

Brussels
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PRESS STATEMENT

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE REPORT: TOWARDS A MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO AGRI-FOOD?

The report of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture has been published.

On trade policy it is clear: the EU must do better when it comes to defending sensitive agricultural products in trade negotiations. In particular, CEFS welcomes the invitation towards the European Commission for “a comprehensive review of its negotiation strategies”.

On the environment, the report refrains from prescriptive targets when it comes to agricultural inputs – a welcome contrast with the Farm to Fork Strategy. The report does not advocate for a costly new Emissions Trading System for agriculture. And it calls for a “system supporting innovations in plant breeding”.

Also positively, the report calls for new sources of funding outside of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy budget. A new Temporary Just Transition Fund and well-resourced Nature Restoration Fund would provide much needed new monies to the EU agri-food sector, which has faced numerous challenges during the past legislative mandate.

CEFS notes the report's call for a “full review of EU food labelling legislation”. We support initiatives that promote and facilitate consumers' informed choices based on clear, informative, science-based and non-misleading labelling of food products.

A new European Board on Agri-Food will be established “to discuss the strategies necessary to the implementation and future development of the new Strategic Dialogue”. CEFS Director General Marie-Christine Ribera said “CEFS, both individually and via the EU Primary Food Processors (PFP) association, is keen to be a part of the future debate”.

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For more information on the EU beet sugar industry, please consult:

European Sugar Statistics Report for the marketing year 2021/22

The EU Sugar Industry Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2020-21

About CEFS:

CEFS, the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers, is an international non-profit organisation and a recognised interlocutor for the EU Institutions since 1953, sharing knowledge and technical expertise on sugar.

CEFS' membership is composed of sugar-producing companies in the EU and Switzerland.

Find out more about CEFS and the EU beet sugar industry here.