



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors report "Getting the Gross National Income (GNI) data right: A more structured and better-focused approach would improve the effectiveness of the Commission's verification"

1. On 12 December 2013, the General Secretariat of the Council received the European Court of Auditors' special report No 11/2013 entitled "Getting the Gross National Income (GNI) data right: a more structured and better-focused approach would improve the effectiveness of the Commission's verification" together with the Commission's replies¹.
2. Under the rules laid down in the Council conclusions on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors², the Permanent Representatives Committee on 22 January 2014 instructed the Economic and Financial Committee to examine the report in accordance with those rules³.

¹ This special report is available on the Court's website: <http://eca.europa.eu>.

² 7515/00 FIN 127 + COR 1.

³ 5304/1/14 REV1. The Council will finalise its examination within three months.

3. On the basis of the preparation in the Economic and Financial Committee, the Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to invite the Council to adopt the draft Council conclusions as set out in the annex.
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Draft Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors report "Getting the Gross National Income (GNI) data right: A more structured and better-focused approach would improve the effectiveness of the Commission's verification"

The Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Special Report 11/2013 "Getting the Gross National Income (GNI) data right: A more structured and better-focused approach would improve the effectiveness of the Commission's verification", which examines the effectiveness of the Commission's verification of GNI data for the years 2002 to 2007 used for own resource purposes. WELCOMES that many of the elements expressed in the report are being addressed, including the Commission further developing its verification strategy taking account of the findings of the audit, and that the Commission in the meantime has implemented a policy restricting the use of general reservations.
2. ACKNOWLEDGES that the verification of Own Resources data must be undertaken in the spirit of mutual trust and transparency and URGES the Commission to maintain these elements whilst implementing the Court of Auditors' recommendations. Special attention should be given to the reliability of the GNI data compiled within the ESA 2010 framework under the new own resources Decision.
3. RECOGNISES the limitations on resources in Member States and the Commission and therefore URGES the Commission to take a risk-based and proportionate approach to its verification strategy for European Statistics.