



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	12907/20
Subject:	Council conclusions on Special Report No 13/2020 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline" <i>- Council conclusions</i>

Delegations will find in Annex the Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 13/2020: " Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline", as adopted by written procedure on 3 December 2020.

Council conclusions

on Special Report No 13/2020 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:

"Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) NOTES the Court's Special Report No 13/2020 entitled "*Biodiversity on farmland: CAP contribution has not halted the decline*", which assesses whether the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has helped to maintain and enhance farmland biodiversity;
- (2) TAKES NOTE of the Court's recommendations related to: the coordination and the design for the post-2020 EU biodiversity strategy, including the tracking of expenditure; the contribution of direct payments to farmland biodiversity; the contribution of rural development to farmland biodiversity; and to indicators to assess the impact of the CAP on farmland biodiversity;
- (3) RECALLS that the CAP 2014-2020 provides a range of instruments that can contribute to supporting biodiversity and UNDERLINES that the current proposals for the reform of the CAP contain further measures with a beneficial impact for biodiversity, including enhanced conditionality, advisory services, eco-schemes (in Pillar I) and rural development measures (in Pillar II);

- (4) RECALLS the Council's Conclusions on “*Biodiversity – the need for urgent action*”¹ and REMINDS that the CAP post-2020 legislative proposals are currently under negotiation by the Council and the European Parliament; AFFIRMS in this context that the Court's observations and recommendations as well as the Commission's replies to the Court's Special Report will be taken into account in the Council's deliberations.²
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¹ Doc. 12210/2020.

² Article 7(5) of the Council's Rules of Procedure: “*Where legislative proposals or initiatives are submitted to it the Council shall refrain from adopting acts which are not provided for by the Treaties, such as resolutions, conclusions or declarations other than those accompanying the adoption of the act and intended for entry in the Council minutes.*”