

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SUGAR SECTORAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR 2009

Reform of the sugar regime and social consequences

The social Partners will continue to follow up the future developments of the revision of the sugar reform. This implies mutual work in relation to the challenges arising from the initiatives taken by the European institutions as well as mutual information on the restructuring trends, good examples and obstacles.

Corporate Social responsibility in the European sugar industry

The sixth implementation report of the corporate social responsibility Code of Conduct for the year 2008 is planned to be presented at the plenary session of the sugar sectoral committee on 27 February 2009:

- political and economic context (Revision of the sugar reform and potential impact – New EU arrangements with third countries having an impact for the sugar market) ;
- corporate management of the restructuring;
- implementation of the Code of Conduct (communication, standards, examples of good practice).

This report, as well as the new examples of good practice, and the conclusions of the joint plenary meeting, will as usual be introduced on the website www.eurosugar.org after the meeting.

Employability in the European sugar industry

The social partners in particular plan to develop a joint project on improving employability in the European sugar industry in the context of restructuring. They have asked for a specific funding from the Commission to conduct this project. The project will in particular include following items:

- . developing a joint definition of the "employability" concept in the sugar industry.
- . highlighting some best practice examples illustrating different employability aspects
- . outlining the future needs of the sugar industry in terms of skills and qualifications.

A seminar will be organised to present the results of the works carried out and facilitate the exchange of views before finalizing the project.

Major external challenges facing the European sugar industry

The social partners will continue to assess the developments in relation to the international trade commitments of the European Union which could influence the European sugar industry and produce joint positions and joint letters as needed (Economic Partnership Agreement, current revision of preferential rules of origin, imports of sugar and sugar mixings and their management, Non Annex I products, Reach Regulation implications...).

Any other business

Notwithstanding the commitment of CEFS and EFFAT to have this year again a focus on the priorities of their work programme, they agree that unforeseen topical issues may request their collaboration.

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