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Brussels, 20 March 2012

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***Assessment of the CSR Code of Conduct in the sugar industry  
in the light of the ISO 26 000 Guidance on Social Responsibility***

Dear Sir,

In 2011, the European social partners of the sugar industry had committed to assess the CSR Code of Conduct in the sugar industry in the light of the ISO 26 000 Guidance on Social Responsibility issued in 2010 and the 2011 UN framework on Human Rights. Please find attached for your information and circulation to the persons concerned the Joint Statement they have adopted at the plenary meeting of their social dialogue committee held 28.2.2012, complemented with a detailed analysis.

In this Joint Statement the social partners emphasize the specificity of the sugar Code of Conduct, which is applied at sectoral level within the frame of the European social dialogue. They recognize that the Code addresses practically all ISO core subjects and practices, either in a direct way through its eight minimal standards, or an indirect way through about fifty concrete examples of practice illustrating positive behavior at national/company level going beyond the minimal standards.

The Code has over the years ensured a strong management commitment at European, national and local level. It helped in particular to anticipate and manage restructuring and continuous change in the frame of globalization. In this context, the European social dialogue has provided for an open dialogue forum. The annual CSR reports serve as a benchmark to assess the priorities and development of the SR process in the sugar sector over the years. The ninth CSR implementation report was just published. The European social partners of the sugar industry will continue their joint review of the code on an ongoing basis and strive to secure that it keeps updated, effective and in line with the latest benchmarks and guidelines emerging in the field of CSR at a European and global level.

Remaining at your disposal for further information,

Yours Sincerely,

**Harald WIEDENHOFER**  
Secretary General - EFFAT

**Marie-Christine RIBERA**  
Director General - CEFS