



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 7 October 2022  
(OR. en)

12972/22

LIMITE

AGRI 487  
AGRIFIN 109  
FIN 995

## WORKING DOCUMENT

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 16/2022: Data in the Common Agricultural Policy: Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations <i>- Draft Council conclusions</i>

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Following the presentation on the aforementioned ECA Special Report (doc. 12195/22) at the AGRIFIN meeting on 21 September 2022, the Presidency prepared draft Council conclusions based on the presentation by ECA, the Commission's replies and Member States' comments.

During the AGRIFIN meeting on 12 October 2022, the Presidency will present the draft Council conclusions and ask delegations to send comments and suggestions by 19 October 2022.

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**Draft Council conclusions**

**European Court of Auditors on its Special Report 16/2022 entitled:  
“Data in the Common Agricultural Policy: Unrealised potential of big data for policy  
evaluations”**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

1. NOTES the Court's Special Report No 16/2022 entitled “Data in the Common Agricultural Policy: Unrealised potential of big data for policy evaluations”, which assessed how the Commission uses data and data analytics for policy analysis of the CAP and how it has been preparing to make better use of Big Data;
2. CONSIDERS that the report is relevant and timely given the progress in digital technologies and the fact that agriculture is a sector where digital innovations and technologies are increasingly applied;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES that with evolving CAP objectives to address evolving challenges over the last 60 years, including concerns about food security, food safety, environment and climate and changing consumers' expectations, the data needs have also evolved and broadened to other aspects like agri-environmental variables, emissions and bio-energy;
4. TAKES NOTE of the Court's recommendations to the Commission to establish a framework for using disaggregated data from IACS and to make more use of and develop data sources to meet policy needs, which the Commission accepts; HIGHLIGHTS that financial and administrative burden must be taken into consideration;

5. WELCOMES the Court's finding that the Commission is using significant amount of data on economic, environmental, climate and social aspects and has taken several initiatives to make better use of existing data, as well as the Court's positive assessment of the achievements in terms of making a wealth of data available to the broader public through the AGRI-Food Data Portal of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development;
6. ACKNOWLEDGES the potential of new technologies to fill current data gaps and the possibility to replace burdensome and costly existing surveys, and the fact that any progress in achieving access to new data sources will require the setting up of incentives, infrastructure and win-win solutions; STRESSES that the protection of privacy must assured;
7. NOTES that, since the completion of this Special Report, there have been further advances in some key areas, including the legislative proposal to convert the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) into a Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN), work on implementing and delegated acts related to IACS and a draft implementing regulation on Data for Monitoring and Evaluation;
8. ACKNOWLEDGES that there are initiatives across the EU that are exploring the possibilities to modernise data and IT tools for designing, monitoring and evaluating the CAP and UNDERSTANDS that there is scope for incorporating cost-effective advanced analytics and related tools into existing IT systems and/or other IT solutions for automated information processing.

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