

CIBE STATEMENT

13th November 2023

Ahead of a crucial vote on 22 November on the proposed Sustainable Use of Plant protection products Regulation (SUR), sugar beet growers urge MEPs to adopt the line defined by the European Parliament's AGRI Committee and reject the one defined by the ENVI Committee.

[CIBE](#), the International Confederation of European Beet Growers, which represents 120 000 sugar beet farmers in the EU, is extremely disappointed by the text adopted by the EP ENVI Committee on the Commission's proposal for an SUR.

Marcel Jehaes, CIBE President stressed that *"this text by EP ENVI Committee remains, for many of its provisions, out of touch with growers' realities. Setting arbitrary quantitative targets or banning chemical plants protection products in sensitive areas (except with hypothetical and burdensome derogations) as proposed, without discussing and considering European agricultural production and its costs, is a nonsense. To consider reducing quantities through mandatory targets is simplistic and ignores risk management as well as the fact that many active substances are disappearing – and have already disappeared - from the farmer's toolbox. We said it before, and we say it again: no bans without solutions! Fixing targets for biocontrol is also unrealistic: as attractive as biocontrol may seem, it is not an effective solution for growers in the short and medium term"*.

Furthermore, IPM is an important principle widely applied by sugar beet growers, but to make these practices mandatory and rigid in their implementation is not realistic and even risks being counterproductive. Finally, all this text contains too many legal uncertainties and burdens that have little to do with the sustainable use of plant protection products. But it is a clear attack against conventional sustainable agriculture, which feeds Europeans. A wake-up call by MEPs is essential to limit the damage this text will do to European farmers and food sovereignty", CIBE President underlined.

The Commission's proposal is a badly drafted one, the majority of MEPs of the EP AGRI Committee have recognized this and managed to bring some realities to it, in line with farmers' daily work. Therefore, CIBE is calling on MEPs to support the line defined by the EP AGRI Committee.

About CIBE

Gathers national and regional associations from 14 European beet-producing countries as well as the United-Kingdom and Switzerland. It represents and defends the living of 140 000 farmers, for a total EU production of around 15 million tonnes.