



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
JEAN LAMBERT MEP
Green Party, London

Member of the European Parliament

The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP,
Secretary of State for International Development,
22, Whitehall,
London. SW1A 2EG

Monday 30th March 2015

Dear Minister,

Re: Fairtrade Foundation initiative for sugar cane farmers

Over 1,500 of my constituents in London have individually written to me in support of the Fairtrade Foundation's campaign on behalf of sugar cane farmers in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and Least Developed Countries (LDC).

Recent changes to the Common Agricultural Policy include the removal of EU sugar beet quotas in 2017. This is already having a marked impact on the price of imported cane sugar, which has dropped to a price so low that it threatens the long-term viability of some sugar cane farmers.

As such, the Fairtrade Foundation is calling on the EU to establish a new initiative bringing together government, businesses and civil society to jointly fund and deliver programmes to support sugar cane farmers.

My Green colleagues on the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) are raising this matter with the European Commission. However, the UK has an important role to play in establishing this initiative, both as the largest importer of cane sugar in the EU (over 26% of all ACP and LDC imports in 2014) and because of its historical responsibilities to many of these countries.

I am writing, therefore, to ask for your support by calling on the Commission to rapidly set up the aforementioned initiative and by pledging a financial contribution from DFID on behalf of the UK Government. DFID should also review its existing agricultural investment programmes in recognition of this threat to the livelihoods of sugar cane farmers.

Thank you for your kind consideration; I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Lambert MEP
Green Party Member of the European Parliament for London

Greens in the European Parliament

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