

To: WEYAND Sabine (TRADE); [REDACTED];
KONIG Helena (TRADE); GALLINA Sandra (TRADE);
[REDACTED]

Subject: Report from the meeting of SW with CEFS, 15 October 2019

Report of the meeting of Sabine WEYAND, Director-General of DG TRADE with CEFS, 15 October 2019

The meeting took place at the request of the CEFS (European Association of Sugar Manufacturers) to discuss sugar and trade in the light of recent developments.

Participants:

CEFS:
[REDACTED]

TRADE:
Ms Sabine WEYAND (SW), Director-General
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CEFS briefly presented the EU sugar sector as competitive, sustainable and green. With respect to trade, they insisted on a level playing field with third countries and argued against granting new concessions to sugar producing countries in the on-going FTAs (namely Australia) but in favour of opening third countries' markets where EU has offensive interests (i.e. Indonesia).

Concretely, regarding the level playing field, CEFS mentioned that the EU legislation on MRLs does not affect imports of sugar as there are no detectable residues in this product because all residues remain in the molasses. On the negotiations with Australia, besides insisting on granting no concession to Australia, CEFS pointed out to the problems of sustainability in Australia related to water management and the Great Barrier Reef.

SW reassured CEFS that sugar remains sensitive in trade negotiations and that TRADE is indeed willing to push sugar offensive interests, where they exist – e.g. towards Indonesia. The issue of the MRL for sugar will be investigated with DG SANTE.