

Brussels, 20 May 2026
(OR. en)

9483/26

AGRI 395
AGRIFIN 98
FIN 714

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: European Court of Auditors' Special report No 03/2026: Specific measures to support agriculture in the EU outermost regions – Help keep agriculture competitive but long-term development uncertain
- 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 meeting on 15 April 2026, WP AGRIFIN discussed the above-mentioned Special Report as well as the Commission's replies to the report. In the light of those discussions, the Presidency drew up draft conclusions (doc. WK 6536/26). A deadline for written comments was set on 18 May 2026. No comments were received by the set deadline on the text of the draft Council conclusions. Therefore the text in doc. WK 6536/26 is considered final.
3. 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 on its Special Report 03/2026 entitled:

“Specific measures to support agriculture in the EU outermost regions – Help keep agriculture competitive but long-term development uncertain”

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. NOTES the Court's Special Report No 03/2026 entitled *“Specific measures to support agriculture in the EU outermost regions – Help keep agriculture competitive but long-term development uncertain”*, which assesses whether the EU programme for the outermost regions (POSEI) effectively addresses the specific needs and constraints faced by these regions in the agricultural sector as outlined in the objectives of POSEI programme;
2. WELCOMES the Court's recommendation to the Commission to undertake together with the member states concerned a review of traditional activities in these regions, which the Commission accepts;
3. TAKES NOTE of the Court's recommendations to the Commission to work together with the member states concerned in order to identify ways of improving crop and livestock diversification, which the Commission accepts;
4. TAKES NOTE of the Court's recommendation to the Commission to better assess the passing on of benefits of import support for essential products to end users via best practices' sharing, which the Commission accepts;
5. SHARES the Commission and member states opinion that this report represents a timely and valuable analysis;

6. ACKNOWLEDGES that outermost regions face more challenging conditions than other regions in the EU and that POSEI programme is an important instrument in dealing with the constraints faced by these regions;
 7. INVITES the Commission to take into account the structural changes that are already taking place in the traditional sectors of the outermost regions in designing the fundings for these regions;
 8. SALUTES Commission's intention to place a particular emphasis on the fair return of income to farmers and on the fair distribution of support.
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