



Brussels, 5 December 2014
(OR. en)

15565/14

AGRI 705
AGRIORG 153
AGRISTR 63
AGRIFIN 146
FIN 865

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN)
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
On: 2 December 2014

No. prev. doc.: 14803/14

Subject: Special Report No 9/2014 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Is the EU investment and promotion support to the wine sector well managed and are its results on the competitiveness of EU wines demonstrated?"
- *Adoption of Council conclusions*

1. At its meeting on 25 September 2014, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) discussed the above Special Report as well as the Commission's replies to that report.
2. In the light of those discussions, the Presidency drew up the draft conclusions set out in doc. 14803/14.
3. At its meeting on 2 December 2014, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) reached agreement on a revised version of the draft conclusions as set out in the Annex to this note.

4. In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on 8 May 2000 on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors¹, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) invites the Permanent Representatives Committee to suggest to the Council that it adopt the draft Council conclusions as set out in the Annex to this note as an "A" item at a forthcoming session.
-

¹ Doc. 7515/00 + COR 1.

Draft Council conclusions
on Special Report No 9/2014 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Is the EU investment and promotion support to the wine sector well managed and are its results on the competitiveness of EU wines demonstrated?"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES Special Report No 9/2014 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Is the EU investment and promotion support to the wine sector well managed and are its results on the competitiveness of EU wines demonstrated?";
- (2) ACKNOWLEDGES that the support for both investments and promotion provided for by the Single CMO Regulation² has often contributed to enhancing the competitiveness of the EU's wine sector;
- (3) AGREES that, although preference should be given to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), neither large firms nor brands should be excluded in so far as they help EU wine producers gain a foothold in third-country markets and their reputation in those markets often has a multiplier effect on SMEs;
- (4) INVITES the Commission to ensure that the combined effect of all common agricultural policy (CAP) instruments is measured and assessed in relation to the common objectives of the CAP, including by means of an evaluation of the coherence of the CAP instruments by 2018, and to improve the quality of checks, in particular through a possible adaptation of the guidelines and rules as soon as possible.

² Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) (OJ L 299, 16.11.2007, p. 1).