



**COUNCIL OF  
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**COVER NOTE**

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from: The Working Party on Social Questions  
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part I) / Council (EPSCO)  
Subject: Special report No 7/2013: Has the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund delivered EU added value in re-integrating redundant workers?  
- Draft Council conclusions

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1. On 26 June 2013, the European Court of Auditors published a special report No 7/2013 (entitled "*Has the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund delivered EU added value in re-integrating redundant workers?*"), together with the Commission's replies.
2. On 10 July 2013, the Permanent Representatives Committee instructed the Working Party on Social Questions to examine the report in accordance with the rules laid down in the Council conclusions on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 7515/00 + COR1.

3. The Working Party on Social Questions examined the report at its meetings on 4 September and 27 September 2013. It reached an agreement on the text for draft Council conclusions, as set out below.
  
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee invites the Council (EPSCO) to adopt the draft Council conclusions as set out in this document.

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**The European Court of Auditors' Special report No 7/2013: Has the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund delivered EU added value in re-integrating redundant workers?**

**Draft Council Conclusions**

1. WELCOMES the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 7/2013 and the Commission's detailed replies to it, as well as the pertinence of the Court's initiative to publish this report against the background of the widespread phenomenon of mass redundancies and their economic and social effects, and the high political profile of the negotiations on the Fund for the next programming period;
2. CONSIDERS it useful that the report has been published before the beginning of the next programming period of the European Globalisation Fund (EGF), thus informing the process of negotiations for the next legislative framework, and APPRECIATES the Court of Auditors' efforts in this regard;
3. UNDERSCORES however that earlier publication could have had a greater impact on the discussions on the new proposal;
4. ACKNOWLEDGES that the EGF has up to now constituted a complementary policy measure to the European Social Fund (ESF) for those Member States which have made use of it, and REITERATES that its aim has been to demonstrate solidarity at EU level with those most hit by globalisation and the economic and financial crisis by facilitating the re-integration of redundant workers into the labour market;
5. AGREES with the Court that emphasis on performance and on creating EU added value is of utmost importance;

6. RECOGNISES the Court's finding that the approval procedure is very long and WELCOMES the efforts of the Commission to shorten the overall duration of the procedure;
  7. STRESSES that the availability of up-to-date and reliable data is essential to monitor the achievement of objectives and the outcome of the measures of publicly-funded programmes, and that the Member States will continue to comply with their reporting obligations under EU legislation;
  8. RECALLS that it is currently in negotiations with the European Parliament on a new EGF proposal for the next legislative framework 2014-2020, and UNDERLINES that, without prejudice to the final outcome of these discussions, due consideration should be given to the recommendations made in the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors.
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