



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 20 June 2017
(OR. en)

10467/17

FIN 391
AGRI 344
AGRIFIN 61
AGRISTR 51

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 6812/17

Subject: Special Report No 26/2016 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:
"Making cross-compliance more effective and achieving simplification
remains challenging"
- Council conclusions (20 June 2017)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on:

Special Report No 26/2016 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "Making cross-compliance more effective and achieving simplification remains challenging"

adopted by the Council at its 3552nd meeting held on 20 June 2017.

Council conclusions

**on Special Report No 26/2016 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:
"Making cross-compliance more effective and achieving simplification remains
challenging"**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES the Court's Special Report 26/2016 on cross-compliance;
- (2) NOTES the Court's recommendations, all of which are directed to the Commission, and ALSO NOTES the Commission's replies to these recommendations;
- (3) CALLS UPON the Commission, when following-up on the Court's recommendations, to give due account to the following issues:
 - overall simplification of the cross-compliance management and control system for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020;
 - identification and analysis of the reasons for cross-compliance related infringements;
 - adaptation of rules regarding on-the-spot and risk-based checks of cross-compliance rules;
 - the co-existence and simplification of greening requirements and standards of good agricultural and environmental condition of land (i.e. the GAEC standards);
 - identification of administrations' needs for adequate operational assistance as well as reduction of the administrative costs and burdens involved in implementing cross-compliance;

- proportionality of cross compliance reductions, minor non-compliances without sanctions and early warnings in cases of non-intentional, minor error;
 - harmonised application of penalties for non-compliance by clarifying the criteria to assess non-compliance, the scope of controls and relevant reporting operations, including those not covered in cross-compliance legislation (Annex II of Regulation 1306/2013);
 - the double control and sanction systems for greening and cross-compliance and the risk of additional burdens and inefficiencies;
- (4) CONSIDERS that cross-compliance generally, including the Court's recommendations in its special report on cross-compliance, should be addressed further in the context of the discussions on the CAP post-2020, with due account to be given to the objective of reducing administrative costs and burdens.
-