



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Special report No 8/2013 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"Support for the improvement of the economic value of forests from the
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development"
- *Council conclusions*

Delegations will find attached, in the Annex, the Council conclusions on the above subject as adopted on 28 January 2014.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

**on Special Report No 8/2013 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"Support for the improvement of the economic value of forests from the European
Agricultural Fund for Rural Development"**

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- (1) WELCOMES Special Report No 8/2013 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Support for the improvement of the economic value of forests from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development" ;
- (2) RECALLS that on 17 October 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)¹, aimed at providing, inter alia, a new legal framework for Rural Development support in the forestry sector;
- (3) RECALLS further that on 17 October 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (the horizontal regulation)², laying down, inter alia, the legal basis for the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;

¹ 15425/11 + REV 1 (en, fr, de)

² 15426/11 + REV 1 (en, fr, de)

- (4) UNDERLINES that under the above-mentioned proposals for the next programming period, the Commission has proposed to replace the measure audited by the Court entitled "Improvement of economic value of forests" by a sub-measure entitled "Investments in forestry technologies and in the processing and marketing of forest products", which would be integrated in a single measure, covering all types of forestry support;
 - (5) CONSIDERS, in this context, that the Court's recommendations could be taken into account during the development of the new measure in the next Rural Development programmes and its subsequent implementation;
 - (6) INVITES the Commission to provide further guidance to Member States on the implementation of the measure.
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