

## PRESS STATEMENT

### EUROPEAN SUGAR SECTOR ON THE WAY TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

Today CEFS (the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers) publishes its brand-new Climate Neutrality Toolbox. The comprehensive document looks at how to decarbonise EU beet sugar production by 2050 and the tools needed.

Climate change is already impacting sugar beet cultivation, with droughts and pest infestations posing challenges for growers across Europe. Addressing the main cause, greenhouse gas emissions, is imperative. Our sector has demonstrated its commitment to sustainability by reducing emissions by 59% between 1990 and 2021. Looking ahead to the future, CEFS members are estimating 30% emission reductions by 2030. But how do we get there?

CEFS Director-General Marie-Christine Ribera said: "We cannot define a clear roadmap for our sector as every sugar factory is different. But our sites share common characteristics that impact decarbonisation pathways: namely seasonality and the rural location of our factories. This means that we cannot just rely on electrification to decarbonise. Sugar manufacturers have to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency. Tools such as energy management and heat recovery, along with electrification technologies such as heat pumps, can support progress towards climate neutrality. The speed of implementation of these solutions will depend on the availability of competitive low-carbon electricity in the long-term."

She went on: "Because direct electrification cannot be only the decarbonisation solution for our sector, we need biogas- and biomass-based strategies. We can make use of readily available on-site sugar beet residues for energetic purposes and, where there is availability, use external biomass and biomethane. On-site renewables and externally procured electricity and heat are already playing a supplementary role and will continue to do so."

The document underlines that a policy framework that is fit for purpose and financial support are needed. This means sensible implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive as well as a revised Energy Taxation Directive that does not overburden biomass fuels. Financial support will be essential to support the billions of euros of investments needed, for example from the Recovery & Resilience Facility, ETS funds, and State aid (facilitated by the Temporary Crisis & Transition Framework).

 Avenue de Tervuren 268, B-1150, Brussels, Belgium

**Contact:**

For press inquiries to CEFS, please contact Judith Schrenk, Communications & Social Affairs Officer, at

E: [judith.schrenk@cefs.org](mailto:judith.schrenk@cefs.org)

T: +32 493 82 75 50

For more information on the EU beet sugar industry, please consult:

[European Sugar Statistics Report for the marketing year 2021/22](#)

[The EU Sugar Industry Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2020-21](#)

**About CEFS:**

CEFS, the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers, is an international non-profit organisation and a recognised interlocutor for the EU Institutions since 1953, sharing knowledge and technical expertise on sugar.

CEFS' membership is composed of sugar-producing companies in the EU and Switzerland.

Find out more about CEFS and the EU beet sugar industry [here](#).