



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 20 January 2017
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COMIX 48

NOTE

From:	Maltese delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
Subject:	Reintroduction of temporary border controls at the Maltese air and sea borders in accordance with Articles 25 and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union 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 General Secretariat on 19 January 2017 regarding reintroduction of temporary border controls by Malta at air and sea borders between 21 January and 9 February 2017.

RAPPRESENTANZA PERMANENTI
GĦALL-UNJONI EWROPEA



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Ir-Rappreżentant Permanenti

The Permanent Representative

Mr Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen
Secretary General
General Secretariat of the Council of the
European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels
Belgium

PR22/17

18 January 2017

Dear *Jeppe*,

Reintroduction of border controls at the air and sea border from 21 January until 9 February 2017

Please find enclosed a note from the Maltese Authorities, regarding the envisaged reintroduction of controls at the air and sea borders in Malta, in view of the Malta Informal Summit taking place on 3 February and the Joint Valletta Action Plan Senior Officials Meeting taking place on 8-9 February 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Marlene Bonnici
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosures: Note from the Maltese authorities on the reintroduction of border controls at the air and sea border from 21 January until 9 February 2017

Copy: Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security

SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE	
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Malta, 16 January 2017

NOTE FROM THE MALTESE AUTHORITIES

Subject: Note from the Maltese authorities on the reintroduction of border controls at the air and sea border from 21 January until 9 February 2017.

Temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Maltese air and sea borders in accordance with Articles 25 and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

On 3 February 2017, the Malta Informal Summit 2017 will be held in Malta. The Joint Valletta Action Plan Senior Officials Meeting will then be held in Malta on 8-9 February 2017.

The Malta Informal Summit will be a major event, involving the Heads of Government from all EU Member States and other High Level delegates. The event will also attract large local and international media coverage.

The Joint Valletta Action Plan Senior Officials Meeting will also be a major event, since it will involve High Level delegates from a large number of EU and non-EU countries.

In addition to this, the past events which have been experienced in different parts of the European Union demonstrate the heightened security risk that currently prevails.

Our analysis indicates the need to enhance security including through the reintroduction of controls at Malta's border crossing points, for both entry and exit, with a view to enabling the authorities to ensure internal security is maintained throughout the period of the abovementioned events. This makes it imperative that in good time before the event takes place, security is enhanced and travel documents, including visas and residence permits be thoroughly examined whilst entering or leaving the internal borders, considering also the large amounts of passports which have been reported stolen in the last months from different parts of the world.

The Maltese Government has therefore decided, in line with the provisions of Article 25(1) and Article 27 of the Schengen Borders Code, to reintroduce checks at air and sea borders, that is, at the Malta International Airport and the Valletta Sea Passenger Terminal respectively, for the period from 0001 hrs of 21 January 2017 until 2400 hrs of 9 February 2017.