



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 December 2019
(OR. en)

15262/19

CLIMA 339
ENV 1038
FIN 837
STATIS 82
ECO 129

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	19 December 2019
To:	Delegations

No. prev. doc.:	14905/19
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Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 16/2019 entitled 'European Environmental Economic Accounts: usefulness for policymakers can be improved'
	- Council conclusions

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 16/2019 entitled "European Environmental Economic Accounts: usefulness for policymakers can be improved", as adopted by the Council at its 3741st meeting held on 19 December 2019.

European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 16/2019 entitled 'European Environmental Economic Accounts: usefulness for policymakers can be improved'

- Council conclusions -

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING its conclusions on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors in the context of the discharge procedure¹.

1. WELCOMES the Special Report No 16/2019 by the European Court of Auditors entitled 'European Environmental Economic Accounts: usefulness for policymakers can be improved';
2. TAKES NOTE of, and WELCOMES, the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Report;
3. RECOGNISES the key role of the European Environmental Economic Accounts (EEEEA) for policy-making and their importance as a source of information for environmental policies; NOTES that the EEEA describe the relationship between the environment and the economy, allowing policy-makers to assess the interaction of environmental and economic issues;
4. HIGHLIGHTS that policymakers need to have access to up-to-date and reliable information to monitor environmental progress towards sustainable development;
5. AGREES therefore, that the usefulness of the EEEA could be improved in line with the recommendations of the Special Report;
6. NOTES that there is demand at both national and international level for integrated environmental economic data to feed into several national and Union policies such as climate change, the circular economy, natural capital, including biodiversity and inland and marine waters, the SDGs, the European Semester and Green Finance;

¹ 7515/00 + COR 1

7. HIGHLIGHTS the key role of Member States in filling the data gaps; UNDERLINES the need for appropriate guidance to be provided to Member States and cooperation between the actors involved in the compilation of EEEA; POINTS OUT, in this regard, that, when bridging the data gaps identified in the Special Report, the needs and burdens of Member States, as well as the resource constraints of the national statistical institutes should be taken into account;
 8. WELCOMES the work that is already ongoing to improve analysis of policy needs, priority setting and timeliness of EEEA data, the relevance of EEEA modules, as well as the action plan for the implementation of the European Strategy for Environmental Accounts; CONSIDERS that this work and the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Report would benefit Member States in their work, thus allowing for improved quality of the EEEA;
 9. INVITES the Commission to implement the recommendations outlined in the Special Report within the timeframes suggested.
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