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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 11/2020 entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed "
- Discussion of Council Conclusions

Following the tasking by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Energy Working Party will discuss at its meeting of 18 June 2020 the revised version of the Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report 11/2020¹ entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed".

In view of these discussions, the Presidency prepared draft Council conclusions as set out in the Annex.

Following the delegations' agreement on the text of the draft Council conclusions, in accordance with the Council conclusions of 8 May 2000 on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors², the Permanent Representatives Committee will be invited to suggest to the Council to adopt, under the "A" items of a forthcoming session, the Council conclusions.

¹ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=53483>

² 7515/00 + COR 1

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Council conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report 11/2020 entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed"

RECALLING the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' legislative package, setting the framework for the implementation of the Union's 2030 climate and energy targets on greenhouse gas reductions, renewable energy increases, energy efficiency improvement and electricity interconnections,

RECALLING in particular the amending Directive on Energy Efficiency 2018/2002/EU,

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. THANKS the European Court of Auditors for the Special Report 11/2020 entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed",
2. ACKNOWLEDGES that improving energy efficiency of buildings and attaining a faster renovation rate, are key tools to achieving the Union's 2030 headline energy efficiency target of at least 32,5%,
3. TAKES note of the conclusions and the recommendations in the Special Report and encourages the Commission to follow those recommendations.

In particular:

4. ENCOURAGES the Commission to further develop planning and targeting of investments on energy efficiency measures before approving programmes for the spending of Cohesion policy funds. Commission's analysis should allow to put in place financial instruments to meet specific market conditions across Member States and favour the energy transition. The Commission should also assess whether the programmes regarding the Cohesion policy funds are in line with the National Energy and Climate Plans and the National Long-Term Renovations Strategies taking into account the need to support the post COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery,

5. ENCOURAGES the Commission to set up a methodology to assess the energy savings resulting from the use of the EU funds,
 6. CALLS on the Commission to reinforce its guidance to the Member States' managing authorities in improving projects' selection procedures and in assessing the relative costs and the multiple benefits of the projects,
 7. UNDERLINES that the above mentioned Commission's reinforced guidance should be put in place in time for the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes,
 8. ENCOURAGES the Commission to make the performance framework more result-oriented to better monitor the progress towards Union's energy efficiency and the contribution to multiple policy objectives, also taking into account the cost-effectiveness and the multiple benefits of the investments as well as improvements in accountability.
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