

ACP-LDC Sugar Industries Group

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

PRESS RELEASE

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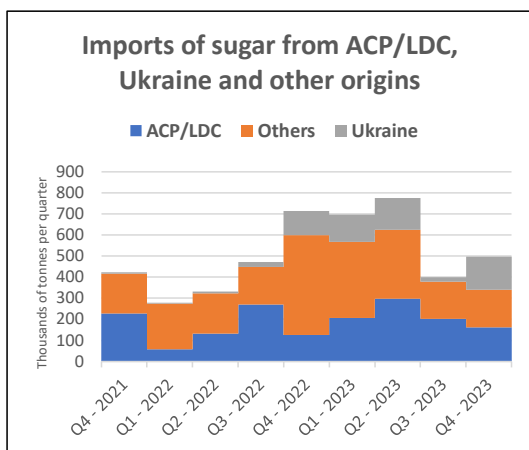
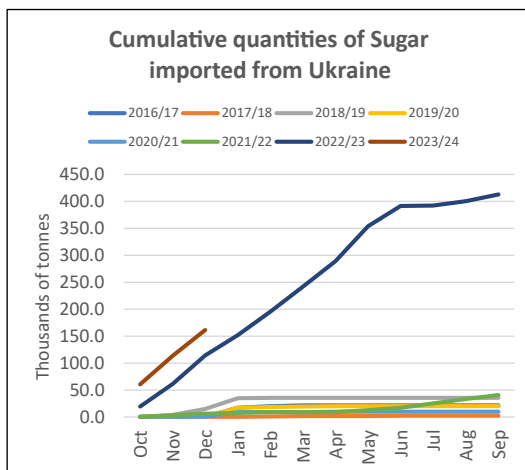
Sugar suppliers from Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and LDC countries call on EU and Ukrainian regulators to limit Ukrainian sugar imports to avoid disrupting the EU markets and damaging legitimate preferential access of developing countries under Economic Partnership Agreements and the Everything But Arms initiative.

The quantities of sugar imported from Ukraine into the European Union **have increased by twenty times** since June 2022 to reach 412,900 tonnes in 2022/23 and, in 2023/24, thanks to increased production of sugar in Ukraine (sugar beet sowings may increase by 20%), the quantities of sugar to be exported to the EU **could to increase by thirty or forty times** the quantity imported under quota before Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.

These huge quantities of Ukrainian sugar, which have already added to additional quantities imported from other countries in recent years, have inevitably curtailed and disrupted both flows and revenue of sugar from ACP and LDC countries and

hence they have curtailed opportunities for much needed socio-economic development in the world's poorest developing and least developed countries ⁽¹⁾.

The ACP countries signatory to Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU are entitled, under the terms of those agreements, to expect that the EPAs will contribute to the reduction and eventual eradication of poverty consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals. That is also the stated objective of the "Everything But Arms" initiative.



¹ See https://acpsugar.org/s/acpldc_sugar_cane_development_role_final.pdf

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Moreover, the EU has committed to undertake prior consultations on trade policy developments that may impact on the competitive positions of traditional agricultural products, including bananas, rum, rice and sugar, in the EU. To date, as far as we are aware, no such consultations have taken place concerning Ukrainian sugar at the diplomatic level.

The ACP/LDC Sugar Industries therefore align themselves with the joint statement of [COPA-COGECA](#), [CEFS](#), CIBE and others, to call on the EU to find solutions to address the impacts of trade liberalization in general, and Ukrainian sugar in particular, to avoid disrupting or distorting the EU markets, whilst giving support to Ukrainian farmers and citizens. These measures may include support for increasing the transit of Ukrainian sugar to their traditional markets in North Africa and elsewhere (“**solidarity lanes**”), a mechanism of **licensing** to ensure regular flows of sugar rather than the current free-for-all which has caused severe market disturbance, and a **tightening** of the temporary liberalisation measures expiring in June 2024.

About the ACP/LDC Sugar Industries Group

- The ACP/LDC Sugar Industries Group is a group open to sugar industries in all countries which are eligible to supply sugar duty free and quota free to the EU and the UK markets – “Preferential Sugar” – under the ACP Economic Partnership Agreements, and/or is a beneficiary country of the special GSP arrangement for the least-developed countries – “Everything But Arms”.
- Currently, the following countries are represented by the Group: Belize, Benin, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Fiji, Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritius, Moçambique, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Through its member organizations and companies, the Group seeks to represent all ACP/LDC sugar farmers and millers.
- The Group liaises closely with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), notably through the OACPS Working Group on Sugar and Rum.
- The Group meets annually in the margins of the International Sugar Organization annual seminar in London.
- The group is led by an Executive Director and an Executive Committee, elected annually, currently comprising 12 persons, which meets once every two months.

For further information, please contact the Executive Director of the ACP/LDC Sugar Industries Group, Mr Julian Price by email to julian@julianprice.com or WhatsApp +44 7768 908347.

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