



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 26 June 2018
(OR. en)

10505/18

AGRI 315
AGRIFIN 67
FIN 506

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: European Court of Auditor's Special Report No 10/2018: "Basic Payment Scheme for farmers – operationally on track, but limited impact on simplification, targeting and the convergence of aid levels"
- *Council conclusions (26 June 2018)*

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on:

Special Report No 10/2018: "Basic Payment Scheme for farmers – operationally on track, but limited impact on simplification, targeting and the convergence of aid levels"

adopted by the Council at its 3629th meeting held on 26 June 2018.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on Special Report No 10/2018 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:

" Basic Payment Scheme for farmers – operationally on track, but limited impact on simplification, targeting and the convergence of aid levels "

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. WELCOMES the Court's Special Report No 10/2018 on the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) for farmers, which assesses the introduction of the BPS and the management of its implementation by the Commission against the EU legal framework and the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy(CAP);
2. ACKNOWLEDGES the important role of direct payments in providing farmers with income support, remunerating farmers for the provision of public goods and services, supporting agricultural activity in all parts of the EU and contributing to the protection of the environment and the development of rural economies;
3. NOTES the Court's finding that the BPS for farmers is operationally on track but that there is scope for improving its impact on simplification;
4. INVITES the Commission to take the Court's recommendations into account in the implementation of the current BPS scheme concerning:
 - the implementation of paying agencies' key controls;
 - the role of certification bodies;
5. CALLS upon the Commission, in view of the next CAP programming period, to achieve concrete simplification in the provision of direct payments and to ensure the continued availability to all Member States of decoupled area-based payment schemes (such as the current BPS or the Single Area Payment Scheme), including the option not to use payment entitlements.