



Social Dialogue in the EU Sugar Industry

Brussels, 30 January 2019

Draft report of the plenary meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Dominique Braoudé (CEFS) and co-chaired by Mr Roberto Iovino (EFFAT).

1. Approval of the 12 October 2018 report and of the agenda

The participants approved the report and adopted the agenda.

The participants also approved the proposed work programme and in particular the idea of submitting a project's application to the European Commission on the sugar industry's future (careers and jobs).

2. EU sugar market situation and market management tools

Mr Garcia Navarro (DG Agri) made a presentation (attached) regarding EU sugar production. EU production is expected to be lower in 2018/19. Nevertheless, prices continue to fall. Mr Garcia Navarro stated that the European Commission does not envisage measures to alleviate the situation at this stage.

Discussions ensued with the participants who brought to the attention of Mr Garcia Navarro their alarm regarding the sugar market decline and unfair trading practices worldwide. Both EFFAT and CEFS requested that EFFAT be admitted to the next meeting of the High-level group on sugar (19 March 2019), established to discuss the EU sugar market situation.

Action: the participants agreed to a common declaration (attached) denouncing the inaction of the European Commission to stabilise the EU sugar market.

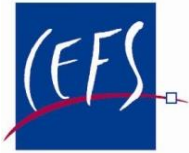
3. Brexit update from CEFS

Mr Josh Gartland (CEFS) made a presentation on Brexit (attached). Discussions remain highly volatile and the result uncertain.

The participants noted the information.

4. Policy updates from DG Employment

Mr Joé Rieff (DG Employment) gave an overview over several items: upcoming elections, ESF+, work-life balance Directive, written statement



Directive, European Labour Authority and the Council Recommendation for Access to Social Protection.

The participants noted the information.

5. Delivering a sustainable circular bioeconomy

Mr Bernard de Galember (CEPI) made a presentation (attached) promoting the circular economy and inter-sectoral linkages, on new value chains offering opportunities for activities in the rural economy to shift from a fossil-based to a bio-based economy.

Discussions ensued with the participants and the example in Italy of recycling sugar beet biomass into packaging products for the food industry was highlighted.

6. Developments in collective bargaining in Austria

Mr Thomas Buder (Proge, Austria) made a presentation (attached). In Austria, collective agreements in general and collective wage agreements in particular are negotiated – almost without exception – at multi-employer sectoral level. The sugar sector in Austria consists of one company (AGRANA) which employs about 500 workers, the majority (almost two thirds) being blue-collar workers. Collective bargaining on the employer side is conducted by the mandatory employer association, the FIAA (Food Industries Association of Austria) on behalf of AGRANA, and by two different unions, the PROGE manufacturing union representing blue-collar workers and the GPA-djp union representing white-collar workers. Thus, there are two separate single-employer collective agreements, according to the workers' employment status. Collective bargaining coverage amounts to 100%, and union membership in the sector is very high (100% organisational density among blue-collar workers).

7. Trade and sustainable development- update from CEFS

Mr Josh Gartland delivered a presentation (attached) on the linkages between trade and sustainability, highlighting labour rights violations in Central America and Brazil, as well as the use of a number of pesticides that are either not authorised or banned in the EU.

Discussions ensued with the participants on cheap sugar, violations of trade union rights in Latin America (Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras in particular), where employees are denied the right to organise and there are so many restrictions on the right to strike that it is practically impossible to exercise it.

Action: EFFAT member organisation FGTB ABVV Horval proposes to make a presentation regarding anti-union practices at the next meeting of the social dialogue working group.

8. AOB and conclusions



Mr Dominique Braoudé and Mr Roberto Iovino thanked all participants, guests and interpreters and closed the meeting. Next meeting (working group): 4 September 2019.

Annexes

Annex 1: Work Programme 2019-2021

Annex 2: PowerPoint Presentation, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Annex 3: PowerPoint presentation, Brexit, CEFS

Annex 4: PowerPoint presentation, Bioeconomy, CEPI

Annex 5: PowerPoint presentation, Trade and Sustainability, CEFS

Annex 6: PowerPoint presentation, Collective Bargaining, Austria

Final list of participants-Sugar social dialogue committee working plenary meeting

EMPLOYERS

BRAOUDÉ Dominique (FR)

GARTLAND Josh –CEFS

GAWRYSZCZAK Michal (PL)

HIRMANN Sonja (AT)

RIBERA Marie-Christine – CEFS

RICHELLE Justine- CEFS

PAGANI Patrick (IT)

PIREE Wijnand (NL)

WORKERS

BRENTNALL Estelle (EFFAT)

BUDER Thomas (AT)

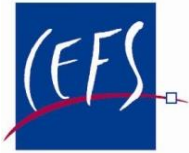
PETROV Slavcho (BG)

LUBAŚ Stanisław (PL)

DEBOWIAK Adrian (PL)

JAWOREK Aleksander (PL)

SANTOS RODRIGUEZ Miguel (ES)



FERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ Francisco Javier (ES)

FEO CASARES Felix (ES)

LAMBERG Francis (BE)

LEFEVRE Philippe (BE)

MAES Vinnie (BE)

MARIEN Silvie (BE)

REHAN Patrick (BE)

DOMBRET Pascal (BE)

GUMBRETIERE Fabien (FR)

IOVINO Roberto (IT)

De GASPERIS Gabriele (IT)

GOK Isa (TR)

YAZIR Suleyman (TR)

GUESTS

De GALEMBERT Bernard- CEPI

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

RIEFF Joe - DG EMPL

BEYLEMANS Gilberte- DG EMPL

GARCIA NAVARRO Miguel- DG AGRI