



Council of the  
European Union

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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	10760/20
Subject:	Council conclusions on Special Report No 04/2020 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "Using new imaging technologies to monitor the Common Agricultural Policy: steady progress overall, but slower for climate and environment monitoring" - <i>Council conclusions</i>

Delegations will find in Annex the Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 04/2020: "Using new imaging technologies to monitor the Common Agricultural Policy: steady progress overall, but slower for climate and environment monitoring", as adopted by written procedure on 6 October 2020.

**Council conclusions**

**on Special Report No 04/2020 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:**

***"Using new imaging technologies to monitor the Common Agricultural Policy: steady progress overall, but slower for climate and environment monitoring"***

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. WELCOMES the Court's Special Report No 04/2020 entitled "Using new imaging technologies to monitor the Common Agricultural Policy: steady progress overall, but slower for climate and environment monitoring", which examines the extent to which the European Commission and the Member States use these new technologies for the management and control of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
2. TAKES NOTE of the Court's recommendations to the Commission to promote 'checks by monitoring' as a key control system for paying agencies, to make better use of new technologies for monitoring environmental and climate requirements and to develop action plans to remove obstacles to their wider uptake;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES the potential of using new imaging technologies, such as Copernicus Sentinel satellite data, images taken by drones and geotagged images, for managing and monitoring the CAP, e.g. for assessing farmers' compliance with CAP rules, such as area-based direct aid to farmers, and for monitoring compliance and performance monitoring of climate and environmental requirements;

4. UNDERLINES that a transition to a 'checks by monitoring' approach requires significant changes to paying agencies' procedures and IT systems, resources and expertise and STRESSES that further consideration be given in this regard to the possible outcomes of future Commission audits under the new approach, the parallel use of traditional and new monitoring systems during a transition period, the overall objective to simplify the CAP, including the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), and to limit the administrative burden and costs for administrations and beneficiaries;
  5. CONSIDERS that the 'checks by monitoring' approach has the potential to prevent non-compliance from occurring rather than penalizing farmers afterwards but CALLS on the Commission to issue guidelines on 'checks by monitoring' in order for paying agencies to take the right decisions and to reduce the risk of future financial corrections as a result of the Commission's conformity clearance procedure;
  6. REMINDS that the Council's position on the use of new technology and knowledge, in particular of digital technologies, for the purposes of monitoring agri-environment-climate policy and for boosting the use of full, free and open data and information, is in the process of being formulated as the CAP post-2020 legislative proposals are currently under negotiation by the Council and the European Parliament; AFFIRMS in this context that the Court's observations and recommendations as well as the Commission's replies to the Court's Special Report will be duly taken into account in the Council's deliberations.
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