. They also support the introduction of mirror measures in EU trade policy as well as the introduction of cane sugar in the legislation on due diligence on imported deforestation. *“We do our work, but the support of EU Institution and Member States is necessary if Europe wants to maintain its security of supply, its sovereignty and its strategic role in the production of this key commodity”* concluded Franck Sander.

The full CIBE Congress resolutions adopted by its Board of Directors and presented by the CIBE President in his closing speech of the Congress are available on [www.cibe-europe.eu](http://www.cibe-europe.eu).

The mandate of Franck Sander ending at the end of the Congress, Marcel Jehaes (Confédération des Betteraviers Belges, Belgium) has been elected CIBE President for the next two-year term.