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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: European Court of Auditor's Special Report No 16/2015 "Improving the security of energy supply by developing the internal energy market: more efforts needed"
= Draft Council conclusions

Following the Energy Working Party on 9 February 2016, delegations will find in Annex the revised draft Council conclusions on the above-mentioned subject.

Changes compared to the previous version concern only paragraph 6.d) and are reflected in **bold underlined**; deletions are marked with ~~striketrough~~.

The silence procedure is launched on the text till Wednesday, 10 February 2016 17:30. No response from any delegation by the deadline will indicate acceptance of the conclusions which will be then forwarded to the Coreper and Council as an I/A item for adoption.

Draft Council conclusions on European Court of Auditor's Special Report No 16/2015
"Improving the security of energy supply by developing the internal energy market: more efforts needed"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. ~~WELCOMES~~ **Thanks the** ~~Special Report No 16/2015 from the~~ European Court of Auditors **for the Special Report No 16/2015** entitled: "Improving the security of energy supply by developing the internal energy market: more efforts needed".
2. UNDERLINES the focus of the Special Report on the completion of the internal energy market and the implementation and enforcement of the EU regulatory framework, in particular the third energy package.
3. REITERATES in this context, the European Council conclusions of October 2014 where the European Council noted the fundamental importance of a fully functioning and connected internal energy market and stressed that all efforts must be mobilised to achieve this objective as a matter of urgency.
4. TAKES ~~good~~ note of the conclusions and recommendations ~~therein~~ **in the Special Report.**

In particular:

5. UNDERLINES the Court's recommendations that the Member States should make sure that **in line with the provisions of the EU regulatory framework** the NRAs (National Regulatory Authorities) are independent and do not face restrictions to the scope of their tasks.
6. NOTES the Court's recommendations to the Commission to:
 - a) assure that ACER has the necessary powers to obtain the information it needs to carry out the tasks assigned to it,
 - b) promote widespread development of transparent trading mechanisms for gas and electricity,

- c) expedite continue to progress the comitology process of comitology, with a view to securing approval of the electricity network codes,
- d) assess EU's energy infrastructure needs including interconnections in a comprehensive manner as well as refine planning procedures for projects of common interest. ; including the market requirements, cost and benefits analysis, possible alternative solutions and development and use of interconnections, in particular when planning and prioritising projects of common interest. as well as refine planning procedures, in particular the prioritisation and funding of projects of common interest.

7. ENCOURAGES the Member States and the Commission to consider the Court's recommendations in future work on the implementation of the Energy Union, and expresses its readiness to consider any proposals that the Commission may present in response to this Special Report.
