Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 25 September 2015 concerning a prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Austria at internal borders.
Dear Mr Secretary-General,


Due to the enormous migration flows to and across Austria, the security situation has continued to deteriorate dramatically in recent days. Only last weekend, in the time period from 18 to 21 September (15:00 hours) about 33,000 persons have illegally entered Austria. In order to cope with such influx, 17,700 individual accommodations were created in Austria in the last few days. This is a major challenge not only for the police force and the Austrian federal army which was called for support, but also for rescue workers and all NGO personnel participating in providing assistance to refugees, which can only be managed by controlling the influx of these people in an orderly manner, and by police force and army using existing transportation means to distribute refugees to available accommodations. It is indispensable for this purpose, that the persons can be registered at the very border, and that they can be given medical care and initial food provisions.
For this reason, it will be necessary to continue to temporarily position adequate police forces at the border crossings initially with Hungary and Slovenia, subsequently if necessary also at border crossings with other neighbouring States, so that the police forces can perform border controls as appropriate and depending on the situation.

Therefore, effective on 26 September 2015 (00:00 hours), border controls will continue to be performed for another 20 days at the Austrian internal Schengen land and air borders as appropriate and depending on the situation. The intensity of such border controls will continue to be limited to the extent necessary for maintaining safety and security.

In view of the massive influx of third country nationals, such measure continues to be necessary for maintaining law and order, safeguarding internal security and avoiding continuous overstressing of police force, rescue services and public infrastructure, and for allowing the organs of the Austrian federal police force to perform their tasks at internal borders.

I would ask you to inform all entities in your country affected by the continuation of border controls by Austria of this notification.

With kind regards,