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CEFS STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF CANE MOLASSES UNDER REACH

Brussels, 3 August 2010

To : All pre-registrants of Molasses (EINECS number 270-698-1)

The European producers of sugar from beet and cane (represented by CEFS, the European Sugar Producers Association) have asked a leading European REACH expert body, TNO in the Netherlands, to evaluate the status of cane molasses as a substance for registration under title II of the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of December 18, 2006 and its Annexes IV and V as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 987/2008 of October 8, 2008.

The TNO report on **cane** molasses follows a previous report (2009) by the same body which concluded that **beet** molasses is a REACH substance, which is expected to be exempt from registration based on the criteria of Annex V, point 8. At that time, although the substance is generally seen as safe, two types of tests, skin and eye irritation studies, were carried out to further support the non hazardous status of molasses. The test results clearly showed that molasses has not to be classified as irritating to the skin or the eyes. It completed and confirmed the TNO report conclusions that beet molasses are exempted from registration.

The TNO report on **cane** molasses concludes, as expected, that molasses from cane (as for beet) is a REACH substance, which is exempt from registration based on the criteria of Annex V, Entry 8.

On the particulars of the report, the TNO study was released on 8 July 2010 and it evaluates from a REACH perspective:

1. The natural origin of the source materials for the production process
2. The characteristics of the manufacturing process
3. The chemical characterization of molasses
4. The hazard properties.

These parameters are compared with the criteria of the REACH Regulation and the exemptions for registration as laid down in Title II and the revised Annexes. The evaluation contains a brief description of the source materials (section 1), followed by an outline of the production process (section 2), the chemical characterization of molasses with a comparison of the occurrence of the constituents in sugar cane juice (section 3) and a consideration of the hazard classification of molasses (section 4).

Copies of the dossier may be obtained by interested companies upon request to CEFS (reach@cefs.org). A small contribution to the costs incurred by CEFS in this work will be requested from non-CEFS members (EUR150 plus VAT as applicable) in exchange of a copy of the TNO report on cane molasses.