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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 20/2024: Common Agricultural Policy Plans: Greener, but not matching the EU's ambitions for the climate and the environment - <i>Approval of draft Council conclusions</i>

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. This examination showed that significant parts of the report do not relate to the discharge procedure and some parts concern matters that fall outside the scope of the Court's competence as defined by the treaties.

3. At its meeting on 20 November 2024, WP AGRIFIN discussed the above-mentioned Special Report as well as the Commission's replies to the report. It was considered that Council conclusions should be drawn up regarding Special Report No 20/24. In the light of those discussions, the Presidency drew up draft conclusions (doc. 15964/24). A deadline for written comments was set on 2 December. A number of comments were received and addressed in a redrafted text (doc. 15964/24 ADD 1). The revised text was presented in the WP AGRIFIN of 5 December and all Member States agreed to it. The text in doc. 15964/24 ADD 1 is considered final.
4. 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.

Final Council conclusions

European Court of Auditors Special Report 20/2024 entitled:

“Common Agricultural Policy Plans – Greener, but not matching the EU’s ambitions for the climate and the environment”

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. NOTES the Court's Special Report No 20/2024 entitled “*Common Agricultural Policy Plans – Greener, but not matching the EU’s ambitions for the climate and the environment*”, which assesses whether the 2023-2027 CAP strategic plans provide a sound basis for meeting the policy objectives of a greener CAP and the replies of the Commission to this report;
2. WELCOMES the Court's recommendation to the Commission to continue promoting the exchanges of “green” good practices, which the Commission accepts;
3. TAKES NOTE of the Court's recommendation to the Commission to estimate the CAP’s contribution to the Green Deal’s environmental and climate objectives and ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of the monitoring framework for the climate and environmental performance of the CAP;
4. Compared to the 2014-2022 period, WELCOMES the increased level of ambition in the CAP strategic plans as concerns environmental and climate aspects while ACKNOWLEDGING the differences that exist among Member States in terms of the most appropriate ways of attaining the Green Deal objectives;

5. RECALLS that one of the primary goals of the CAP is to ensure food security in the EU-while, at the same time it contributes to the achievement of the EU's environmental and climate goals; however EMPHASIZES that CAP is only one of the tools for reaching Green Deal's objectives;
6. DRAWS ATTENTION to the EU Climate Action Progress Report 2024¹ which shows the current trend of reduction in EU emissions, expecting the agricultural sector to meet the emission cuts to be achieved by 2030;
7. RECALLS also that the implementation of CAP strategic plans only started in 2023 and that the recent period was a very challenging one for the European agricultural sector and it is therefore too early to be able to fully assess the impact of the new CAP towards EU's environmental and climate objectives;
8. UNDERLINES the need for stability and predictability in relation to the legal framework and CALLS for a simplified system of data collection satisfying various needs, which avoids the creation of unnecessary administrative burden for European farmers and Member States' competent authorities.

¹ EU Climate Action Progress Report 2024 (COM(2024) 498 final, 31/10/2024)