COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 2 October 2009 (06.10)
(OR. fr)

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LIMITE

FRONT 77
COMIX 730

NOTE

from : French delegation
to : delegations

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 1 October 2009 concerning the temporary reintroduction of land border controls between France and Spain on 26 and 27 September 2009.
Sir,

In the context of the 50th anniversary of the Basque terrorist organisation ETA, two separate Basque nationalist demonstrations are scheduled to take place in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques, on Saturday 26 September 2009 in Itxassou and on Sunday 27 September 2009 in Ustaritz to commemorate the "Gudari Eguna" (Warrior Day) paying tribute to deceased members of that terrorist organisation.

This commemoration will involve around 300 French nationals; however, a large contingent of around 3000 Spanish nationals is in the process of being mobilised with a view to converging on the demonstration scheduled for Sunday 27 September. There is a risk that the demonstration will be rowdy, with slogans, chants and banners condemning France and Spain.

There may be disturbances of public order around those two places.

Accordingly, and for reasons of public order, the French government has decided to reintroduce border controls between France and Spain, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Articles 23 et seq. of the Schengen Borders Code. The Spanish government has done likewise.

You will find attached information relating to the temporary reintroduction of border controls.
I should be most grateful if you would inform the members of the Council of the European Union as well as the States which participate in Schengen cooperation as soon as possible.

(Complimentary close)
For the Secretary-General
The Deputy Secretary-General

Emmanuel BARBE

Mr Javier SOLANA
Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
Justus Lipsius building
117 Rue de la Loi
Brussels

Planned arrangements for the temporary reintroduction of interior border controls

1. Reason for reintroduction

In the context of the 50th anniversary of the Basque terrorist organisation ETA, two separate Basque nationalist demonstrations are scheduled to take place in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques on Saturday 26 September 2009 in Itxassou and on Sunday 27 September 2009 in Ustaritz to commemorate the "Gudari Eguna" (Warrior Day) paying tribute to deceased members of that terrorist organisation.

This commemoration will involve around 300 French nationals; however, a large contingent of around 3000 Spanish nationals is in the process of being mobilised with a view to converging on the demonstration scheduled for Sunday 27 September. There is a risk that the demonstration will be rowdy, with slogans, chants and banners condemning France and Spain.

There may be disturbances to public order around those two places, and it is essential that the number of demonstrators be reduced to a minimum.

Accordingly, and for reasons of public order, the French government has decided to reintroduce border controls between France and Spain, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Articles 23 et seq. of the Schengen Borders Code.

The reintroduction of border controls on the Spanish border at the fire crossing points listed below is therefore warranted.
2. **Scope of application (borders concerned)**

French-Spanish land border in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques, and border crossing points in the Hendaye complex as far as Arnéguy.

3. **Date and time planned for the start of the reintroduction**

Saturday 26 September 2009 at 13.00.
Sunday 27 September 2009 from 07.00 until the end of the arrangements.

4. **Date and time planned for the lifting of the reintroduction**

Sunday 27 September 2009 in the afternoon.

5. **Information and coordination planned with the Member State**

Information via diplomatic channels - police coordination: UCLAT Pau with the ASI and State Secretariat in Madrid.

6. **Method of public information**

None.