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PRESS STATEMENT:

EU TRADE POLICY REVIEW MUST CREATE A LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD INTERNALLY AND GLOBALLY

During the 17th June 2021 webinar the European Sugar Manufacturers (CEFS) discussed how the EU Trade Policy Review can generate added value for EU economic operators, in particular sugar producers, against the background of the green and digital strategy of the EU.

Ms Cristina Rueda-Catry, cabinet member of Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis in charge of the Trade Review Policy provided an insight into the rationale behind this Review and the key pillars of work. She opened the door to further dialogue and cooperation with EU economic operators and insisted that the trade policy review is meant to set out the direction of the trade policy review in certain areas but is not exhaustive in terms of work program of the Commission.

CEFS President Paul Mesters explained that the changes the EU sugar sector had been confronted to in recent years, notably the abolishment of EU sugar quotas, had obliged the sector to adapt. *'The EU Green Deal will require further efforts and investments of the sector, which we are willing to embrace'*, he added.

He went on to emphasize that it is however striking to see the EU sugar manufacturers are confronted to third country competitors that do not have to live up to the same high environmental, social and operational standards as their EU counterparts and that this is not always adequately tackled via Free Trade Agreements and trade relations with third countries overall. *'The EU should make sure that via its Trade Policy Review EU sugar is allowed to compete on a sustainable level-playing field internally and globally'*.

For further information, read [CEFS's Future of EU Trade Policy](#) brochure highlighting 6 priority actions.

Founded in 1953, CEFS represents **European beet sugar manufacturers**, cane sugar producers and refiners covering sugar production in 18 EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden) plus the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

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