

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The EU Sugar Policy Regime and the Implications of 2005 Reforms
 Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

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Subject of Review: The European Union sugar policy, in place since 1968, underwent its first major reform in response to mounting pressures resulting from unsustainable supply-demand imbalances (from EU enlargement, the Everything-But-Arms initiative, and the WTO-panel ruling against excessive EU sugar export subsidies). The reform package targeted only few policy instruments (intervention price cut, voluntary production quota buy-out, and restrictions on non-quota sugar exports) while leaving other key policies unchanged (inter-state quota trading, sugar-substitutes competition, and import barriers). Consequently, the extent of the reform impact on EU industry is not clear, offering only limited scope for industry rationalization, particularly given the oligopolistic nature of the industry and its price collusive behavior. This report offers a model-based economic assessment of the EU-25 sugar reform impacts on sugar production, prices, and bilateral trade (including preferential and non-preferential) and global sugar markets. We also examine the role of the EU sugar industry structure and how the oligopolistic pricing behavior is affected by the EU reform.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: Panel Review Individual Reviewers
 Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 05/15/07 End: 12/17/07 Completed: 12/17/07

Number of Reviewers: 3 or fewer 4 to 10 More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: Agency Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? Yes No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
How:
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? Yes No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? Yes No

