

International Confederation of European Beet Growers

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DES BETTERAVIERS EUROPEENS

CONFEDERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE
DEI BIETICOLTORI EUROPEI



INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER

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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 15th November 2011

EU BEET GROWERS MEET THE PRESIDENT OF THE EU AGRICULTURE COUNCIL AND SHARE CONCERNS OVER COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON SUGAR

On 14th November, at the occasion of the EU Agriculture Council in Brussels, CIBE met Mr Marek Sawicki, President-in-office of the EU Agriculture Council, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland. The CIBE President Mr Jørn Dalby and CIBE Vice-Presidents B. Conzen, J. Van Campen, E. Lainé and S. Barnaš expressed their concerns over the Commission's radical legislative proposal on the future of the sugar common market organisation (CMO) post-2015. They presented to Mr Sawicki, and at their press conference held on the same day, the CIBE position for a sustainable post-2015 EU Sugar beet sector:

- to extend the provisions in the sugar sector, including the sugar quotas, at least up to 2020
- to preserve and reinforce the sugar beet contractual framework, including the interprofessional agreements and the minimum beet price,
- to preserve current market management instruments (out-of-quota, carry forward, withdrawal) and consolidate the safety net to ensure the supply of the EU market ("reverse withdrawal"),
- to improve the timing and the implementation of market measures for a better reactivity to market developments,
- to abolish the sugar production charge as from 2015/2016,
- to adopt EU trade policies consistent and compatible with the EU sugar policy,
- to propose a review clause in 2018 in order to analyse the EU and global markets and discuss the future sugar CMO at that date.

Referring to the exchanges on the sugar issue within the Council, Mr Sawicki advised CIBE to raise and strengthen its voice: "You do not need to convince those like me who are in line with you but to actively convince those who think otherwise".

CIBE President Jørn Dalby expressed his satisfaction regarding the discussion with Mr Sawicki: "I would like to thank Mr Sawicki for meeting us and for sharing our concerns regarding the future of the sugar beet sector in Europe, put at risk by the Commission's proposal. Our sector remains strategic and is very dynamic in terms of improving environmental sustainability and as regards a fair sharing of risks and benefits between farmers and processors, as highlighted during CIBE's annual technical meeting last week in Ystad in Sweden. This dynamism must not be swept aside. We take note that during the Council meeting some Member States have clearly supported our position. We will continue to work so that the Council will take full account of our position during the legislative procedure in the coming months".

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