



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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

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Subject: Special Report No 6/2013 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Have the Member States and the Commission achieved value for money with the measures for diversifying the rural economy?"
- *Draft Council conclusions*

1. At its meeting on 22 October 2013, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) examined Special report No 6/2013 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Have the Member States and the Commission achieved value for money with the measures for diversifying the rural economy?" (doc. 13981/13¹).
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.

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

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 6/2013 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"Have the Member States and the Commission achieved value for money with the measures
for diversifying the rural economy?"**

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- (1) WELCOMES Special Report No 6/2013 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Have the Member States and the Commission achieved value for money with the measures for diversifying the rural economy?";
- (2) NOTES the broad scope of the measures audited, including, but not limited to the creation and maintenance of employment; UNDERLINES the general objective of the measures aiming to improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage the diversification of economic activities;
- (3) 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 for the diversification of the Rural economy;

² 15425/11 + REV 1 (en, fr, de)

- (4) 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;
- (5) NOTES the Commission's replies that the Court's recommendations are reflected in the above proposals, particularly as regards identifying needs and priorities, selection criteria for operations, eligible expenditure and the improvement of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- (6) STRESSES the Court's recommendation to reduce administrative burden and WELCOMES the Commission's reply that for the next programming period the Commission foresees further reduction of administrative burden by the introduction of simplified costs.
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³ 15426/11 + REV 1 (en, fr, de)