



Trade & Sustainable Development

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee - Sugar

Brussels, 30 January 2019

Outline

- 1. EU framework**
- 2. CEFS engagement**
- 3. Brazil**
- 4. Conclusions**

1. EU framework

TSD chapters commit trade partners to:

- Follow international labour and environment standards and agreements
- Effectively enforce their environmental and labour laws
- Not to deviate from environmental or labour laws to encourage trade or investment, and thereby preventing a 'race to the bottom'

TSD chapters commit trade partners to:

- Sustainably trade natural resources, such as timber and fish
- Combat illegal trade in threatened and endangered species of fauna and flora
- Encourage trade that supports tackling climate change
- Promote practices such as corporate social responsibility

How TSD works in practice

- EU meets partners regularly to discuss how they & EU are implementing TSD rules in the agreement between them.
- Special civil society advisory groups (DAGs) in the EU and partner countries bring together environmental (NGOs), labour (unions), and business organisations.
- EU and partner countries consult the DAGs on how trade and sustainable development rules are being implemented.

2. CEFS engagement

CEFS engagement

- Participation in two EU DAGs:
 - The EU-Central America Domestic Advisory Group
 - The EU-Colombia/Peru/Ecuador Domestic Advisory Group
- CEFS participates as a member of the employers' group.

CEFS engagement: Central America

- Guatemala the dominant sugar producer in the region (2.9 mt), followed by Nicaragua (0.8 mt), El Salvador (0.8 mt), Honduras (0.5 mt), Costa Rica (0.4 mt).



CEFS engagement: Guatemala

- 12 sugar companies acting as a cartel, against which workers have little leverage.
- Difficult working conditions for cutters, sometimes without access to water or sanitation.
- Cane-burning before harvest: harmful to workers.
- According to U.S. officials, Guatemala's low costs are because sugar mills have 'failed' to comply with labour laws.

CEFS engagement: Colombia/Peru/Ecuador

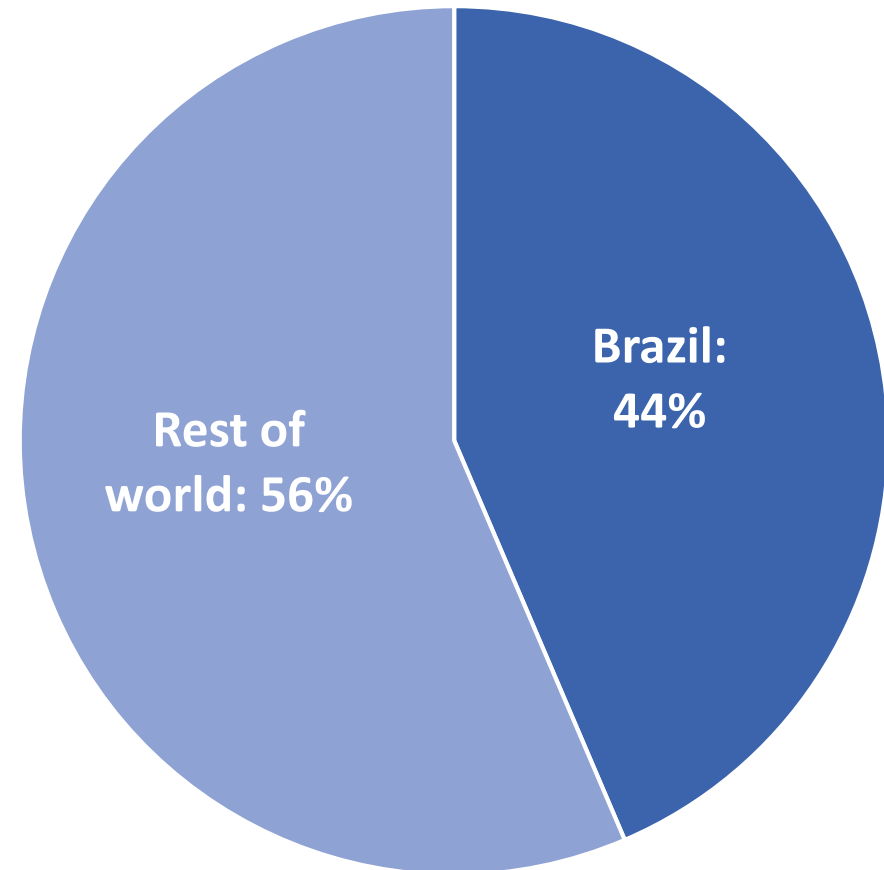
- Colombia (2.5mt), Peru (1.2 mt), Ecuador (0.6 mt).
- Peru: conflict ongoing between workers and capital (Oviedo) over the Tumán sugar company.
 - Oviedo Group is currently being investigated for money laundering and the death of two workers opposed to its jurisdiction.

3. Brazil

Brazil: the world's dominant sugar producer & exporter

World sugar exports, 2017 (ISO)

- Brazil has more access to the EU sugar market than any other country.
- Essential that imported Brazilian sugar is produced sustainably.



Brazil: Jair Bolsonaro

- Responsibility for Amazon handed to Agriculture Ministry – controlled by agri-food lobby!
- No statement on labour rights as yet.



Brazil: pesticides use

	Brazil	EU
Simazine	✓	Not approved
Atrazine	✓	Not approved
Clomazone	✓	Public consultation on re- authorisation in progress
Diuron	✓	Approval expired. Awaiting EFSA report
Hexazinone	✓	Not approved
Tebutiuron	✓	Not approved
Carbofurane	✓	Not approved
Imidaclopride	✓	Banned (neo-nic)

4. Conclusions

- Discussion remains the only tool to promote sustainable development in trade partners.
- EU not prepared to introduce enforcement mechanisms.
- CEFS will continue to push for progress through the DAGs.



An aerial photograph of a large industrial facility, likely a sugar refinery, situated along a river. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the sky and the facility. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The refinery itself features several large buildings, a prominent central tower with a red and white striped top, and various pipes and structures. In the foreground, there are several large circular tanks and a parking area with several trucks. The surrounding area includes residential buildings and a road. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy industrial site during a beautiful time of day.

Thank You

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