



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors Special Report No 13/2014 on "EU support for rehabilitation following the earthquake in Haiti"

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At its meeting on 26 May 2015, the Council adopted the Council conclusions as set out in the annex to this note.

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**Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors Special Report No 13/2014 on "EU support for rehabilitation following the earthquake in Haiti"**

1. The Council welcomes the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 13/2014 on the "EU Support for rehabilitation following the earthquake in Haiti."<sup>1</sup>
2. The Council notes that the Court, among its findings, recommends that, in post-disaster and fragile situations, the Commission and the EEAS should:
  - Improve risk management, notably by paying due attention to operational, political, fiduciary and other risks to the achievement of programmes' objectives and by establishing measures to prevent or mitigate such risks;
  - Ensure better and more effective linkages and synergies between relief, rehabilitation and development measures – in particular through the adoption of a common strategy between Commission services;
  - Continue to focus on key public financial management functions and reforms when using budget support modalities and to adopt, where necessary, short term measures to safeguard EU funds;
  - Develop business continuity procedures, notably by including provisions for emergency personnel redeployment in EU Delegations and by ensuring sufficient resources for monitoring purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 334, 25.9.2014, p. 7.

3. The Council recognises that Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD), in all EU areas of intervention, requires a common strategy. The Council encourages the Commission, the EEAS and the EU Member States, where appropriate with other donors, to enhance coordination in the design and implementation of humanitarian and development projects and programmes, including through joint programming where appropriate, to ensure effective linkages and synergies.
4. The Council reiterates that efforts to promote LRRD remain key to building resilience<sup>2</sup> and to achieving sustainable human development, including poverty reduction<sup>3</sup>. The Council welcomes the full and systematic integration of the LRRD approach in the 2014-2020 funding cycle, in particular in the National Indicative Programme for Haiti.
5. The Council underlines that assistance to post-disaster and fragile States, including through budget support, is an essential but challenging component of EU external relations policy, noting that the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States is based on mutual trust and accountability and on country-led and country-owned transition processes, with associated risks that must be managed but cannot be completely eliminated. In this regard, coordination with other donors on risk adaptation and mitigation strategies for development cooperation with Haiti should be strengthened, with full respect for the modus operandi of humanitarian aid.

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<sup>2</sup> Doc. 9325/13: "Council Conclusions on EU approach to resilience". Also Commission Staff Working Document "Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries 2013-2020"

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 9369/12: "Council Conclusions on Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change".

6. The Council reiterates that EU budget support must be designed and implemented to effectively support poverty reduction and sustainable development, and to reflect the specific goals, benefits and risks, as well as feasibility in the partner country. The Council welcomes the efforts of the Commission and notes in this respect the ongoing State Building Contract under the budget support aid modality designed for fragile states, as well as the inclusion in the 2014-2020 National Indicative Programme of the focal sector "State reform and modernization of public administration". The Council reiterates that providing budget support in the form of State Building Contracts with partner countries in fragile situations should be based on a case-by-case approach and an assessment of potential benefits and risks, an analysis of alternative aid modalities as well as of the cost of inaction. Such support, including expenditures, should be monitored closely.<sup>4</sup>
7. The Council calls on the Commission and the EEAS to underline the importance of public financial management (PFM) reforms in their dialogue with the Haitian government and to provide adequate capacity-building support and focus to key PFM functions.
8. The Council recalls the swift response to the 12 January 2010 Haiti earthquake by the EU and by Member States in rapidly providing humanitarian emergency assistance and deploying humanitarian and civil protection experts from the Commission and the Member States, as well as efforts by Member States in the area of consular cooperation. The Council welcomes the establishment of business continuity procedures, under the responsibility of the EEAS, and provisions for emergency personnel redeployment for all EU Delegations since the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

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<sup>4</sup> Doc. 9371/12: "Council Conclusions on The Future Approach to EU Budget Support to Third Countries".

9. The Council calls on the Commission and the EEAS together and in coordination with EU Member States, as well as with other donors, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles, while recognising the central role of the UN in providing leadership and coordination of international humanitarian engagement, to keep working towards a joint analysis of humanitarian and development issues, a joint identification of solutions and burden-sharing, including in the context of joint programming where appropriate, to help build the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in Haiti.
  
10. The Council finally underlines that supporting Haiti in its transition from rehabilitation to development requires both medium and long term engagement. The Council underlines that this support remains a priority of EU cooperation.

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