



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 11 July 2012

12473/12

**DEVGEN 198
FIN 526
ACP 127
PTOM 34
RELEX 666**

NOTE

From: General Secretariat
Dated: 10 July 2012

No. prev. doc.: 11829/12

Subject: Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report
no. 5/2012 "The Common External Relations Information System"

At its meeting on 10 July 2012, the Council adopted the Council Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

Council Conclusions
on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report no. 5/2012
"The Common External Relations Information System"

I. Introduction

1. The Council welcomes the Court of Auditors' special report No. 5/2012 on the Common External Relations Information System (CRIS).
2. The European Court of Auditors assessed whether the CRIS responds effectively to the Commission's needs, whether the information provided is reliable and whether it is sufficiently secured by the Commission.

II. General remarks

3. The Council appreciates the Court's overall assessment that CRIS is mostly effective in responding to the Commission's information needs.
4. The Council agrees in general with the recommendations expressed by the Court.
5. The Council welcomes the fact that the Commission has accepted the results of the special report and is following up by implementing the recommendations through an action plan with specific timelines.
6. In a broader context, the Council invites the Commission, particularly EuropeAid, to review and define its special wider information needs in order to improve the assessment of results and in relation to DAC reporting, the results-based frameworks as well as the mutual accountability and transparency agenda, also with a view to sharing information with Member States.

III. Specific remarks

7. More specifically, the Council would like to point out the following:

- 7.1. The Commission should strive for enhanced coherence and complementarity with other data information systems including the ABAC, with which it should aim to reduce the duplication;
- 7.2. The role, objectives and scope of CRIS in relation to the different types of existing information and information systems should be defined precisely;
- 7.3. As a result of reduced duplication the Commission could allocate reduced but adequate resources to run CRIS. Specific attention to Delegations' needs should be paid.
- 7.4. Effective revision and reinforcement of data will safeguard and ensure reliability of information. Data quality controls, including checks on data processing procedures, should therefore be conducted frequently and thoroughly. To this end the Commission should make use of a tailor-made evaluation module.
- 7.5. Due care should be taken to protect personal and financial data.
- 7.6. The most significant risks of the CRIS should be evaluated.
