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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 22/2018 'Mobility under Erasmus+: Millions of participants and multi-faceted European Added Value, however performance measurement needs to be further improved'
- Adoption

1. On 6 September 2018 the European Court of Auditors published its Special Report No 22/2018 entitled 'Mobility under Erasmus+: Millions of participants and multi-faceted European Added Value, however performance measurement needs to be further improved'¹.
2. Under the rules laid down in the Council conclusions on improving the examination of Special Reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors², the Permanent Representatives Committee instructed the Education Committee to examine that report in accordance with those rules.
3. The Special Report was presented by the Court of Auditors to the Education Committee on 19 September 2018.

¹ This special report is available in all official languages on the Court's website:
<http://eca.europa.eu>.

² 7515/00 FIN 127 + COR 1.

4. Based on the findings of the Special Report, the Presidency prepared draft Council conclusions which have been examined by the Education Committee on 12 November 2018 and an agreement in principle on these conclusions has been reached.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend to the Council to adopt, as an "A" item of its agenda, the draft Council conclusions as set out in annex to this document.

Draft

**Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 22/2018:
'Mobility under Erasmus+: Millions of participants and multi-faceted European Added
Value, however performance measurement needs to be further improved'**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. TAKES NOTE of the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 22/2018 and the Commission's detailed replies accompanying the report.
2. HIGHLIGHTS that Erasmus+ is a well-known, successful brand of the European Union, which provides clear European added value.
3. STRESSES that Erasmus+ aims to provide learners and staff with the opportunity to gain competences and skills and improve their personal and professional development through learning and training periods abroad as well as through cooperation in projects.
4. AGREES with the Court's acknowledgement that:
 - Erasmus+ plays a key role in building up learning mobility abroad and has a positive effect on participants' attitudes towards the European Union;
 - mobility generates many forms of European added value, in addition to those required by the legal basis of the programme;
 - the mainly indirect management approach increases the effectiveness of projects;
 - mobility increases participants' sense of European identity and improves their language skills;
 - Erasmus+ contributes to the development and internationalisation of participating institutions.

5. CONSIDERS that many of the recommendations made by the Court of Auditors are important and in line with the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme³, especially the recommendations to
 - further simplify learning mobility in order to reduce the administrative burden;
 - enhance mobility opportunities for school pupils.
6. On recommendations 2b and 5, however, the Council CONSIDERS:
 - that the performance criteria for the allocation of funds as defined in the legal basis of Erasmus+ are appropriate;
 - that the Student Loan Guarantee Facility has not proven successful for the purposes of supporting mobility within Erasmus+ and should therefore be discontinued under the future programme.
7. STRESSES the importance of evaluating and monitoring the Erasmus+ and its successor programme and AGREES with the Court of Auditors' recommendation that indicators that help to measure the achievement of the programme objectives might need to be further developed.
8. REAFFIRMS its commitment towards a substantially strengthened, inclusive and extended Erasmus+ programme.
9. NOTES that for the ongoing negotiations on the next Erasmus+ programme, without prejudice to the final outcome of these discussions, including the horizontal negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, due consideration could be given to the recommendations made in this Special Report of the European Court of Auditors.

³ COM(2018) 50 final