

**From:** B NEWTON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 November 2012 12:18  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed meeting with EPA EBA Group

Dear [REDACTED]

I had intended to introduce myself at the Czarnikow seminar last month but the scrummage at the coffee breaks undermined my attempts. As Chairman of the EPA EBA sugar industry Group in London I exchanged views from time to time with [REDACTED] and before him with Andrew Kuyk (indeed with predecessors even further back into the mists of time!) .We are now approaching a critical time in the consideration of the sugar regime post 2015 and various positions are being strongly advocated by beet farmers and processors, sugar users and full time refiners alike. I would therefore welcome an opportunity to bring you up to date with the views of the developing country suppliers to the EU

The London Sugar Group represents the sugar industries of the 31 countries specifically named in the attachment to EU Regulation 828/09 which defines the operations of the Sugar Regime as they affect the EPA EBA countries which includes non LDC and LDC countries including non ACP suppliers.(a summary of the complexities of the Group is attached) We provide the Ambassadors based in Brussels and their Ministerial colleagues in capitals with "technical" advice and are recognised counterparts for detailed discussions with the Commission on the existing market management system . This also extends to consideration of the impact of the Commission's proposals to allow the current regime to lapse in October 2015. This subject is now the focus of constant activity within the Commission and the EU Parliament and we are grateful for the information disseminated by DEFRA following the monthly all crop Mancoms.

In this regard we are writing to [REDACTED] to express concern following the last Mancom meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November This meeting produced a new and belated Balance Sheet for the EU market for the current marketing year which incorporates a new method of computing EU consumption which effectively makes this key statistic the balancing figure. This methodology has also been used to recalculate past year figures which show some worrying anomalies . Since consumption is a crucial figure in forecasting the future EU market balance it is important that it should be as accurate as possible especially in any assessment of the impact on the market of removing any constraint on EU beet supplies after 2015; and equally in evaluating the effect of differential supply contributions from domestic and import sources.

We are a diverse group with a variety of political and socio economic situations. However we are mainly small Commonwealth nations bound together by our developmental status

and for many of us a reliance on sugar exports to sustain our social fabric and to generate earnings of foreign exchange .The EU market and the links created through the EPA's continue to provide a cornerstone of our trading policy and we have stated a clear need for the sugar market to remain a reasonably remunerative outlet in which prices are stable and predictable.

I would be grateful if I could meet with you to discuss the issues of market balance and in particular the Commission's proposals for further regime change

Kind Regards

Barry Newton