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EUROPEAN SUGAR USERS EXPERIENCE SERIOUS SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES ON THE EU MARKET

*CIUS is the Committee of European Users of Sugar.
CIUS represents the European sugar-using food and beverage industries. CIUS members purchase and use almost 70% of the European annual consumption of sugar through its incorporation in a wide variety of added-value products and provide direct employment for over 350,000 people.*

CIUS MEMBERS ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO EXPORT 350 000 T OUT-OF-QUOTA SUGAR

CIUS members welcome the Commission's decision to suspend the Euro 98 per metric ton import duty on CXL concessions sugar. The move is seen as a positive step towards maintaining European Union sugar market balances although not significant enough to address the scale of the current issue.

CIUS expresses serious concerns regarding the proposal to open an additional 350,000 metric ton export quota for out-of-quota beet sugar. Internal market sugar balances remain challenged by lower than expected preferential sugar imports.

Furthermore, an established downward trend in year on year carry over and end of season stock levels means that European sugar users could face serious difficulties in sourcing sugar due to the availability and increased risk of 'out of stock'. A negative withdrawal, allowing this volume of sugar to be sold in the internal market, should be applied.

CIUS asks the Sugar Management Committee and the European Commission to reconsider its proposal to export 350 000 T of out of quota and instead **propose the release of out of quota on to the domestic market** making it available for European sugar users.

However, this by itself will not resolve the deficit situation on the market and therefore we urge the Committee and the Commission **to consider further steps that may be necessary to ensure that market balances are maintained, such as a temporary tariff rate quota on world market imports.**