



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Desmond Swayne TD
Minister of State

Jean Lambert MEP
Office of the Green MEPs
CAN Mezzanine
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15th April 2015

Dear Jean,

Thank you for your informative letter on Fairtrade Foundation's initiative for sugar cane farmers dated 30th March to Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development. In complying with pre-election protocol, I am responding on behalf of the Minister of State for International Development.

The Department is concerned by the effect that EU sugar and broader Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms may have on sugar producers in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and Least Developed Countries.

The sugar regime is one of the most heavily regulated and distorting elements of the Common Agricultural Policy, and the agreement to end sugar beet quotas in 2017 is an important step towards removing these distortions.

As a response to the reform of the sugar regime DFID encouraged the European Commission to establish the Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol programme, a €1.24 billion fund to assist ACP sugar producing countries to adapt, and the Department continues to engage with the European Commission, the private sector, and ACP countries to maximise the impact of these funds.

Kind regards

Heather Opie.

Heather Opie
Private Secretary to the Minister of State, Rt Hon Desmond Swayne TD