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## PRESS STATEMENT

### **EU SUGAR ACCESS TO CANADA: CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRIBUNAL DECISION A STEP AGAINST FAIR TRADE AND LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

After conducting a review proceeding the Canadian International Trade Tribunal issued its findings on the antidumping and countervailing measures imposed by Canada since 1995 regarding imports of refined sugar from the European Union.

CEFS representing European sugar manufacturers participated fully throughout the months-long legal process conducted first by Canada Border Services and subsequently at the Tribunal. While we will assess in the next days all the details of the Tribunal decision, CEFS is deeply disappointed to report that the Canadian Authorities have determined to further prolong unjustified and, in our view, illegitimate antidumping and countervailing duties on imports of EU sugar.

The situation of the EU sugar industry changed radically with the 2017 sugar reform, which instituted a complete overhaul of the EU sugar market, including the abolition of the quota regime, and a profound market liberalization of the EU industry. Support to the sugar industry has been mostly terminated since 2017, and any remaining subsidy is fully WTO-compliant, and either not trade distortive, or too insignificant to cause injury to the Canadian industry.

The Tribunal decision constitutes a fundamental misapprehension by Canada of the depth and extent of these substantial reforms and will result in a prolongation of an unjustified and obviously highly protectionist measure, limiting opportunities for EU producers. This decision will also raise questions concerning Canada's commitment to trade liberalization in the CETA assessment and ratification process ongoing in many EU Member States.

CEFS supports the EU Commission in this specific case in considering all possible options to ensure that fair trading conditions are restored including further appropriate legal action.

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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