



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 17 December 2020  
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#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	17 December 2020
To:	Delegations

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Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 15/2020 entitled "Protection of wild pollinators in the EU: Commission initiatives have not borne fruit"
	- Council conclusions
	= Statement

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Delegations will find attached a statement from Austria, supported by Luxembourg, regarding the Council conclusions approved by the Council on 17 December 2020.

The statement will be entered into the minutes of the Council meeting.

**STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA**

Austria is grateful to the Presidency for its efforts to draft conclusions that are as balanced as possible.

However, we regret the deletions in paragraphs 2 and 9 made as a result of the break in the silence procedure.

In paragraph 2, the list of the causes of pollinator decline was deleted. In our view, the statement in this paragraph would be much clearer if the causes identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services had at least been indicated in a footnote.

In paragraph 9, the reference to a pollinator indicator in the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been deleted. This deletion is also very regrettable as the Common Agricultural Policy plays an important role in maintaining pollinator diversity.

However, in the spirit of compromise, we endorse this draft.

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