

COMITE EUROPEEN DES
FABRICANTS DE SUCRE
CEFS
182, avenue de Tervuren
1150 – Brussels
Tel. 322/762 07 60

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM
EFFAT
38, rue Fossé-aux-Loups
1000 - Brussels
Tel. 322/218 77 30

261

Brussels, April 25th 2005

Mrs Odile QUINTIN
Director-General
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Employment and
Social Affairs
200, Rue de la Loi
1049 – Brussels

Communication on restructuring and employment

Dear Madam,

Further to the meeting that you kindly granted us on February 21st, following the Commission's Communication on restructuring and employment of March 31st 2005, we would confirm that as a result of legislative changes due to the imminent reform of the sugar regime, the European sugar industry is soon going to find itself faced with massive restructuring likely to lead in a short period of time (two to three years) to the loss of about 20,000 jobs out of the existing 60,000.

As indicated at the Liaison Forum on restructuring held on April 11th 2005, the social partners in the sugar sector welcome the Commission's Communication and the different initiatives presented (see summary note attached). They are ready to play their role to the full within the framework of their sectoral social dialogue committee, but also expect the Commission to involve them closely in the process set in motion to manage the restructuring.

In particular, they wish to be associated with the reinforced sectoral follow-up for certain sectors undergoing rapid and far-reaching changes as provided for in paragraph 2.1.4 b) of the Communication.

Also, given the considerable sectoral and regional impact that is to be expected, they would like the Commission to agree to examine the possibility of Community intervention in the event of a crisis, as mentioned in paragraph 2.1.3. This sectoral impact can be assessed more accurately once the proposed reform is known, i.e. before next summer.

Within the context of the Communication in course of preparation on the sectoral dimension of industrial policy referred to in paragraph 2.1.4.b), the social partners are surprised that the development of the sugar sector is not included among the priorities for 2005, and would ask the Commission also to include the sugar sector in its analysis.

Finally, the social partners wish to be allowed to participate in the "Restructuring" Forum to be set up in 2005 (§ 2.2).

Trusting that you will be able to examine these questions in a positive manner, we remain at your service and that of your departments to discuss the situation in greater detail.

Jean-Louis BARJOL
Director-General
CEFS



Harald WIEDENHOFER
General Secretary
EFFAT



c/c Mr Fernando Vasquez
Mr Jackie Morin
Mr Carlos Lopes