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From: General Secretariat of the Council

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To: Delegations

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Subject: Special report No 6/2016 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"Eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal
diseases"
- Council conclusions (18 July 2016)

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council conclusions on the Special report No 6/2016 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal diseases" adopted by the Council at its 3481st meeting held on 18 July 2016.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

**on Special report No 6/2016 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
'Eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal diseases'**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES the Special Report No 6/2016 from the European Court of Auditors entitled 'Eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal diseases' which overall concluded that the animal disease programmes examined by the Court adequately contained animal diseases;
- (2) ACKNOWLEDGES the finding of the Court on the importance of the wildlife aspect in fighting animal diseases and WELCOMES the commitment of the Commission to ensure that veterinary programmes include wildlife aspects when relevant;
- (3) ACKNOWLEDGES the recommendation that the Commission should support the availability of vaccines where epidemiologically justified and WELCOMES the Commission's acceptance of this recommendation;

- (4) AGREES that disease outbreaks can always occur and that the Commission and the Member States should continue to be vigilant; and RECALLS that the 'Animal Health Law'¹ aimed at prevention and control of animal diseases that are transmissible to animals or humans in kept animals, wild animals and animal products was adopted on 9 March 2016. These rules consist of requirements for disease prevention and preparedness; disease awareness; biosecurity; traceability of animals and where necessary products thereof; intra-EU movements and entry into the EU of animals and animal products; surveillance; disease control and eradication; and emergency measures;
- (5) NOTES the Court's finding that the examined programmes were well-designed and implemented and that the Court further noted some specific areas with scope for improvement; and WELCOMES that the Commission agrees to facilitate the exchange of epidemiological information between Member States; and ENCOURAGES Member States to support the Commission in achieving a successful outcome;
- (6) AGREES that there is a need to better demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of veterinary expenditure but simultaneously notes that the cost-effectiveness of programmes is difficult to determine, due to the lack of available models for such analysis; and therefore

¹ OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1. Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law').

(7) WELCOMES that the Commission accepts to examine whether the existing set of indicators should be updated to provide better information on veterinary control activities and the cost-effectiveness of programmes; and further WELCOMES the adoption of resolution No. 35 'The Economics of Animal Health: Direct and Indirect Costs of Animal Disease Outbreaks' by the World Assembly of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 27 May 2016² which could lead to the generation of a dataset on the economic burden of animal diseases to be used for the design of future disease control programmes.

² The resolution can be found on the website of the OIE:
http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/About_us/docs/pdf/Session/2016/A_RESO_2016_public.pdf