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## PRESS STATEMENT

### ITRE COMMITTEE ADOPTS PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE REVISION

Yesterday the European Parliament's ITRE Committee adopted its report on the revised Renewable Energy Directive.

The report takes some pragmatic positions. On the cascading use principle (whereby raw materials are used in a specific order to maximise resource effectiveness) it makes clear that the proposed implementing regulation should cover only forest biomass.

CEFS Director General Marie-Christine Ribera said: "The ITRE Committee's report confirms that the energetic self-use of residues and waste from processing of agricultural biomass should be part of the solution to phase-out fossil fuel use and support EU energy independence. The EU beet sugar sector can contribute to these goals, for example by producing biogas from sugar beet residues. We hope that the European Parliament as a whole recognises this when it adopts its final position on the RED in September."

CEFS also welcomes the report's call for Member States to increase the availability of renewable alternatives to fossil-fuel based energy use for industrial heat applications. However, we are concerned that the text could be misinterpreted: it should be clarified that the text, which calls for an end to the use of fossil-fuel based for applications requiring maximum heating temperatures up to 200°C by 2027, applies at the point of production and not at the point of use. Without this clarification it could be interpreted as calling for a phase-out of all production of

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industrial heat & steam by 2027. This would make the production of sugar in the EU next to impossible.

Finally, the report strikes the right note on bioethanol: a key outlet for sugar beet. It largely maintains the framework for crop-based biofuels as proposed by the European Commission, with a crop cap set at each Member State's 2020 final consumption of energy in transport, allowing +1% flexibility with a maximum of 7%.

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