

Brussels, 25 November 2015 (OR. en)

14633/15

FRONT 262 COMIX 630

## **NOTE**

From:	Norwegian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee
	(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
Subject:	Temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Articles 23 and 25 of Regulation (EC) 562/2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the Council on 25 November 2015 concerning temporary reintroduction of border controls by Norway at its internal borders between 26 November and 6 December 2015.

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The Minister

The European Commission The General Secretariat of the Council SECRÉTARIAT GENÉRAL DU Mme ROGER

25.11.2015

## Reintroduction of border control at Norwegian internal borders

Dear Madam /Sirs

Due to a serious threat to public policy and internal security posed by the consequences of the unpredictable migratory pressure and the ensuing challenges to the functioning of the Norwegian society, the Norwegian Government has today decided to temporary reintroduce border control at the Norwegian internal borders. Other measures in place have, after thorough scrutiny, been deemed insufficient.

The reintroduction of border control at the Norwegian borders will take place as of 26 November at 08:00 hours until 6 December 2015 at 08:00 hours.

The border control may extend to all internal borders, ie air, sea and land borders, whereby the specific border section and border crossing point are determined by the National Police Directorate. The reintroduced border control will initially focus on ports with ferry connections to Norway via internal borders. The scope of the control measures will be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the threat to public policy and internal security, while constantly monitoring and adequately adapting the measures.

The decision was made in accordance with article 23 and 25 of the Regulation (EU) no

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1051/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) no 562/2006 in order to provide for common rules on the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders in exceptional circumstances (Schengen Borders Code).

Norway is, as other EU/Schengen member states, currently facing an unpredictable migratory flow, containing a mix of asylum seekers, economic migrants, potential criminals such as smugglers or traffickers of human beings, also including potential victims of crime.

As a consequence, also knowing that many of the migrants arriving to Norway have not been subject to border control upon arrival to the EU/Schengen territory, there is a need already at the internal borders to distinguish between the different categories of arriving migrants. Border control will help identifying the different categories of migrants, enabling adequate support and control procedures, i.e. registration, further identification and return of those in no need for protection.

Considering the current number of migrants arriving to Norway, and the consequences for Norwegian society, the Norwegian Government deems that the conditions now amount to a serious threat to public policy and internal security, necessitating a temporary reintroduction of border control at the internal border in line with the Schengen Borders Code.

I would be grateful if you would pass on this information to all states taking part in the Schengen cooperation. I also kindly invite the respective delegations to pass on the information to their relevant national authorities, media and public as they see fit.

Yours sincerely

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