



CIBE - International Confederation of European Beet Growers
represents the European beet growers
Contact person: Elisabeth Lacoste
Boulevard Anspach 111 - B-1000 Brussels
Tel: + 32 (0) 2 50 46 094 - Fax: + 32 (0) 2 50 46 099
cibeoffice@cibe-europe.eu



CEFS – Comité Européen des Fabricants de Sucre
represents the European sugar manufacturers and refiners
Contact person: Marie-Christine Ribera
Avenue de Tervuren 182 - B-1150 Brussels
Tel: +32 (0) 2 762 07 60 - Fax: 32 (0)2 771 00 26
cefs@cefs.org

P R E S S R E L E A S E

27 January 2010

OUT-OF-QUOTA SUGAR 2009/10: THE EUROPEAN SUGAR-BEET SECTOR WELCOMES THE TEMPORARY MEASURE PROPOSED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European sugar beet growers (CIBE) and the European sugar manufacturers (CEFS) welcome the announcement today by Commissioner Fischer-Boel allowing the export of an additional 500,000 tonnes of out-of-quota sugar in the 2009/10 marketing year.

The EU Commission has made the right proposal at the right time in response to an exceptional marketing year whilst preserving the internal market balance (it should be noted that since 2008 EU sugar has been exported without refunds). Nobody can argue against these unusual market conditions: world sugar prices are soaring, reaching new heights, well above the market price for EU quota sugar as a result of adverse weather conditions in India and Brazil. EU sugar beet yields are breaking records and EU sugar production for 2009/10 has been higher than expected due to positive climatic conditions, leading the EU to have a unique opportunity to supply the world market with additional quantities.

CIBE and CEFS also noted that for the next campaign the EU intends to open imports for industrial sugar and exports for out-of-quota sugar at the same level as in previous years (400,000 t and 650,000t respectively). However, this should not pre-empt next years' market conditions. The EU Commission should be ready to react and make full use of EU export potential, if and when needed, whilst remaining in compliance with its WTO commitments.