



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 August 2012

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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN)
Subject: Special report No 9/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
'Audit of the control system governing the production, processing, distribution and
imports of organic products'
- Draft Council conclusions

Delegations will find attached draft Council conclusions on the special report No 9/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled 'Audit of the control system governing the production, processing, distribution and imports of organic products', prepared by the Presidency in the light of the discussions at the Working Party on 23 July 2012.

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

**on Special Report No 9/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
'Audit of the control system governing the production, processing, distribution and imports of
organic products '**

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- (1) WELCOMES Special Report No 9/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled 'Audit of the control system governing the production, processing, distribution and imports of organic products';
- (2) RECALLS the essential role of the control system of organic products in order to ensure consumer confidence, protect consumer interests and ensure the effective functioning of the internal market;
- (3) UNDERLINES the importance of adequate and timely exchange of information between Member States, and between Member States and the Commission; INVITES the Commission as well as the Member States to continue to work together in order to ensure a direct flow of all relevant information on infringements and irregularities;
- (4) ENCOURAGES both the Commission and the Member States to work together in order to strengthen their monitoring and supervisory roles respectively;
- (5) STRESSES that coordination between stakeholders and authorities is essential for the traceability of organic products; INVITES the Commission to evaluate whether new tools, such as electronic databases, are necessary to improve the application of organic traceability requirements;
- (6) NOTES the intrinsic weaknesses outlined by the Court of the system of import authorisation; WELCOMES the introduction of a new system of recognised control bodies, managed directly by the Commission and Member States, ensuring harmonised application of the import regime at the EU borders;

- (7) STRESSES the necessity of ensuring that control systems in third countries recognised as equivalent for organic production fulfil all regulatory requirements; CONSIDERS that the Commission could strengthen the supervision of third countries' control systems;
- (8) NOTES that the Commission is currently assessing the EU legal framework governing organic production; CONSIDERS, in this context, that the Court's recommendations could be taken into account in this assessment;
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