



Brussels, 24 November 2023

**« SUR » REJECTED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:**

**THE WORST HAS BEEN AVOIDED**

[CIBE](#), the International Confederation of European Beet Growers, and [CEFS](#), the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers, closely followed the European Parliament's rejection of the Commission proposal for a Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR). Intensive work done by the European farmers with the consistent support of some MEPs to reverse the most extreme and detrimental provisions contained in this proposal were met with ideological stubbornness from the proposal's supporters, resulting in its ultimate rejection.

*"The Commission's proposal was fundamentally wrong from the start, as it was clearly designed to oppose the different types of agriculture and undermine conventional agriculture, the backbone of the EU's sovereign and sustainable food system."* said Marcel Jehaes, President at CIBE. *"Many MEPs have worked hard to try to introduce realism and pragmatism. But in the end the opponents have shown that they do not care about building bridges".*

CEFS President Paul Mesters agreed: *"Several European stakeholders and political groups held ideology, rather than science-based viewpoints, which would cause huge difficulties for farmers. These farmers produce the food that Europeans rely on every day"*. He added: *"We need to work with them, not against them, to develop sustainable solutions that can help face environmental and climate change-related challenges."*


The issue of crop protection remains crucial for European sugar beet growers. It will not disappear with the rejection of this proposal. The current regulatory framework is already impacting beet growers severely. The progressive loss of active substances is a real challenge for them, affecting the sugar supply chain and the competitiveness of our sector. *"We will continue to work in this adverse context. We repeat our call to the EU Institutions for appropriate support to investments and research & development to further improve our sustainability. We hope that the EU's strategic dialogue on agriculture will tackle this and we are ready to contribute."*, concluded CIBE and CEFS Presidents.

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