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(OR. en)

5091/1/20  
REV 1

TRANS 4  
ENER 4  
TELECOM 3  
RECH 7  
FIN 8  
REGIO 1  
COMPET 7  
ECO 2

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: European Court of Auditors' Special Report No. 19/2019 "INEA: benefits delivered but CEF shortcomings to be addressed"  
- *Discussion of draft Council conclusions*

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Following the tasking by the Permanent Representatives Committee<sup>1</sup>, the Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks held a first discussion on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report 19/2019<sup>2</sup> titled "INEA: benefits delivered but CEF shortcomings to be addressed", at its meeting of 15 January 2020<sup>3</sup>.

Based on this discussion, the Presidency prepared draft Council conclusions, which were examined at the Working Party at its meeting on 31 January 2020. Subsequently the Presidency prepared a revised set of draft conclusions as set out in the Annex, which will be examined by the Working Party at its meeting on 14 February 2020, with a view to find agreement on the text. Changes in the text compared to the previous version are marked as **bold underlined** and with ~~strikethroughs~~.

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<sup>1</sup> 14172/19

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR19\\_19/SR\\_INEA\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR19_19/SR_INEA_EN.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> WK 388/2020

After an agreement of delegations on the text is reached, in accordance with the Council conclusions of 8 May 2000 on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors<sup>4</sup>, the Permanent Representatives Committee will be invited to suggest to the Council to adopt the conclusions, at one of its forthcoming sessions as an "A" item.

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<sup>4</sup> 7515/00 + COR 1

DRAFT

**Council conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report 19/2019 titled "INEA: benefits delivered but CEF shortcomings to be addressed"**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. ~~THANKS~~ **WELCOMES** the European Court of Auditors' ~~for the~~ Special Report 19/2019 titled "INEA: benefits delivered but CEF shortcomings to be addressed".
2. ~~REMARKS~~ **NOTES** the focus of the Special Report on the management of EU spending programmes by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA).
3. RECALLS in this context the legislative proposal for establishing the Connecting Europe Facility for the period of 2021-2027, which **addresses some of the court's recommendations and** is currently under negotiation.
4. REITERATES the Council conclusions of December 2017 on the progress of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) implementation and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for transport, where the Council underlined inter alia the potentials for synergies between different programmes and among CEF sectors as well as the importance of a timely implementation of projects.
5. TAKES note of the conclusions and recommendations in the Special Report and WELCOMES the Court's overall very positive assessment of the performance of INEA.

In particular:

6. WELCOMES the Court's assessment that INEA is fulfilling its tasks as measured by performance indicators, that standardised procedures have led to a simplification of the implementation of delegated spending programmes and that procedures for selecting funded projects are well organised.

7. ~~TAKES good note~~ **STRESSES the importance** of the Court's recommendations to the Commission and INEA to improve the potential of synergies by removing obstacles, **possibly stemming from the legal framework, objectives or project readiness levels, and** to ensure harmonisation and transparency of project selection procedures, ~~as well as to reinforce the assessment of the maturity criterion of projects.~~
8. **ENCOURAGES CALLS ON** the Commission and INEA to take into account the Court's recommendations for improving the conditions for the timely implementation of CEF and the monitoring of project results, **including concrete commitments to take action on the recommendations,** and ~~UNDERLINES~~ **EMPHASISES** in this context the importance of adequate long-term planning, especially concerning multi-annual CEF calls and projects.
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