

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



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European sugar beet growers call on the European Commission to ensure legal clarity and market stability of the EU sugar market up to 2020

As from 1st January 2014 a new CAP has entered into force, the analysis of this context and its constraints and consequences up to 30th September 2017 reflect the narrow path that European beet growers need to go down. Today at their General Assembly in Solothurn (Switzerland) European beet growers together with their newly elected President Bernhard Conzen and Vice-Presidents Eric Lainé and Jørn Dalby, call on the European Commission:

- to ensure legal clarity and market stability of the EU sugar market up to 2020;
- to ensure level playing-field and to avoid any distortion of competition between sugar producers and isoglucose producers, in particular to ensure an equal treatment between sugar and isoglucose with regards to carry forward;
- to confirm the lift as from 1st October 2017 of the WTO sugar export limit imposed currently to the EU;
- to stand firm on bilateral or multilateral agreements which will negatively impact the EU market and harm the trade preferences granted to ACPs and LDCs;
- to support the rapid adoption of a stable and consistent EU directive on renewable energy ensuring at least the current bioethanol investments and rejecting u-turn in terms of bioethanol targets.

In particular European Beet growers adopted the following position:

- the need for a careful adjustment of the beet areas while the quota regime remains in place up to 30th September 2017 and beet growers have to implement the new CAP, including reduced direct payment for many of them and a more burdensome frame of greening measures to be implemented;
- the opposition to sugar temporary measures (additional raw sugar imports and out-of-quota release) when the EU market is sufficiently supplied with quota sugar, out-of-quota sugar and preferential imports;
- the support to trigger private storage aid when necessary and in the event the EU sugar market price reach the very low level forecasted by the Commission in its study on Prospects for agricultural markets and income 2013-2023;
- the need to prepare in depth and in a balanced way with sugar producers the interprofessional agreements to be in force as from 1st October 2017 when the quota system will be abolished;
- the achievement of the joint CIBE-CEFS-EFFAT sustainability partnership so as to promote and communicate more widely on the features which sustain the European beet-sugar production model;
- the stimulation of Research & Development and innovation through projects with technical beet institutes so as to improve further the beet sugar competitiveness.