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Brussels, 15th July 2004

Mr Stavros DIMAS
Member of the Commission
200, rue de la Loi
1049 - Brussels

Dear Commissioner,

On 7th February 2003, the social partners of the European Sugar Industry, CEFS and EFFAT, jointly signed a Code of Conduct on Corporate Social Responsibility in the sugar industry covering the European Union (please see document attached).

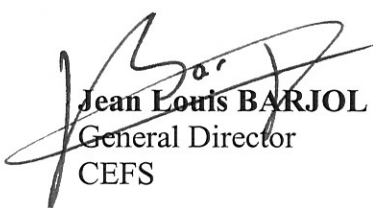
Acting as a framework to promote a number of social issues, like "Human rights", this Code states that the European Sugar Industry complies with the principles and rights at work defined by the International Labour Organization, and in particular refers to ILO conventions covering the freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, the opposition to forced or child labour, or to any kind of discrimination (ILO conventions 87, 98 and 135, 29, 138 and 182, 100 and 111).

It is interesting to note that, in the frame of the special incentive arrangements for the protection of labour rights, the EU scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period 1.1.2002 - 31.12.2005 refers to the same ILO conventions [ILO conventions 29, 98, 138, 100, 111 - Council Regulation N° 2211003 of 15.12.2003 - OJ L 332 of 19.12.2003 - See 6th Recital and Art. 14 (2)].

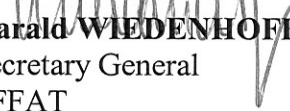
Article 29 of the International Sugar Agreement (1992) states that "*Members shall ensure that fair labour standards are maintained in their respective sugar industries and, as far as possible, shall endeavour to improve the standard of living of agricultural and industrial workers in the various branches of sugar production and of growers of sugar cane and sugar beet.*"

Since 16 EU countries are to date Members of the ISO, the social partners of the European Sugar Industry would kindly ask the Commission to write to the International Sugar Organization in order to underline that, with the support of the Code of Conduct in the European Sugar Industry, it has positively contributed to implement Article 29 of the International Sugar Agreement (ISA). It also seems to us that the Commission could constructively suggest to ISO to check if others of their members have contributed to the implementation of the Article 29 of ISA in a similar or equivalent way.

Hoping the Commission will be able to respond favourably to our request, we remain


Jean Louis BARJOL
General Director
CEFS

Yours sincerely,


Harald WIEDENHOFER
Secretary General
EFFAT