



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Special Report No 10/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"EU support to young farmers should be better targeted to foster effective
generational renewal"
- *Council conclusions (18 December 2017)*

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on:

Special Report No 10/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "EU support to young farmers should be better targeted to foster effective generational renewal"

adopted by the Council at its 3590th meeting held on 18 December 2017.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on Special Report No 10/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:

"EU support to young farmers should be better targeted to foster effective generational renewal"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES the Court's Special Report No 10/2017, which assesses whether EU support to young farmers is well designed to contribute effectively to generational renewal;
- (2) NOTES the Court's recommendations that:
 - a) a reinforcement of the needs assessment and the definition of objectives in regard of fostering generational renewal could improve the intervention logic for generational renewal;
 - b) improved project selection and the use of business plans could result in better targeted measures;
 - c) best practices developed by Member States could be used as a basis for improving the monitoring and evaluation of the measures;
- (3) ACKNOWLEDGES that, in the development of the farming sector across the EU, a problem remains the demographic challenge, i.e. to achieve generational renewal in the farming sector;

- (4) CONSIDERS that generational renewal is influenced, amongst other things, by the general economic and social situation, the employment possibilities in sectors other than agriculture, access to agricultural land and financing sources, development opportunities for young farmers and policies related to the exit of old farmers;
- (5) BELIEVES that the issue of generational renewal might require complementary and coordinated actions in the rural and agricultural policy areas¹, which should be linked with wider national and regional strategies, taking into account the interests of both retiring farmers and young successors;
- (6) STRESSES that a support framework for young farmers is an important element of the CAP;
- (7) WELCOMES the Commission's intention to carry out an evaluation and to publish a report in 2018 on the impact of the CAP and complementary interventions by Member States on generational renewal in the EU's agricultural sector;
- (8) INVITES the Commission to consider the particular effects on young farmers when preparing new legislative initiatives for the CAP post-2020 in order to stimulate generational renewal in agriculture.

¹ ECA mentions in this regard the need for close coordination between the rural development and direct payment pillars in the current agricultural legislative framework, i.e. Article 19(1)(a)(i) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and Articles 50 and 51 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013.