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## CIUS POSITION STATEMENT ON THE SUGAR REGIME POST-2015

*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 LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

CIUS's long term objective is for sugar market deregulation managed through a carefully prepared transition period that will ensure continued security of supply. The Common Agricultural Policy governing sugar should be simplified and ultimately move to full liberalisation. CIUS recognises that this process will take time.

- CIUS supports a market that will ensure European consumers have ready access to sugar of acceptable quality at fair prices.
- CIUS supports a robust and competitive sugar industry in Europe (processing sugar beet and refining cane sugar) that allows efficient producers to optimise and maximise their output in accordance with market conditions.
- In the long term, production, whether from locally grown beet or imported raw sugar, should be driven by natural market forces. CIUS believes that the European market will provide the beet sugar industry and farmers with sufficient incentives to encourage continued sugar production. European demand alone should support domestic beet sugar production without the need for heavy protective barriers. The possibility to export without restrictions will provide additional opportunities to this industry.

## CIUS' EXPECTATIONS OF THE FUTURE REFORM OF THE EU SUGAR REGIME

### CIUS expects:

1. Availability of sugar in the EU to be a balance between EU production and imports, being fair to all players.
2. Production to be sustainable, ethical and respectful of the environment, whatever the origin.

### The reform of the EU sugar market must:

1. Give EU low cost producers the possibility to scale up and develop production without restrictions. Production quotas must disappear from 2015 onwards.
2. Ensure EU beet sugar production remains sustainable in the long term while increasing its competitiveness.
3. Continue to improve the supply of sugar for EU consumers, respecting the high levels of social compliance, quality and environmental standards of EU production.
4. Account for significant, unexpected and rapid changes to global and internal EU market supply and demand conditions.
5. Recognise that the sugar industry has diversified and is not just producing sugar but other items such as bioethanol and energy for the grid.
6. Simplify the Common Market Organisation for sugar and abolish the production charge.
7. Allow EU market forces to determine fair price. Farmers, processors and consumers must manage market price volatility. The necessary tools for managing risk, such as a futures market, should be developed.

### EU sugar regime reform should also consider that:

1. ACP/LDC countries must maintain full access to the EU market.
2. Third countries negotiating bilateral agreements with the EU should have easy access to the EU market. CIUS supports increased market access for sugar from countries entering into bi-lateral agreements with the EU. Sugar is an important element in helping the EU negotiate and obtain trade concessions with other states.
3. Duties should be scaled down progressively over time and eventually the market should be open to duty free imports from any origin.