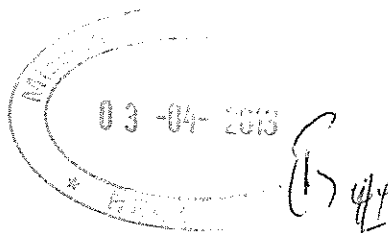


Dacian CIOLOȘ
Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 18.03.2013
DC/GJ/bdv/D(2013)367700



Dear Ambassador,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 February addressed also to my colleagues Commissioners De Gucht and Piebalgs where you expressed your concerns on the future EU Sugar Regime. Please accept this as a reply also on their behalf.

Let me take this opportunity to reiterate the Commission's position in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform proposed on 12 October 2011 not to extend sugar production quotas beyond the 2014/15 marketing year. The end of the sugar quota is simply the final stage in the reform of the sugar sector decided in 2005. At that time the Sugar Protocol countries were accorded substantial financial assistance for restructuring to be able to cope with more competitive market conditions.

Quotas create rigidities and are therefore contrary to the objectives of increased competitiveness and market orientation. Moreover, we have faced difficulties in providing adequate supply to EU consumers and industry and have had to resort to continuous market intervention through exceptional measures in the previous three marketing years. This reinforces our decision to let the quotas expire in keeping with the sugar reform.

I would stress that the legislative proposal for the CAP post-2013 does not include any changes to the existing trade regime. Signatories to European Partnership Agreements (EPA) and least developed countries (LDCs) will continue to benefit from the most generous preferential access to the EU market, duty-free and quota-free.

I should like to reassure you that we shall continue to consult you on EU trade initiatives in accordance with Article 12 of the Cotonou Agreement. I seize this opportunity to reaffirm that coherence of EU policies with development concerns is a permanent and significant feature of EU policy making. We seek to enhance the impact of EU external assistance and to better take account the external effects of EU policies on our partner countries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dacian Ciolos".

Mr P.I. Gomes
Ambassador of Guyana
Chairman ACP Subcommittee on Sugar
ACP Group
Avenue Georges Henri 451
1200 Brussels