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## PRESS STATEMENT

### GIOVANNI TAMBURINI ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CEFS

The European Association of Sugar Manufacturers (CEFS) is pleased to announce the election of Giovanni Tamburini as its new President, following the conclusion of Paul Mesters' successful mandate. The announcement was made during the CEFS Congress held on 6 June at Pairi Daiza, Belgium.

The longest serving member of the CEFS Praesidium, Giovanni Tamburini brings extensive experience and a deep-rooted commitment to the European sugar sector. He currently serves as Vice President of COPROB-Italia Zuccheri, the only remaining beet sugar producer in Italy. He is also President of Italia Zuccheri Commerciale and sits on the board of Italia Zuccheri Energia.

Commenting on his election, Tamburini said: "The end of quota system in 2017 and the European Green Deal have taken the European sugar sector into uncharted territory. Over the last 10 years the sector and its fundamentals have changed dramatically. Stability and profitability must be prioritised. We face challenging years and we must work with the European Commission to ensure that the regulatory framework is fit for purpose for EU sugar manufacturing and beet cultivation."

Tamburini succeeds Paul Mesters, CEO of Cosun Beet Company, who led CEFS with distinction since 2018. Under Mesters' presidency, CEFS strengthened its advocacy at EU level, prioritised emissions reduction and sustainability, expanded its communication capacity, and engaged in key policy debates on trade, climate and competitiveness. A well-respected figure in the industry, Mesters is known not

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only for his strategic leadership but also for his approachable style, sense of humour, and passion for the sector.

Reflecting on his term, Mesters said: "It has been a great honour to serve as President of CEFS over the past seven years. I am proud of what we have achieved together: strengthening the voice of our sector in Brussels, supporting the sector's sustainability efforts, and deepening cooperation among our members. I have every confidence that Giovanni Tamburini, with his deep knowledge and long-standing commitment to the sugar sector, will lead CEFS with vision and determination. I wish him all the best in this new chapter."

CEFS members express their deep gratitude to Paul Mesters for his leadership over the past seven years and warmly welcome Giovanni Tamburini as the new President.

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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](#).