



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
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Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 24/2012: "The European Union Solidarity Fund's response to the 2009 Abruzzi earthquake: The relevance and cost of operations" - Council conclusions

1. On its meeting on 14 May, the Council adopted the attached Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 24/2012: "The European Union Solidarity Fund's response to the 2009 Abruzzi earthquake: The relevance and cost of operations".

Encl.:

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 24/2012:

"The European Union Solidarity Fund's response to the 2009 Abruzzi earthquake:

The relevance and cost of operations"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. WELCOMES the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 24/2012: "The European Union Solidarity Fund's response to the 2009 Abruzzi earthquake: The relevance and cost of operations";
2. NOTES the Court's findings and recommendations regarding the relevance and cost of operations for which a European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) contribution was provided;
3. WELCOMES the Commission's detailed reply to the Special Report;
4. NOTES that the CASE (*Complessi Antisismici Sostenibili Ecocompatibili*) project is a viable example of the recent developments in disaster-response strategies; NOTES the Court's finding that not enough attention was paid to the economy of the CASE project and the Commission's consideration that while economy is to be sought, it has to be considered in the specific context of an emergency situation; and NOTES that the Commission indicated that the inclusion of the CASE project had no impact on the EU Budget;

5. For the benefit of future applicants, WELCOMES the Commission's intention to clarify the formulation of "temporary accommodation";
6. NOTES the agreement between the Court and the Commission that the question of revenue generation by EUSF-funded projects should be part of the forthcoming review of the EUSF regulation;
7. NOTES the Court's recommendation that the Commission should promote Member States' preparedness to act rapidly and effectively in emergencies; and INVITES the Commission to follow up on this recommendation as reflected in the Commission's reply;
8. RECALLS the importance of the efficient use of public resources;
9. ACKNOWLEDGES the Court's recommendation to improve the economy of future EUSF-financed operations; and CONSIDERS that a rapid and effective response is of an utmost importance in a major emergency situation, but also that the efficient use of public finances, as reflected in sound emergency procurement procedures, should continue to be upheld.
