



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on Special Report No. 8/2008 of the European Court of Auditors “Is cross compliance an effective policy?”

*2934th AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES Council meeting
Brussels, 23 March 2009*

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES the Special Report No. 8/2008 of the European Court of Auditors “Is cross compliance an effective policy?”;
- (2) NOTES that the concept of cross compliance, agreed by the Council in 2003 and phased in from 2005, was new and obliged a number of Member States to increase and reorganise their efforts to better implement and control the relevant Community legislation at farmer level;
- (3) EXPRESSES its satisfaction at the fact that the scope of cross compliance was adjusted in the context of the CAP “health check”;
- (4) UNDERLINES the important benefits that cross compliance can produce, contributing to a better respect of the relevant environment, food safety, health and animal welfare legislation;
- (5) RECALLS the Council and Commission statement on simplification of cross compliance requirements entered in the Council minutes when the three Regulations and the Decision were adopted in the framework of the CAP “health check” and therefore INVITES both the Commission and the Member States to pursue their efforts towards this objective, bearing in mind the cost-benefit ratio, and in this context AGREES that the effectiveness of cross compliance could be further improved."

P R E S S
