



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 14 September 2015  
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**NOTE**

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From: German delegation  
To: Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee  
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)  
Subject: Temporary reintroduction of border controls at the German internal borders  
in accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 establishing  
a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons  
across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

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**TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY GERMAN DELEGATION**

Delegations will find attached a courtesy translation of the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 14 September 2015 concerning the report on temporary reintroduction of borders controls by Germany at internal borders.

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Federal Minister of the Interior  
Member of the German Bundestag

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Secretary-General Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen  
Council of the European Union  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175  
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussels  
BELGIUM

Berlin, 13 September 2015

Dear Secretary-General Tranholm-Mikkelsen,

In view of the uncontrolled and unmanageable influx of third-country nationals into German territory, after careful consideration in consultation with the federal states and given the lack of alternatives, the Federal Government has reintroduced temporary border controls at its internal Schengen borders in accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 (Schengen Borders Code), last amended by Regulation (EU) No 1051/2013.

Effective 13 September 2015, border controls will be allowed at Germany's Schengen land, air and sea borders as the situation requires. These border controls will be only as extensive and intense as needed to ensure security. The controls will initially be concentrated on the German-Austrian land border.

This action is urgently needed in view of the enormous influx of third-country nationals referred to above. We must know who is entering and staying in Germany. Further arrivals

would endanger the public order and internal security.

Over the past weeks, there has been a great willingness in Germany to help. We must not wear out this good will. According to European law, the Federal Republic of Germany is not responsible for the large majority of these persons. The Common European Asylum System, including the Dublin procedure and the EURODAC regulations, continues to apply. This means that the responsible Member State must not only register those seeking protection, but must also process their applications and take measures to end their stay if their application for protection is rejected. And asylum seekers must also accept the fact that they cannot choose which EU Member State will grant them protection.

The single European legal framework can function in totality only if all Member States act in solidarity to face our common responsibility.

I am also informing the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner Avramopoulos and all Member States applying the Schengen acquis. I hope you will support this decision.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Thomas de Maizière

  

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