

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAVERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

MIĘDZYNARODOWA KONFEDERACJA
EUROPEJSKICH PLANTATORÓW BURAKA

111/9 Boulevard Anspachlaan – B-1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 504 60 90 – Fax: +32 2 504 60 99
cibeoffice@cibe-europe.eu – www.cibe-europe.eu

PRESS RELEASE

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SUGAR TENSION: EU BEET GROWERS SHARE CONCERNS WITH GROWERS FACING CALAMITY DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND PUSH FOR ACTION TO CALM THE MARKETS

All CIBE growers are deeply concerned by the difficulties and financial damage endured by their English colleagues with their 2010/11 crop as well as express solidarity with Australian growers strongly affected by the tropical storm Yasi which has ravaged farms in Queensland. These show the significant risks taken by growers and demonstrate how crucial it is that these risks be shared in a balance way by all the partners along the supply chain.

Climatic difficulties and disasters have affected a large number of sugar beet and sugar cane growers around the world this year. This has led to an exceptional situation on the world sugar markets as well as on the EU domestic market. The world sugar markets are skyrocketing and some regions in Europe are facing supply deficits. This exceptional situation demands appropriate policies and timely measures.

Total EU sugar beet production for this MY 2010/11 is sufficient to adequately supply the EU market on condition that the EU Commission takes the decision of selling EU out-of-quota sugar onto the EU domestic food market without delay. CIBE growers have been pointing out this necessity since October 2010. This decision is simple and was suggested by the EU Commissioner for Agriculture in January 2011. It must be implemented now.

By delaying this implementation, or by suggesting inappropriate modalities, or by suggesting that the EU would seek additional sugar imports, the Commission will be guilty of an inappropriate storage policy and of contributing to an increase in the lack of sugar on the world market which would push the EU and world prices of a commodity indispensable for the food security of the poorest, to record highs.

For these reasons, CIBE calls upon the EU Commission to immediately issue its proposal to sell out-of-quota sugar on the EU food market and to anticipate the MY 2011/12 by announcing an out-of-quota export tranche as soon as possible. These are the necessary measures which need to be taken in order to adapt EU beet area and sugar output before final sowing decisions, to reduce the tensions on the EU and world markets for the next campaign.

Contacts: E. LACOSTE - Tel.: + 32 2 504 60 90