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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. prev. doc.:	7517/20
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 02/2020 "The SME instrument in action: an effective and innovative programme facing challenges" - Decision to use the written procedure for adoption

1. On 22 January 2020, the European Court of Auditors published its Special Report No. 02/2020 entitled "The SME instrument in action: an effective and innovative programme facing challenges"¹.
2. Pursuant to 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, at its meeting on 5 February 2020, instructed the Working Party on Research to examine the report in accordance with the rules laid down in the above-mentioned conclusions³.

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR20_02/SR_Innovation_SMEs_EN.pdf

² 7515/00 FIN 127 + COR 1

³ 5560/20

3. On 17 February 2020, the European Court of Auditors presented its report to the Working Party on Research. That working party examined a set of draft Council conclusions at its meeting on 2 March 2020. Due to the cancellation of other planned meetings, the text was further revised on the basis of three rounds of informal written consultations in the period from 17 March until 4 May 2020. Since no objections were raised in the final round of written consultations ending on 4 May 2020 (cob), it is considered that agreement was reached on the text as set out in 7517/20.
 4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited:
 - to confirm its agreement on the draft Council conclusions as set out in 7517/20 and,
 - to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430, that the Council uses the written procedure for its adoption.
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