



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**COVER NOTE**

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from : Ms Pascale ANDRÉANI, Advisor to the Prime Minister with responsibility for European Affairs, SGCI Secretary-General

date of receipt : 18 October 2002

to : Mr Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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**Subject : Temporary reintroduction of border checks pursuant to Article 2(2) of the Schengen Convention**

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Delegations will find attached the text of the above letter.

Sir,

On Saturday 19 October 2002 a gathering in support of the Batasuna party, whose activities have recently been suspended by the Spanish authorities, is to be held in Bayonne in the Department of Pyrénées-Atlantiques. According to information received very recently by the French police, there is a risk of public order disturbances at that gathering, which could attract large numbers of participants.

In fact, between 3000 and 5000 people, including a large number of members or supporters of the Batasuna political movement, are expected to attend the gathering.

For that reason, the French authorities have decided to reintroduce border checks at the Franco-Spanish border on a temporary basis in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 2(2) of the Schengen Convention. This measure will take effect on 19 October from 0.00 to 24.00.

Pursuant to Decision SCH/COMEX 20 Rev. 2 of 20 December 1995, I should be most grateful if you would pass on this information to the members of the Council of the European Union (Justice and Home Affairs), the two Member States of the Mixed Committee not belonging to the European Union and the Commission as soon as possible.

For its part, the French Government has contacted the Spanish authorities seeking their help in implementing this decision.

(Complimentary close).

(s.) Pascale Andréani