



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from :	General Secretariat
to :	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject :	Restoration of internal border checks in Belgium, application of Article 2(2) of the Schengen Convention

On the basis of Article 2(2) of the Schengen Convention, Belgium has just forwarded its decision to restore internal border checks.

This temporary exceptional measure will be applicable from 26 December 2000 until 00.00 on 10 January 2001.

The reason for the decision is Belgium's determination to manage as well as possible the risk of a sudden temporary increase in asylum seekers who might be tempted to enter Belgium at this time in the hope of qualifying for the reception and assistance arrangements still in force, knowing that new measures (regarding reception, material assistance, fast-track procedures for handling asylum applications, etc.) will enter into force on 10 January 2001. It is also a signal to illegal immigration networks.

This note is addressed to all other Member States of the Union and to Iceland and Norway in a note verbale.