



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 December 2012

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN)
on: 12 December 2012
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council

Subject: Special report No 16/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"The effectiveness of the Single Area Payment Scheme as a transitional system
for supporting farmers in the new Member States"
- Adoption of Council conclusions

1. At its meeting on 4 December 2012, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) examined the Special report No 16/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "The effectiveness of the Single Area Payment Scheme as a transitional system for supporting farmers in the new Member States" (doc. 17265/12).
2. At its meeting on 12 December 2012, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) reached agreement on draft Council conclusions on the above report.
3. In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on 8 May 2000 on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) invites the Permanent Representatives Committee to suggest to the Council that it adopt the draft Council conclusions as set out in the Annex to this note as an "A" item at a forthcoming session.

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on the Special Report No 16/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "The effectiveness of the Single Area Payment Scheme as a transitional system for supporting farmers in the new Member States"

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- (1) WELCOMES the Special Report No 16/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "The effectiveness of the Single Area Payment Scheme as a transitional system for supporting farmers in the new Member States";
- (2) TAKES NOTE of the findings of the Court and underlines the views expressed by the Member states concerned that the application of the SAPS system as a whole, together with Complementary Direct Payments was a success, and that the possibility of a continuation of SAPS in the future should not be excluded. INVITES the Commission to support the Member States concerned in their preparation for the CAP reform;
- (3) RECALLS that on 12 October 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy¹, which is currently being examined in Council and by the Council's preparatory bodies;
- (4) CONSIDERS, in this context, that the Court's recommendations and the views of the Member States could be taken into account in the proceedings on the above proposal.

¹ 15396/11 + REV 1 (en, fr, de).