



## Communication about the certification status of the Central Romana Corporation sugar mill in the Dominican Republic

The Customs and Border Protection agency of the United States of America issued a Withhold Release Order (WRO) on 23.11.2022, blocking sugar imports from the mill Central Romana Corporation, located in the Dominican Republic, on alleged human rights violation issue.

Central Romana is a mill certified under the ProTerra Standard, for social and environmental sustainability, and is in a continuous program for improving governance and compliance with social responsibility and environmental indicators, undergoing external audits independently from the ProTerra Foundation and the annual audits under the ProTerra Standard.

After the WRO, the ProTerra Foundation started immediately a due diligence action to verify the situation and suspended the certification of Central Romana Corporation, contacting Customs and Border Protection for learning the reasons on which their decision was based, and taking further action. Unfortunately, the request to disclose the elements on which such a decision was taken has been refused. At present, the ProTerra Foundation has no evidence of causality or correlation with the decision.

For this reason and given the continuous monitoring that the ProTerra Foundation has carried out in relation to Central Romana Corporation's progress, including in relation to its ESG policy, Central Romana's certification will not be withdrawn at this time.

Nevertheless, certification is suspended until further notice and the surveillance audit by the third-party certification body continues. If evidence of human rights violations or other violations of the indicators of the ProTerra Standard is found that demonstrates the materiality of the allegations, certification will be withdrawn.

Bilthoven, 01.02.2023