



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 15 May 2018
(OR. en)

8755/18

AGRI 222
AGRIFIN 42
FIN 375

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Special Report No 16/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "Rural Development Programming: less complexity and more focus on results needed" - <i>Council conclusions (14 May 2018)</i>

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on:

*Special Report No 16/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled: "Rural Development
Programming: less complexity and more focus on results needed"*

adopted by the Council at its 3615th meeting held on 14 May 2018.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on Special Report No 16/2017 from the European Court of Auditors entitled:

"Rural Development Programming: less complexity and more focus on results needed"

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES the Court's Special Report No 16/2017, which assesses whether the 2014-2020 strategic and legislative framework of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reflected a greater focus on performance and whether the new programming process resulted in good quality Rural Development Programs (RDPs);
- (2) NOTES the Court's recommendations to the Commission, which should be taken into account when developing proposals for the next reform of the CAP, such as regarding:
 - ensuring consistency between RDPs and other programs from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs);
 - simplifying programming documents and reducing the number of requirements;
 - building on the experience of, and drawing lessons from, previous programming periods;
 - defining the various types of indicators more accurately, benefitting from good practices established by national authorities and international organisations as well as promoting and facilitating performance measurement practices developed at national level;
 - ensuring approval of RDPs at the start of the next programming period;

(3) CALLS upon the Commission to also address the Member States' specific concerns with regard to the CAP's rural development programming, which should be addressed in the next reform of the CAP, including:

- adoption, programming and implementation of RDPs, which should be simplified by avoiding overlaps with other programming documents such as current partnership agreements and the administrative burden on administrations and farmers and other beneficiaries should be reduced;
- the legislative proposals for rural development policy post-2020 should be prepared on time;
- the start of RDPs soon after the approval of the legislative framework should be accompanied with few but appropriate implementing regulations;
- evaluation should be done on the basis of quantifiable, measurable and simple indicators and results.
