



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	30 November 2017
To:	Delegations

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Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 12/2017 entitled "Implementing the Drinking Water Directive: water quality and access to it improved in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, but investment needs remain substantial"
	- Council conclusions

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 12/2017 entitled "Implementing the Drinking Water Directive: water quality and access to it improved in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, but investment needs remain substantial", as adopted by the Council at its 3580th meeting held on 30 November 2017.

European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 12/2017 entitled 'Implementing the Drinking Water Directive: water quality and access to it improved in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, but investment needs remain substantial'

- Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING the Drinking Water Directive ¹ aimed at protecting human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean, and the European Commission evaluation of the REFIT of this Directive ²:

1. WELCOMES Special Report No 12/2017 from the European Court of Auditors ³;
2. NOTES that the audit focused not only on drinking water quality but also on whether EU actions have improved the safe access of citizens to quality drinking water in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, and WELCOMES its conclusion that citizens' access to, and the supply of, quality drinking water in these three Member States have improved since their accession to the EU;
3. UNDERSCORES that the report states that there are still areas where citizens are supplied with water from the public supply network that is not fully in compliance with EU standards;

¹ Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (OJ L 330, 5.12.1998, pp. 32–54).

² 15301/16 + ADD 1.

³ OJ C 303, 14.9.2017, p. 5.

4. STRESSES that the report has found that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) have largely contributed to improving the quality of drinking water and access to the supply thereof;
5. RECOGNISES that further public and private investments are needed to ensure that all citizens have access to good quality water, and HIGHLIGHTS the importance of predictable, adequate and regular funding for the proper maintenance and renewal of the water supply infrastructure;
6. CALLS UPON the Commission to facilitate reporting on the implementation of the Drinking Water Directive and promote different IT solutions, and INVITES the Member States to continue to provide the requested information;
7. CALLS UPON the Member States to ensure cost recovery, while taking into account the affordability of their water tariffs, to secure the sustainability, maintenance and renewal of the water infrastructure;
8. CALLS UPON the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure that consumers have easy access to up-to-date information on the quality of drinking water;
9. INVITES the Member States to promote innovative technologies and practices to reduce water losses, thereby contributing to a sustainable and efficient use of water;
10. LOOKS FORWARD to receiving the proposal from the Commission for a revised Drinking Water Directive.
