

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
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INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

MIĘDZYNARODOWA KONFEDERACJA
EUROPEJSKICH PLANTATORÓW BURAKA

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CAP Reform deal: a missed opportunity to strengthen market safety net for European sugar beet growers after 3 years of crisis

Following the result of the final trilogue between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the CAP reform, CIBE notes that the legislators have considered the sugar beet sector as a key one in these negotiations. Unfortunately, this has not led to an adequate and concrete decision to make sugar eligible for public intervention and strengthen the resilience of the sector.

The current safety net in the CMO Regulation has proven inappropriate during the recent sugar market crisis, with EU average market prices falling up to 21% below the sugar reference threshold and remaining below this threshold during 39 consecutive months without any exceptional measure being activated. CIBE President Franck Sander commented that *“In our sugar beet sector we absolutely need an efficient safety net and crisis management tools to be able to tackle future market crisis without jeopardizing our production potential. We supported the European Parliament proposal and the work of its negotiator Eric Andrieu to make sugar eligible to public intervention and we regret the continued obstruction of the Commission which has been unwilling for months to support our sector during its worst market crisis. Our market is now largely open to duty free imports and our sector is now market driven, but it is the role of Europe to build up the tools to face the most severe market imbalances which can be destructive for farmers and industry revenues and the sector’s sustainability.”*

Nevertheless, CIBE takes into consideration the joint Council, European Parliament and Commission statement issued on the EU sugar sector and call for a “Sugar package” by the end of the year to give the tools to the European beet sugar sector to contribute on a long term basis to meeting the European food sovereignty and Green Deal challenges. *“We will further engage on such issues, including the issue of double standards in relation to imported sugar”* concluded Franck Sander.