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## AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CEFS AND THE ECF-IUF

The Comité Européen des Fabricants de Sucre (**CEFS**) and the European Committee of Food, Catering and Allied Workers' Unions within the IUF (**ECF-IUF**) representing the interests of their members within the European Union's sugar sector - agree to create a structure for information and exchanges of views which, if appropriate, may lead to concerted action.

### *1. Name and Statutes*

The structure is called the "European social dialogue within the sugar sector".

The social dialogue is based on Article 118b of the Treaty of the European Community and on the Treaty on European Union of February 7th 1992, especially its Agreement on Social Policy.

According to this agreement and the principle of subsidiarity, the two organizations wish that the European Commission will agree to consult them in good time on all questions which may have a specific impact for the sugar sector, in particular on social questions.

### *2. Object of the social dialogue within the sugar sector*

- The social dialogue within the sugar sector concerns :
- information and exchanges of views on all questions connected with European legislation and Community policy that have economic or social repercussions for the sugar sector (common organization of the market, international agreements, food laws, the environment, social questions, etc.).
- Work carried out together, for example with regard to health and safety vocational training, within the framework of the Community's major vocational training programmes.
- The possibility of drawing up joint statements on subjects of common interest.
- The possibility to intervene jointly, if necessary, in the frame of the Social , Protocole.
- The rights and competences of the social partners at national level remain unchanged. The European social dialogue can neither replace the national social dialogue nor be used as an appeal body.

### *3. Obligations of the organizations*

Within the framework of this dialogue, the two parties retain complete autonomy as regards organizational and sectoral matters and general policy, both internally and in their relations with the outside world.

The CEFS recognizes the ECF-IUF as the legitimate representative of the workers' interests and respects trade union rights at national **and company** level, in accordance with ILO resolutions 87, 98 and 135.

The ECF-IUF recognizes the CEFS and its members as the European organization representing the sugar companies and national federations operating on the territory of the European Union.

The objective of the two organizations is to cooperate constructively in the interest of the sugar sector and its employees.

The social dialogue is established exclusively on a consensual basis. As soon as a form of consensus is reached on a given question, the two parties undertake to communicate the joint position paper or statement to the outside world.

Joint position papers or statements must be approved by the competent bodies of the two organizations before their publication.

#### ***4. Plenary sessions***

The organizations meet once a year in principle, within the framework of the social dialogue and under the aegis of the European Commission, in order to address the matters described under point 2.

These annual sessions are to be organized in coordination and consultation with the different national delegations within the sugar sector, which are to be represented at the said meetings.

The agendas and preparatory documents are drawn up within the Liaison Committee.

The following may attend the annual sessions

- the General Secretary of the ECF- I U F or his deputy;
- a representative of each ECF organization active within the European sugar sector;
- two or three representatives of the Secretariat of the Comité Européen des **Fabricants de Sucre**;
- a representative of each CEFS national delegation;
- guests chosen by the two organizations;
- representatives of the European Institutions.

#### ***5. Liaison Committee***

The Liaison Committee comprises two representatives of the ECF-MF and two representatives of the CEFS.

Its purpose is to prepare for the meetings, establish the agenda and draw up any joint preparatory documents, and invite the participants.

In emergencies, it may draw up and distribute joint position papers or statements in the name of the Committee. In such cases, the agreement of the competent bodies of each organization must be sought beforehand in writing (**by telefax**).

#### ***6. Operating costs***

The ECF and the CEFS wish that their annual plenary sessions will continue to be organized under the aegis of the European Commission, under the usual conditions, according to the rules of the Commission.

The meetings of ad hoc working parties addressing the matters described under point 2 will - whenever possible - be organized with the support of the European Commission, according to its specific rules.

When taking place in the CEFS offices in Brussels, the working languages will, if necessary, be the three CEFS languages : **French, English, German.**

### ***7. Duration of the Agreement***

Amendments to this Agreement are possible at any time, with the approval of the signatories to the Agreement.

Termination of this Agreement must be by written notification with advance notice of three months.

Brussels, 12th November 1997

**For ECF-IUF**

**Harald WIEDENHOFER**  
**Secretary General**

**For CEFS**

**Jules BEAUDUIN**  
**General manager**

**Gilles CIBRON**  
**Chairman of the**  
**Committee on social**  
**Questions**