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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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EU BEET GROWERS AND SUGAR MANUFACTURERS WELCOME THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE ON THE REPORT ON AGRICULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

After a very important debate at the European Parliament, the report on “Agriculture and International Trade” was adopted in the plenary session in Strasbourg today. CIBE and CEFS warmly welcome this report and congratulate the rapporteur for this very important and strong contribution towards a consistent EU trade policy and for the support given to the EU farming sector and, in particular, to the EU sugar beet sector.

The issue on consistency between EU agricultural policy and EU trade policy is a matter of great concern for EU sugar beet growers and beet sugar manufacturers. This report, prepared by the EP Committees for Agriculture and for International Trade, reflects these concerns, outlines the challenges raised by trade liberalisation and current trade negotiations at multilateral and bilateral levels, and proposes a number of comprehensive recommendations to balance EU agriculture and the development of trade.

The call of the EP today not to sacrifice some agricultural sectors, of which the sugar beet sector, in global trade negotiations, to support the high quality and high standards of EU agriculture and food products, to guarantee the development of the EU agricultural model, and to recognise agriculture as a strategic factor in the EU economy and EU 2020 strategy, is a sound and coherent message and a key step towards the sustainable development of EU agriculture and, in particular, of our EU sugar beet sector.