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CEFS PRESS RELEASE

Restructuring of the sugar industry – Renouncement of sugar quota by 31 March 2008

CEFS members have lodged by 31st March 2008 applications for renouncing an additional 800 000 tonnes of sugar quota. This volume represents roughly 70% of the target calculated by the Commission for this second step of quota renouncement for 2008/2009. All in all since the beginning of the restructuring process the sector renounced 5.640 million tonnes of quotas corresponding to 94% of the 6 million tonnes target decide by the EU. To achieve this restructuring 75 factories have been closed and 10 000 jobs have been lost. After having been the leader on the world market as white sugar exporter, EU will be from 2008/2009 onwards one of the major deficit market in the world and therefore the second biggest sugar importer after Russia.

The EU sugar sector has done his part of the job. It is now up to the Commission to do its own part of the job by consolidating the restructured EU sugar market in the multilateral or bilateral trade negotiations. It would not be understandable to face additional pressures on quotas or prices due to external agreements.