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## Oxfam/WWF Press Statement - 19 September 2005

Oxfam and WWF stage protest for a fairer deal for developing world sugar

Brussels, Belgium – Oxfam International and WWF, the global conservation organisation, staged a protest this morning outside the European Council building in Brussels to highlight the unjust treatment of sugar farmers in the developing world.

The agencies erected a large set of scales, which were weighted in favour of EU sugar and against sugar from poor countries. A 2.5m tall Lady Justice, blindfolded with the EU flag, cavorted outside, while Ministers from 6 developing countries including Guyana, Mauritius and Jamaica discussed the reforms with their European counterparts inside the Council building.

Luis Morago, Head of Oxfam's Brussels office said: "Today's protest was designed to show just how unfairly the EU is treating the developing world's sugar producers. The EU reform plans are skewed massively in favour of large-scale European producers and big processing companies. They will destroy sugar industries in poor countries, on which millions rely for employment. Europe says it is in favour of using trade as a tool for poverty reduction but their unbalanced sugar reform proposals demonstrate just the opposite. Some of the very poorest countries in the world stand to benefit from trade in sugar but the EU is about to undermine this potential with its blunt and selfish reform package".

Adam Harrison, WWF Food and Agriculture Policy Officer, said "The world's poorest countries should be free from the unfair competition that undermines their



The WWF and Oxfam protest outside the EU Council Building to highlight the injustice inherent in the EU sugar regime. Photo: WWF/Thomas Nielsen

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industry and prevents them from raising environmental standards that can address problems like the loss of wildlife, pollution and the overuse of water."

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