



Mr Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice President
European Green Deal
European Commission 1040 Brussels
Brussels Wednesday, 01 July 2020

RE: EU sugar manufacturers' contribution to the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies

Dear Vice-President Timmermans,

CEFS stands behind the overall objective of the Green Deal and its related initiatives to make the EU's economy sustainable.

The next months will be decisive to overcome the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to steer the European economy towards recovery, building a stronger Europe. The implementation of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies presented by the European Commission on 20 May will be key in this respect. Both initiatives raise hopes for a transition towards even more sustainable production systems, more resilient to crisis but they also present substantial challenges. **CEFS supports the EU ambitions encrusted in the Strategies provided the transition is well calibrated in order not to leave sectors and people behind.**

Sustainability is not a new concept for **EU sugar manufacturers**. Impressive efforts have been made over the years, financially and technologically, to become **a global standard for sustainability in world sugar production**. Based on what has already been achieved, CEFS and its members are ready to take further action in line with the EU proposed goals, provided realistic solutions are ensured to the benefit of the entire food production chain as well as society as a whole. Whether related to cultivation, production and nutrition, CEFS stands firmly behind certain key requirements that apply across the board:

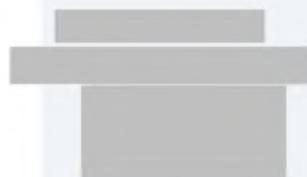
- **science-based policy-making** relying on sound evidence from an environmental, social, nutritional but also economic point of view based on proper impact assessments;
- **coherent policy-making** ensuring notably a sustainable marriage between the Farm to Fork Strategy and the different EU policies supporting an increase in environmental and climate ambitions, such as the CAP;
- **appropriate funds** for the implementation of policies and for transition;
- **a coherent and strong trade policy** which ensures a global level playing field in international markets and the respect of EU sustainability standards.

Please find attached our detailed brochure commenting on both Communications, which we launch on the occasion of the start of the German Presidency. It provides in depth insights on how EU Sugar Manufacturers wish to continue on their journey towards further sustainability and competitiveness.

CEFS will be a partner in discussions to contribute to constructive and workable solutions.

We look forward to continue the fruitful collaboration with you and your team for the years to come.

Yours sincerely,





In copy:

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Deputy Head of Cabinet: Ms Sarah NELEN

Member of the Cabinet: Lukas VISEK

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