



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 15 February 2016
(OR. en)

6071/16

FRONT 67
COMIX 104

NOTE

From:	Austrian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	14211/15 FRONT 252 COMIX 594
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Austrian internal borders in accordance with Articles 23 and 24 of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY AUSTRIAN DELEGATION

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 12 February 2016, concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Austria at internal borders until 16 March 2016.

Mr Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen
General Secretariat of the Council
of the European Union
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Vienna, 11 February 2016

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

On account of the enormous influx of third country nationals prevailing since September 2015, Austria with letter dated 12 November 2015 prolonged border controls at internal borders for another three months effective on 16 November 2015 (00:00 a.m.), i.e. until 15 February 2016, having regard to Articles 23 and 24 of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 establishing a community code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), OJ No. L 105 of 13.04.2006, page 1, last amended by Regulation (EU) No. 1051/2013 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, OJ No. L 295, page 1.

On account of the continuing influx, I wish to inform you that Austria will continue to conduct border controls at internal borders pursuant to Articles 23 and 24 of the Schengen Borders Code for another 30 days for the time being, dependent upon the existing situation and the prevailing conditions. This is the only way to avoid security deficits in the future within the scope of legal and actual opportunities for the benefit of all citizens within the Schengen area. The focus will be, as before, at the Austrian-Slovenian border, but may be transferred at any time in view of possible shifts of irregular migration flows.

The intensity of border controls shall continue to be limited to the extent necessary for maintaining public order and internal security. This further measure is indispensable lest public order and internal security be endangered. Moreover, continuous overburdening of the executive branch, of emergency rescue services, and of public infrastructure must be avoided, and the Austrian Federal police force must be enabled to comprehensively perform their duties at internal borders. It shall be only possible or allowed to pass such borders at designated border crossings.

268,520 persons have passed the Slovenian-Austrian border since 15 November 2015 - mainly at Spielfeld border crossing. Thousands of accommodations have been created in Austria to cope with such influx of migrants. By 08 February 2016 (07:00 a.m.), a total of 12,500 provisional accommodations are operative, and there are currently 4,964 vacancies still available.

Austria continues to staunchly support the Schengen area and espouses a strong European Union capable of acting also in times of crisis! In this context, Austria would like to thank the European Commission for undertaking the necessary steps to apply Article 26 of the Schengen Borders Code.

In this connection, I would ask you to pass this information on to all authorities and bodies in your country which are affected by the prolongation of border controls in Austria.

The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the First Vice President of the European Commission, the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, and the President of the European Parliament have already been formally informed of this decision, and have been asked for their close cooperation in implementing this measure.

We ask you for your support for this decision.

With kind regards,