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#### 'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
Subject:	Response to the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 2/2025 entitled "Urban pollution in the EU - Cities have cleaner air but are still too noisy" – Approval

1. On 15 January 2025, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published its special report No 02/2025 entitled "entitled "Urban pollution in the EU - Cities have cleaner air but are still too noisy"<sup>1</sup>.
2. On 29 January, the Permanent Representatives Committee instructed the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) to examine the special report<sup>2</sup>, in accordance with the rules laid down in the Council conclusions on improving the examination of special reports drawn up by the Court of Auditors in the context of the discharge procedure<sup>3</sup>.
3. The WPE examined the special report at its meeting on 5 February following a presentation by the ECA.

<sup>1</sup> Available on the Court's website: <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2025-02>

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 5558/25

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 7515/00 + COR 1

4. In its audit, the ECA examined whether the Commission's and Member States' actions have been effective in protecting citizens and the environment from air and noise pollution. The ECA assessed whether the Commission and the Member States implemented EU legislation properly and whether the selected measures contributed effectively to reducing air and noise pollution. Based on its findings, the ECA recommended that the Commission should assess the feasibility of introducing EU noise reduction targets and noise limits in the Environmental Noise Directive<sup>4</sup> and of aligning the noise exposure reporting thresholds as closely as possible with those recommended by the World Health Organization.
5. Following the examination by the WPE, the Presidency informed delegations of its proposal not to draw up Council conclusions in response to the special report, given that the report concerns matters which are not linked to the discharge procedure and therefore does not fall within the scope of the Council's internal procedures on the follow-up to the ECA's special reports as set out in doc. 7515/00 + COR 1.
6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm that no Council conclusions should be drawn up regarding the ECA special report No 02/2025.

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<sup>4</sup> Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, p. 12).