



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 12 January 2009

5227/09

**FRONT 3
COMIX 35**

NOTE

from : Finnish delegations
to : Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland)

Subject : **Reintroduction of border checks by Finland at its internal borders on the basis of Article 23(1) of the Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)**

Delegation will find attached a copy of a letter received by the Council General Secretariat on 9 January 2009 regarding Finland's reintroduction of border checks at its internal borders from 24 November to 5 December 2008.



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
Border Guard Headquarters
Helsinki

REPORT

December 2008

| | |
|---|------------|
| SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE | |
| SGE9/00106 | |
| REF: | 09.01.2009 |
| DEST. PRINC: | M. BIZJAK |
| DEST. COP: | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

General Secretariat of the Council of European Union
European Union Commission Services
The European Parliament

**Subject Border control on the basis of the Article 23 (1) of the Schengen
 Borders Code**

In accordance with the regulation (EC) No 526/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code, hereafter referred to as the SBC), the following information will be given, in the spirit of the Article 29 of the SBC.

The Finnish Government decided to reintroduce border control at its internal borders from 24 November to 5 December 2008. The motivation for these measures was the 16th OSCE Ministerial Council in Helsinki on 4 and 5 December 2008. It was estimated by the Finnish security authorities that there was a serious threat to public policy and internal security during the period when border control was reintroduced.

The reintroduction of border control made it possible to carry out border control in full at all Finland's internal borders. However, border checks were carried out randomly concentrating in major harbours and airports. Thus, the reintroduction of border control did not obstruct normal smooth border traffic.

In practice, the measures were targeted mainly at Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, and the ports of Helsinki and Turku. Only some border checks were also carried out at other airports and ports and on the land border between Finland and Sweden and between Finland and Norway. During the period of the reintroduction of border control, 15 500 passengers were checked at the internal borders which is under 1 % of the total internal traffic during that period. As a result of border checks, 30 persons were refused entry at the internal borders. The main reason for refusals was the absence of valid travel document.

As a conclusion, the reintroduction of border control can be estimated as an appropriate and effective tool when taking the safety measures of the high level Summit.

Deputy Chief of the Border Guard
Commodore

Matti Möttönen