



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	16805/13
Subject:	Special Report No 8/2013 entitled "Support for the improvement of the economic value of forests from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development" - <i>Adoption of Council conclusions</i>

1. At its meeting on 22 October 2013, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) examined 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" (doc. 13984/13¹).

¹ The report is to be found on the Court of Auditors' website: <http://eca.europa.eu/>

2. At its meeting on 5 December 2013, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) reached agreement on draft Council conclusions on the above report.
 3. 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 Auditors, 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.
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DRAFT 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)², 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)³, laying down, inter alia, the legal basis for the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;

² 15425/11 + REV 1 (en, fr, de)

³ 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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