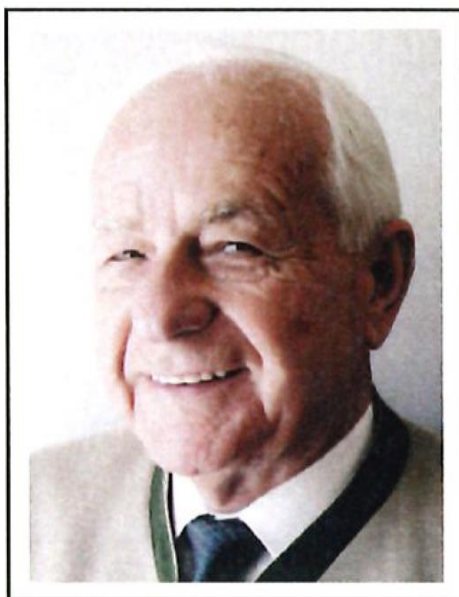


In Memoriam

Helmut Kraus (4th December 1930 – 29th April 2019)



Helmut Kraus, Former Director of the Austrian Beet Growers' Confederation passed away peacefully on 29th April 2019 at the age of 89.

During his mandate as Director of the Austrian beet growers from 1961 to 1995, CIBE met in Austria no less than seven times – two CIBE Reception Control Committees (Tulln in 1964 and Fuchsenbigl in 1974) three General Assemblies (Tulln & Fuchsenbigl in 1967, Vienna in 1979 and 1988) and two CIBE Congresses (1964 in Vienna and 1992 in Salzburg).

During Helmut's mandate, Austria joined the EU and he was deeply involved in the relevant preparations for the sugar beet and sugar sector which needed to be made for this accession. At the same time, he helped – within the 1992 CIBE Congress in Salzburg – to establish first contacts with beet growers' associations and/or beet sugar representatives from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Croatia. Recognising Austria's valuable position as a bridgehead to Central and Eastern Europe, Helmut Kraus and his team assisted CIBE in the first visits to Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary in 1994. He also helped set up Austria's fundamental role during the mid and late 1990s in helping to pave the way for these countries towards joining the EU in 2004, inter alia in playing an active role in assisting with the aligning and modernization of the sugar sectors in these countries to the EU's *acquis communautaire*. This commitment was particularly manifest during the EU - Sugar Symposium on EU Enlargement on 4th November 1999 in Vienna, in which the Austrian beet sugar sector continued to play the active part it had begun at the start of the decade.

Once retired, Helmut kept very much in touch with the sugar beet family both at national (attending the VÖR general assembly every year until 2018) and European (attending the 1997 CIBE General Assembly in Vienna, the CIBE Cooperatives Committee in Krems in 2001 and the CIBE Technical and Reception Control Committee in Vienna in 2010) level.

Helmut Kraus was tirelessly committed to the interests of sugar beet growers at all levels and therefore highly respected by all members of the European sugar beet family, who will remember him as one of the drivers of the growing Sugar Beet Europe.