

ACP-LDC Sugar Industry Group

Representing the ACP and LDC sugar industries supplying the EU and the UK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACP Sugar Group urges sensitivity in UK-EU trade deal to avert huge job losses in Commonwealth and poor countries

The outcome of trade negotiations between David Frost and Michel Barnier in coming weeks could play a vital role in the socio-economic development of Commonwealth and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which produce sugar for export.

Or, after the damage wrought by recent EU sugar policy reforms, the outcome of the UK-EU trade negotiations could yet further undermine that much needed development.

ACP and LDC sugar industries support upwards of 500,000 permanent jobs in fields, factories, warehousing, transport, maintenance, and administration, etc. These are jobs in mostly rural areas of African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries where there are few alternative formal job opportunities. At least two or three times that number of people are likely to be indirectly dependent on ACP Sugar.

As the chief negotiators on the UK and EU sides work towards a trade deal to apply as from 1st January 2021, and as we all struggle with the new challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ACP Sugar Group urges the parties to take into account the value for ACP and LDC countries in maintaining sustainable agriculture and agro-industries as part of their economic mix at a time when many other industries, particularly tourism, have been heavily impacted both in terms of employment and as an earners of hard currency.

The ACP Sugar Group has today published a paper giving details of the socio-economic importance of sugar in ACP and LDC countries – please find it attached.

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