

Confédération Internationale des Betteraviers Européens

INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG
EUROPÄISCHER RÜBENANBAUER
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION
OF EUROPEAN BEET GROWERS



CONFEDERACION INTERNACIONAL
DE REMOLACHEROS EUROPEOS
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PRESS RELEASE

New Common Organisation of the Market in Sugar

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PAINFULLY DELIVERS A DISPUTED REFORM WHERE EUROPE ABANDONS ITS SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SUGAR AND CONDEMNS 120 000 BEET GROWERS AND 80 SUGAR FACTORIES

The European Commission has had a political compromise adopted by the Council of Ministers on its Sugar Reform after three days of restricted meetings during which each country has had the chance to present its demands at length.

The majority of the most threatened countries have obtained some respite.

The European beet growers are to suffer price cuts of about 40%, slightly less harsh and slightly more staggered in time than in the COMMISSION's proposal, but as we unfortunately feared, their income is seriously diminished and this applies whichever country they belong to.

Additional quotas, in particular for isoglucose and sugar refining, will lead to a further increase in the volume of the sugar which has to be withdrawn from the market in 2006/2007.

Indeed, one cannot expect the restructuring scheme to be very efficient in 2006/2007.

Therefore, it is necessary for the European beet growers, country by country, to adapt their area under beet in the knowledge that they will no longer be able to freely export non quota sugar and that a considerable percentage of quota sugar will have to be withdrawn from the market in order to guarantee price equilibrium. However, from now on, this price equilibrium will be very precarious since the Sugar Regulation cruelly lacks efficient management instruments.

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