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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	1 July 2020
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	9163/20
Subject:	Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 11/2020 entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed " - Council Conclusions (1 July 2020)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 11/2020 entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed ", approved by written procedure by the Council of the European Union on 1 July 2020.

Council conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report 11/2020 entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed"

RECALLING the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' legislative package, setting the framework for the implementation of the Union's 2030 climate and energy targets on greenhouse gas reductions, renewable energy increases, energy efficiency improvement and electricity interconnections,

RECALLING in particular the amending Directive on Energy Efficiency 2018/2002/EU,

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. THANKS the European Court of Auditors for the Special Report 11/2020 entitled "Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed",

2. ACKNOWLEDGES that improving energy efficiency of buildings while attaining a faster renovation rate, is a key tool to achieving the Union's 2030 headline energy efficiency target of at least 32,5%,

3. TAKES note of the conclusions and the recommendations in the Special Report and encourages the Commission to follow those recommendations.

In particular:

4. ENCOURAGES the Commission to further develop planning and targeting of investments on energy efficiency measures before approving programmes for the spending of Cohesion policy funds. Commission's analysis should allow to put in place financial instruments to meet specific conditions across Member States, including market conditions, and favour the energy transition. The Commission should also assess whether the programmes regarding the Cohesion policy funds are in line with the National Energy and Climate Plans and the National Long-Term Renovations Strategies while taking into account the further promotion of the investments for the post COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery,

5. ENCOURAGES the Commission to set up a methodology to assess the energy savings resulting from the use of the EU funds,

6. CALLS on the Commission to reinforce its guidance to the Member States' managing authorities in improving projects' selection procedures and in assessing the relative costs and the multiple benefits of the projects,

7. UNDERLINES that the above mentioned Commission's reinforced guidance should be put in place in time for the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes,

8. ENCOURAGES the Commission to make the performance framework more result-oriented to better monitor the progress towards Union's energy efficiency and the contribution to multiple policy objectives, also taking into account the lifecycle cost-effectiveness and the multiple benefits of the investments as well as improvements in accountability.