

**International Sugar Organization**1 Canada Square
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**Press Release(24)15
(English only)****21 March 2024****Various sugar related articles**

The Executive Director would like to draw your attention to the articles below all of which are relevant to the sugar sector.

Sosland SweetenerReport**USA: Class-action suit claims price fixing by some major sugar producers**

NEW YORK — A proposed class-action lawsuit filed March 14 in Manhattan federal court by New York-based KPH Healthcare Services, Inc. accused several major US sugar producers and others of artificially inflating granulated sugar prices and seeks unspecified triple damages among other things and demands a jury trial.

Defendants named in the court filing include ASR Group International, Inc., American Sugar Refining, Inc., Domino Foods, Inc., United Sugar Producers & Refiners Cooperative F/K/A United Sugars Corp., Michigan Sugar Co., Commodity Information, Inc., and Richard Wisisten.

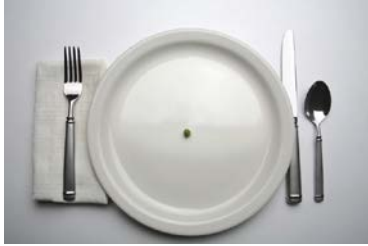
In a *Reuters* story, ASR Group said, "There is no basis for this case, and we intend to vigorously defend it." There were no immediate comments from other defendants or from KPH.

The case appears to stem from the \$315 million acquisition of Imperial Sugar Co. by US Sugar Corp. that the US Department of Justice unsuccessfully attempted to block with a federal lawsuit (decided in September 2022), in which the DOJ claimed the merger would further concentrate the US sugar industry and drive prices higher. The DOJ case also lost on appeal in July 2023.

"Beginning at least as early as Jan. 1, 2019, the exact date being unknown to plaintiff at this time, defendants and their co-conspirators conspired to artificially inflate the price of granulated sugar from the producing defendants, including food and beverage manufacturers, retailers, foodservice companies and distributors," KPH said, among other accusations in the court filing.

The case is KPH Healthcare Services, Inc. v ASR Group International Inc. et al, US District Court for the Southern District of New York, No. 1:24-cv-01941.

KPH is a national provider of pharmaceutical and health care services that controls Kinney Drug Stores in the Northeast.

FoodNavigator.com**Shrinkflation: Are brands losing customers in this covert effort to cut costs?**

Brands have been quietly shrinking the size of some products for a while but consumers are getting wise to this moneysaving trick and voting with their wallets.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/03/18/shrinkflation-are-brands-losing-customers-in-this-covert-effort-to-cut-costs>

Unilever to get out of ice cream, immediately

The owner of Wall's, Magnum and Ben & Jerry's will begin the spin-off right away, with plans to complete by the end of 2025.

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/03/19/unilever-to-get-out-of-ice-cream-immediately>

Decarbonizing the supply chain: What innocent is learning from its £1m regenerative agriculture fund

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/03/15/decarbonizing-the-supply-chain-innocent-launches-1m-regenerative-agriculture-fund>

Is a high-protein diet damaging to heart health?

From building lean muscle to repairing body tissue, protein has been proven to provide a multitude of benefits. But could too much protein be damaging to your heart?

<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/03/11/is-a-high-protein-diet-damaging-to-heart-health>

Women in agtech: Are investors missing out on attractive growth opportunities?

Female-fronted agtech business are lagging in terms of venture capital activity. Why aren't the gains seen elsewhere being reflected?



<https://www.foodnavigator.com/article/2024/03/08/women-in-agtech-are-investors-missing-out-on-attractive-growth-opportunities>

'Light at the end of tunnel,' Investors discuss state of funding at Expo West



CPG startups that have adjusted to a new reality of lower funding and focusing on profitability might have reason to be optimistic about the future of raising money, as two venture-capital investors told FoodNavigator-USA in separate interviews during the Natural Products Expo West last week.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/03/20/light-at-the-end-of-tunnel-investors-discuss-state-of-funding-at-expo-west>

How can AI understand the functional food market and the needs that drive it?



Functional food trends are driven by more than just taste: they're driven by human need. With AI, the market can be analysed and the needs driving consumption understood.

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/article/2024/03/20/how-ai-understands-functional-food-market>

Sugaronline Ebriefing

PAKISTAN: Minister meets sugar and ethanol producers to hear their demands

Pakistan's minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, met representatives of the country's Sugar Mills and Ethanol Manufacturer associations separately on March 18 to discuss their current concerns, according to Ary News.

Sugar millers defended encouragement to molasses exports and highlighted the need for infrastructure improvements to enhance terminal capacity.

Ethanol producers requested long-term policies to sustain the domestic ethanol industry.

MALAWI: Illovo to resume operations in April

Illovo Malawi is expected to resume operations in April, as the company's factories are currently going through annual maintenance, according to Nyasa Times.

Sugar prices in the country aren't expected to stabilise until Illovo resumes production, despite the government's recent decision to allow more imports and revoke licenses of wholesalers selling sugar among the recommended price, according to the report.

EUROPE: Council and Parliament provisionally agree to renew trade deal for Ukrainian products

The Council presidency and the European Parliament's negotiators have provisionally agreed to renew the suspension of import duties and quotas on Ukrainian exports to the EU for another year, until 5 June 2025, reports Sugaronline.

The regulation includes two safeguard mechanisms to protect the EU market. It has strengthened the existing mechanism, which will apply based on regular monitoring, allowing the Commission to impose any safeguard measure if specific conditions are fulfilled.

It also implements a new, automatic safeguard mechanism that will oblige the Commission to reintroduce tariff-rate quotas if imports of poultry, eggs, sugar, oats, maize, groats, and honey exceed the arithmetic mean of quantities imported in 2022 and 2023.

The provisional agreement has shortened the automatic safeguard activation period from 21 to 14 days.

The European Parliament and the Council must now approve this provisional agreement. According to a statement released by the Council, the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade and the EU's ambassadors (Coreper) will be invited to confirm the outcome of the interinstitutional negotiations later on March 20.

The Parliament's position at first reading is then expected to be adopted at one of the April plenary sessions.

The regulation is then to be adopted by the Council, signed by the representatives of the Council and the European Parliament and published in the Official Journal, before entering into force on 6 June 2024.

US: USTR announces additional TRQ volume of raw sugar allocated for 2024

The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) announced on March 18 the allocation of an additional 125,000 metric tonnes of raw value (MTRV) of raw cane sugar eligible to enter the United States at the lower duty rate tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for the 2024 year (Oct-Sept), reports Sugaronline.

This volume is in addition to the minimum amount to which the US is committed under the WTO Agreement of around 1.117 million tonnes.

Brazil had the largest volume allocated, 27,174 tonnes, followed by the Philippines (25,300 tonnes), Australia (15,555 tonnes), Guatemala (8,996 tonnes), and Peru (7,684 tonnes), among others.