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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	European Court of Auditor's Special Report No 05/2018 "Renewable energy for sustainable rural development: significant potential synergies, but mostly unrealised" - <i>Adoption of Council conclusions</i>

Following the tasking by the Permanent Representatives Committee¹, the Working Party on Energy (ENERGY) discussed the European Court of Auditors' Special Report 05/2018² entitled "Renewable energy for sustainable rural development: significant potential synergies, but mostly unrealised", at its meeting of 27 April 2018.

In light of these discussions, the ENERGY Chair drew up draft Council conclusions which were examined by ENERGY at its meeting of 28 May 2018, and subsequently agreed as revised taking into consideration the written and oral comments.³

In accordance with the Council conclusions of 8 May 2000 on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors⁴, the Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to suggest to the Council to adopt, under the "A" items of a forthcoming session, the Council conclusions as set out in the Annex.

¹ 605/18.

² https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR18_05/SR_Renewable_Energy_EN.pdf

³ 8894/1/18 REV 1

⁴ 7515/00 + COR 1.

Council conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report 05/2018 "Renewable energy for sustainable rural development: significant potential synergies, but mostly unrealised"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. THANKS the European Court of Auditors for the Special Report 05/2018 entitled "Renewable energy for sustainable rural development: significant potential synergies, but mostly unrealised".
2. UNDERLINES the focus of the Special Report on links between energy policy with rural development funding programmes such as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).
3. REITERATES in this context, the European Council conclusions of October 2014 where the European Council underlined the continued importance of increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU towards 2030.
4. UNDERLINES the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency to fulfil the Paris Agreement.
5. TAKES good note of the conclusions and recommendations in the Special Report.

In particular:

6. TAKES note of the Court's recommendations to the Commission to specify the purpose and role of EAFRD support for investments in renewable energy,
7. TAKES note of the Court's recommendations to the Commission and the Member States to improve the availability of information on EAFRD related renewable energy support, and
8. ENCOURAGES the Commission and the Member States to consider the Court's recommendations and take the needs of rural areas into account when designing the support for renewable energy.