



# CAP - COMMON AGRICULTURE POLICY

*EAF newsletter will bring a series of articles relating to different European policies focusing on particular country cases and offer a development timeline in order to bring to our readers clarification on the complex legislation that is voted in Strasbourg each month and that is often very difficult to understand for European citizens.*

## The EU and sugar levies

The EU budget is funded chiefly (99%) from the EU's own resources, supplemented by other sources of revenue.

Traditional own resources are mainly customs duties on imports from outside the EU and sugar levies. EU governments keep 25% to cover the cost of collection.

As all other agricultural products, sugar is part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU.

The European Union is the world's biggest producer of beet sugar and the principal importer of raw cane sugar for refining. The EU sugar market is regulated by production quotas, a minimum beet price and trade mechanisms.

The EU is the world's leading producer of beet sugar, with around 50% of the total. However, beet sugar represents only 20% of the world's sugar production; the other 80% is produced from sugar cane.

Most of the EU's sugar beet is grown in the northern half of Europe, the most competitive producing areas are in northern France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Poland. The EU also has an important refining industry that processes imported raw cane sugar.

In 2006 a major reform achieved simplification and greater market orientation of the EU's sugar policy, which is now part of the Single Common Market Organisation (CMO). Income support for sugar beet farmers has been integrated into the direct payment system.

EU sugar policy today concerns three main areas: quota management, a reference price and a minimum guaranteed price to growers, and trade measures. The quota management will end as of 30 September 2017.

The total EU production quota of 13.5 million tonnes of sugar is divided between nineteen Member States. If there are signs that there will be an excess of sugar on the EU market in the next marketing year – which runs from 1 October to 30 September - a decision can be taken to withdraw some quantities. A first "preventive" withdrawal must be decided by 16 March, well before the start of the new marketing year, to allow producers to reduce their beet sowings. If necessary, a further adjustment can be made in October.

If, on the other hand, there is a shortage, measures can be taken to increase supplies.

Inter-professional agreements between beet growers and sugar manufacturers lay down quality standards and fix purchase terms for beet.

Sugar factories are required to pay farmers a minimum price of EUR 26.29 per tonne for sugar beet for the production of quota sugar. Out-of-quota sugar beet does not benefit from this minimum price.

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The EU reference threshold for white sugar is fixed at EUR 404.4 per tonne and EUR 335.2 per tonne for raw sugar. Private storage aid can be activated on the basis of the reference threshold, market prices, cost and margins.

UK was out of quota in the production year 2014/2015 producing 1 211 047 tonnes of sugar whilst the quota was set to 1 056 474 tonnes.

Producers are allowed to produce out-of-quota sugar, but this sugar must be used for industrial purposes (either pharmaceutical uses or bioethanol production) or exported (within limits set by the EU's WTO commitments). The price received for out-of-quota sugar tends to follow the world market price.

Since the reform of the sugar market regime, the EU has become a net importer of sugar. Imports are mainly in the form of cane sugar for refining, from the African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP) and Least Developed Countries (LDC) which benefit from quota-free, duty-free access to the EU market.

For the ACP non-LDC countries a safeguard clause will remain in place until 2015. This is triggered if more than 3.5 million tonnes of sugar are imported

into the EU in a single year, which has not been the case since the measure started in 2009.

In addition, the EU has several sugar import quotas that allow a total of about 1 million tonnes of reduced- or zero-duty imports each year. The main beneficiaries are the Balkans and Brazil.

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# JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION ON THE LATEST TRAGEDIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND EU MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICIES

During the last April plenary session in Brussels ( 23 April 2015) European Parliament voted on a resolution which text we bring you below in full, in regards to the migration route across the Mediterranean sea.

EAF Member Robert Jarosław IWASZKIEWICZ in the written justification of his position wrote the following: “ The tragic events in the Mediterranean are primarily the result of irresponsible geopolitics of the great powers, which have led to the destabilization of some countries in the northern Africa region. However, attempts to resolve the situation - by blaming European countries for not receiving millions of refugees - this is probably the worst possible solution. In the first place it does not resolve the complex situation in the countries of northern Africa, it is not a guarantee of a peaceful and stable life for refugees and would significantly worsen the economic situation of the countries receiving refugees. Solution to this tragic situation should be looking after the countries from which the migrants are coming to Europe.”

European Parliament resolution on the latest tragedies in the Mediterranean and EU migration and asylum policies



(2015/2660(RSP))

The European Parliament,  
 – having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,  
 – having regard to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,  
 – having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,  
 – having regard to the Geneva Convention of 1951 and the additional protocol thereto,  
 – having regard to its resolution of 23 October 2013 on migratory flows in the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the tragic events off Lampedusa(1),  
 – having regard to the Commission staff working document of 22 May 2014 on the implementation of the

communication on the work of the Task Force Mediterranean,  
 – having regard to the debate on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration, held in Parliament on 25 November 2014,  
 – having regard to its resolution of 17 December 2014 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration(2),  
 – having regard to the UNHCR Central Mediterranean Sea initiative and to the UNHCR proposals to address current and future arrivals of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Europe,  
 – having regard to the ten-point action plan on migration of the Joint Foreign and Home Affairs Council of 20 April 2015,

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# JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION ON THE LATEST TRAGEDIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND EU MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICIES

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- having regard to the conclusions of the EU Council special summit on the Mediterranean refugee crisis of 22 April 2015,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) and (4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), over 1 500 persons have died in the Mediterranean Sea since the beginning of this year;

B. whereas according to the IOM, an estimated 23 918 migrants have reached the Italian coast since 1 January 2015; whereas according to the Greek authorities, 10 445 migrants were rescued by the Greek Coastguard in the Aegean Sea in the first quarter of 2015;

C. whereas Italian maritime forces, the Italian Coast Guard, the Italian Navy and several commercial ships carried out relentless operations to rescue migrants in distress on the Mediterranean Sea, and came to the rescue of approximately 10 000 migrants in the six days from Friday, 10 April to Thursday, 16 April 2015;

D. whereas the last operation solely dedicated to search and rescue in the Mediterranean, Mare Nostrum, rescued 150 810 migrants over a 364-day period; whereas initial estimates are not showing a reduction in the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean at this point;

E. whereas a larger proportion of the people trying to cross the Mediterranean are fleeing from conflict or persecution in Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, Somalia and Libya; whereas up to 700 migrants are missing and are feared drowned after the wooden fishing boat on which they were crammed capsized near Libya as a Portuguese merchant vessel was coming to its

aid late on Saturday, 18 April; whereas one of the survivors was reported to have informed the Italian authorities that there may have been up to 950 on board; whereas a similar tragedy took place earlier this month, in which around 400 migrants were reported to have lost their lives at sea when a wooden fishing boat carrying about 550 people capsized;

F. whereas Joint Operation 'Triton', coordinated by Frontex, became fully operational on 1 November 2014, with an initial budget of only EUR 2.9 million per month compared with over EUR 9 million per month for Mare Nostrum; whereas more than 24 400 irregular migrants have been rescued on the central Mediterranean route since the launch of Joint Operation 'Triton', including nearly 7 860 with the participation of assets co-financed by Frontex;

G. whereas smugglers and human traffickers exploit irregular migration and put at risk the lives of migrants for their own business profits, are responsible for thousands of deaths and pose a serious challenge to the EU and the Member States; whereas traffickers generate profits of EUR 20 billion per year from their criminal activities; whereas according to Europol organised criminal groups actively facilitating the transport of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean Sea have been linked to human trafficking, drugs, firearms and terrorism; whereas on 17 March 2015 Europol launched its Joint Operational Team 'Mare' to tackle these criminal groups;

H. whereas regional instability and conflict are having an impact on the mass influx of migrants and flows of displaced people and, therefore, on the number of individuals attempting to reach the EU; whereas the rapid expansion of IS and Da'esh in neighbouring conflict areas will ultimately have an impact on the mass influx of migrants and flows of displaced people;