

Brussels, 25 March 2026

CIUS Welcomes the conclusion of the FTA EU-Australia

CIUS represents more than 15 000 sugar-using companies, ranging from artisan, small and medium sized enterprises to multi-nationals. Together our members purchase about 70% of the EU's annual production of sugar and provide direct employment to over 450.000 people in Europe. Products made by our members include fine bakery wares, chocolate, confectionery, soft drinks, canned fruits and jams.

Balanced Trade Agreement Strengthens Competitiveness and Supply Resilience

The Committee of European Sugar Users (CIUS) welcomes yesterday's announcement of the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Union and Australia. The agreement represents an important step towards strengthening trade relations with a reliable and like-minded partner, while supporting the competitiveness of EU food and drink manufacturers.

CIUS also underlines the broader importance of supply resilience for the EU sugar market. The European Union remains a structurally deficit market and will always require a certain level of imports to ensure stability and continuity of supply for the food and drink industry. In a rapidly changing global environment, some traditional sources of supply are becoming increasingly limited or are no longer available. Imports from certain preferential origins have declined significantly in recent years, while some long-standing tariff-rate quotas are no longer being fully utilized due to structural production constraints in exporting countries. In this context, maintaining diversified and reliable sources of supply is essential for the competitiveness and resilience of EU sugar-using industries.

The EU market for sensitive products remains carefully balanced. In the case of sugar, the agreement foresees a tariff-rate quota of 35,000 tonnes of raw cane sugar for refining, representing less than 0.3% of total EU sugar consumption. This indicates that the agreement constitutes only a very small share of overall market demand and therefore does not pose a risk to market stability.

Australia is one of the world's most reliable agricultural exporters and an important partner for the European Union in a period marked by growing geopolitical uncertainty and increasing pressure on global supply chains. Strengthening trade relations with stable partners contributes not only to export opportunities but also to greater resilience and predictability for EU manufacturers.

For the EU food and drink industry that is one of Europe's largest manufacturing sectors and a key contributor to the EU trade surplus, the agreement represents a positive step towards strengthening competitiveness, supporting exports and maintaining value-added production and jobs in the European Union.



CIUS will continue to support balanced, fact-based and forward-looking trade agreements that strengthen competitiveness, improve supply resilience and support sustainable growth of the EU food manufacturing sector.