



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Special Report No 21/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:
"Greening: a more complex income support scheme, not yet
environmentally effective"
- *Council conclusions (14 May 2018)*

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on:

Special Report No 21/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "Greening: a more complex income support scheme, not yet environmentally effective"

adopted by the Council at its 3615th meeting held on 14 May 2018.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on Special Report No 21/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:

"Greening: a more complex income support scheme, not yet environmentally effective"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES the Court's Special Report No 21/2017 on greening, which assesses whether the system for greening is designed, monitored and implemented so as to enhance its environmental and climate performance, in accordance with the objectives set out in relevant EU legislation, such as for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
- (2) ACKNOWLEDGES the potential for improving the sustainability of the CAP and BELIEVES that the green payments introduced in the 2013 CAP reform created additional complexity and bureaucracy, are difficult to understand and are unlikely to provide significant benefits for the environment and climate;
- (3) NOTES the Court's recommendations to the Commission, which should be taken into account when developing proposals for the next reform of the CAP, such as regarding:
 - the need for a complete intervention logic for the CAP to contribute to EU environmental and climate-related objectives;
 - the link between basic environmental norms and the environmental baseline with CAP payments and penalties for non-compliance;
 - stronger programmed action based on the achievement of performance targets beyond the environmental baseline in order to address specific, local needs;

- (4) CALLS upon the Commission to address the Member States' specific concerns with regard to the CAP's current greening architecture, which should be addressed in the next reform of the CAP, including:
- focusing on targeted measures in order to achieve both an effective policy and simplification;
 - reducing the administrative burden in the achievement of environmental and climate-related CAP objectives;
 - streamlining of, and avoiding overlaps between, the future requirements in relation to the green architecture;
 - ensuring more subsidiarity and flexibility to take account of national and regional specificities when designing interventions while a common level of ambition on environmental objectives should be set at EU level to ensure a level playing field;
 - acknowledging the important role of farmers in delivering environmental and climate protection as public goods, which justifies adequate remuneration for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment;
 - providing effective incentives to farmers to engage in further environmental and climate practices than required;
 - ensuring that the programmed action based on the achievement of performance targets should be simple, realistic, easily quantifiable, controllable and applicable to local realities;
 - avoiding any delays and disruption in the disbursement of payments to farmers.