



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 17 December 2013
(OR. en)**

17701/13

**FIN 948
TRANS 670
MAR 201
CADREFIN 374
ENV 1197**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	17151/13 FIN 867 TRANS 639 MAR 193 CADREFIN 337 ENV 1152 REV 1
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2013) 278 final
Subject:	Council conclusions on the Special report No 3/2013 of the European Court of Auditors: Have the Marco Polo programmes been effective in shifting traffic off the road?

1. On 25 July 2013, the General Secretariat of the Council received the European Court of Auditors Special Report No. 3/2013 " European Court of Auditors Special Report No 3/2013 "Have the Marco Polo programmes been effective in shifting traffic off the road?" together with the Commission's replies¹.

¹ Doc. 12728/13 FIN 476 TRANS 416 MAR 109 CADREFIN 201 ENV 751.

2. Pursuant to the rules set out in the Council conclusions on improving the examination of special report drawn up by the Court of Auditors², the Permanent Representatives Committee on 29 October 2013 instructed the Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks to examine the report³.
 3. At the close of its proceedings, the Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks agreed on the draft Council conclusions, as set out in the Annex.
 4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to approve the text of the attached draft Council conclusions and transmit it to the Council for adoption as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting.
-

² Doc. 7515/00 FIN 127 + COR 1.

³ Doc. 12729/13 FIN 477 TRANS 417 MAR 110 CADREFIN 202 ENV 751.

DRAFT

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on the European Court of Auditors Special Report No 3/2013

"Have the Marco Polo programmes been effective in shifting traffic off the road?"

1. The Council takes note of the European Court of Auditors Special Report No 3/2013 on "Have the Marco Polo programmes been effective in shifting traffic off the road?" concerning the effectiveness of the Marco Polo programmes financing transport service projects that shift freight transport from road to rail, inland waterways and short sea shipping. The audit covers Marco Polo I and the ongoing Marco Polo II up to July 2012. To carry out the audit, the Court analysed a sample of 16 projects representing 19,5 million euro in commitments and 11,4 million euro in payments. Four of them were short sea shipping projects, one was a rail/inland waterways combination, and the remaining 11 were rail projects.
2. The Council notes the recommendations formulated by the European Court of Auditors in its Special Report and the Commission's commitment to take these recommendations into consideration for the remainder of the Marco Polo II. It notes the Commission's thorough and constructive response to the conclusions of the Special Report and notes that part of the measures suggested by the European Court of Auditors has already been taken up by the Commission.
3. ~~The Council notes that the Commission does not intend to put forward a proposal with a view to establish a Marco Polo III~~ invites the Commission, when **taking a decision on a new scheme replacing the Marco Polo programme and** considering ~~new any future development of detailed actions in the area of freight transport services within the framework of the trans-European transport network, the Council~~ to take the Court's recommendations into account.
4. — [...]