



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 30 May 2008 (03.06)
(OR. en,de)**

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**FRONT 56
COMIX 460**

NOTE

from : Austrian delegation
to : Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
Subject : **Reintroduction of border controls at the internal borders**

Delegations will find attached a letter received by the General Secretariat on 29 May 2008 regarding the reintroduction of border controls at the internal borders (see also 9068/08 FRONT 43 COMIX 351).

REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR

To
Mr Javier Solana
Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and
High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy
Rue de La Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
BELGIUM

Ref. 8001/169-KBM/05

Vienna, 13 May 2008

Dear Secretary-General,

Increased security requirements on the occasion of the European Football Championship which Austria is hosting from 7 to 29 June 2008, together with Switzerland, have led me to reintroduce border controls at the internal borders, pursuant to Article 23 et seq. of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), with a view to preventing serious threats to public policy or security.

From 2 June until 1 July 2008, i.e. for the duration of the event including run-up and follow-up times, border checks, adapted to the circumstances justifying them, will again take place at all border crossing points along the land and water borders (with the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Italy, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Hungary) and at the air borders. While Article 23 of the Schengen Borders Code is being used, the scope and duration of the border checks will be restricted to the extent necessary.

It is not planned to make these checks round the clock, at all border crossings; they are to be flexible in time and location, depending on the respective games, the fans' prospective travel routes and other relevant findings.

This measure is necessary to enable the Austrian border control bodies to perform their tasks in full at the internal borders. The aim in particular is to prevent the entry of fans prone to violence from and via neighbouring European countries and to help make this major sporting event trouble free.

The President of the European Commission, the European Parliament and all Member States and associated States applying the Schengen *acquis* are also being notified by me of this decision and are being requested to cooperate closely in putting this measure into effect.

(Complimentary close).
