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JOINT STATEMENT

CEFS & CIBE ALERT ON DISPROPORTIONATE SUGAR TRQ INCREASE THREATENING THE EU SUGAR SECTOR

Following the release of details on the revision of Article 29 of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (DCFTA), CEFS and CIBE express serious concern over the proposed increase of Ukraine's white sugar tariff rate quota (TRQ) from 20,070 to 100,000 tonnes - a fivefold rise.

Such a substantial increase for sugar stands in stark contrast to the European Commission's earlier commitments to maintain limited and carefully calibrated increases for sensitive sectors.

The EU sugar sector is already under pressure: over 20 sugar factories have closed since 2017, including five in 2025, and the number of beet growers has declined by 25%. Meanwhile, duty-free imports from FTA partners are forecast to reach 1.7 million tonnes by 2025/26, further straining the market.

Ukraine deserves support during these difficult times, yet it cannot be the case that only a few sectors bear that cost. CEFS and CIBE therefore firmly oppose the proposed increase to 100,000 tonnes, representing an almost 400% increase of the current TRQ - one of the biggest increases among all sensitive products. Moreover, any market access must be strictly conditional on Ukraine's immediate alignment with EU production, labour, and environmental standards. We ask the EU to further elaborate on the enforceability of this requirement. And effective and easily triggerable safeguard mechanisms must also be put in place to protect the EU sugar sector against potential market disruptions.

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We call on the Member States and the Commission to correct the current provisions.

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