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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on Special Report No 13/2020 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline"
- Approval of draft Council conclusions

1. The Permanent Representatives Committee instructed the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (WP AGRIFIN) to examine the above mentioned Special Report in accordance with the rules laid down in the Council conclusions of 8 May 2000 on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors (doc. 7515/00 + COR 1).
2. At its informal videoconference meeting on 7 October 2020, WP AGRIFIN discussed the above mentioned Special Report as well as the Commission's replies to that report, on the basis of which the Presidency drafted Council conclusions. At its informal videoconference meeting on 11 November 2020, WP AGRIFIN informally approved the draft Council conclusions related to the Special Report (WK 12157/2020), as set out in the Annex to this note.
3. In accordance with the Council conclusions of 8 May 2000, the Permanent Representatives Committee is hereby invited to suggest to the Council that it approve the draft Council conclusions as set out in the Annex to this note as an 'A' item at a forthcoming session.

Draft Council conclusions

on Special Report No 13/2020 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:

"Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) NOTES the Court's Special Report No 13/2020 entitled "*Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline*", which assesses whether the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has helped to maintain and enhance farmland biodiversity;
- (2) TAKES NOTE of the Court's recommendations related to: the coordination and the design for the post-2020 EU biodiversity strategy, including the tracking of expenditure; the contribution of direct payments to farmland biodiversity; the contribution of rural development to farmland biodiversity; and to indicators to assess the impact of the CAP on farmland biodiversity;
- (3) RECALLS that the CAP 2014-2020 provides a range of instruments that can contribute to supporting biodiversity and UNDERLINES that the current proposals for the reform of the CAP contain further measures with a beneficial impact for biodiversity, including enhanced conditionality, advisory services, eco-schemes (in Pillar I) and rural development measures (in Pillar II);

- (4) RECALLS the Council's Conclusions on “*Biodiversity – the need for urgent action*”¹ and REMINDS that 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 taken into account in the Council's deliberations.²
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¹ Doc. 12210/2020.

² Article 7(5) of the Council's Rules of Procedure: "*Where legislative proposals or initiatives are submitted to it the Council shall refrain from adopting acts which are not provided for by the Treaties, such as resolutions, conclusions or declarations other than those accompanying the adoption of the act and intended for entry in the Council minutes.*"