The purpose of this press release is to give the main messages of the special report by the European Court of Auditors.

ECA Press

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CAP environmental requirements.

The auditors recommend that the Commission develop a complete intervention logic for the CAP’s contribution to EU environmental and climate objectives in the next CAP reform. In its proposals for the reform, the Commission should follow the following principles:

• farmers should only have access to CAP payments if they comply with a set of basic environmental norms. Penalties for non-compliance should be sufficient to act as a deterrent;

• agricultural programmes to address environmental and climate needs should include performance targets and funding which reflect the costs incurred and the income lost as a result of activities going beyond the environmental baseline;

• when Member States can choose among options for implementing the CAP, they should have to demonstrate that their selected options are effective and efficient in achieving policy objectives.

Notes to Editors

The EU spends €12 billion per year on the new green payment, representing 30% of all CAP direct payments and almost 8% of the whole EU budget. For farmers, this translates into an average rate of around €80 per hectare per year. When greening was introduced, the European Parliament and the Council shifted the greening funds over from other direct payments. The total budget for CAP direct payments has therefore remained relatively stable.

Greening is under shared management, with the European Commission retaining overall responsibility for the execution of the EU budget but delegating implementation tasks to the Member States.

Special Report No 21/2017: “Greening: a more complex income support scheme, not yet environmentally effective” is available on the ECA website (eca.europa.eu) in 23 EU languages.