



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN)
on: 7 September 2012
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council

Subject: Special Report No 8/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"Targeting of aid for the modernisation of agricultural holdings"
- Adoption of Council conclusions

1. At its meeting on 23 July 2012, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) examined Special Report No 8/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Targeting of aid for the modernisation of agricultural holdings" (doc. 10778/12).
2. At its meeting on 7 September 2012, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) reached agreement on draft Council conclusions on the above report.
3. In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on 8 May 2000 on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors, the Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) invites the Permanent Representatives Committee to suggest to the Council that it adopt 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 8/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled
"Targeting of aid for the modernisation of agricultural holdings"**

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- (1) WELCOMES Special Report No 8/2012 from the European Court of Auditors entitled "Targeting of aid for the modernisation of agricultural holdings";
- (2) WELCOMES the Court's acknowledgement that investment measure 121, "Modernisation of agricultural holdings", has achieved its nominal objective and has resulted in the modernisation of holdings;
- (3) RECALLS that on 12 October 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)¹, which is currently being examined in Council and by the Council's preparatory bodies;
- (4) CONSIDERS, in this context, that the Court's recommendations could be taken into account in the proceedings on the above proposal.
- (5) UNDERLINES that this should be done without increasing the administrative burden both for Member States and farmers and bearing in mind the ongoing objective of simplification of the CAP.

¹ 15425/11 + REV 1 (en, fr, de)