



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 13 February 2017  
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COMIX 111

**NOTE**

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From:	Austrian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	14879/17 FRONT 458 COMIX 779
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Austrian internal borders in accordance with Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 2016/399 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

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**TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY AUSTRIAN DELEGATION**

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 9 February 2017, concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Austria at internal borders until 11 May 2017.

Mr. Jeppe Tranholm MIKKELSEN  
Secretary General of the Council  
1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

On 7 February 2017, the Council of the European Union, upon proposal by the European Commission, adopted a Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation for temporary internal border controls in exceptional circumstances putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk. The Republic of Austria will accordingly implement this Decision, which allows for temporary border controls at the Austrian borders with Hungary and Slovenia for a maximum time period of three months.

I consider such border controls, both aimed at preventing illegal migration in the direction of Central Europe, and at combating smuggling of migrants still to be necessary. On a daily basis, large groups of illegal migrants are being apprehended, either within the control area of border crossings or along the green borders.

A fully functioning protection of EU external borders is a minimum requirement for having a European domestic area without border controls. Alternative measures – such as priority controls on non-systematic basis – would be insufficient.

The implementation of border controls is presently considered as most lenient measure and only effective instrument for maintaining public order and internal security, as well as for the prevention of illegal entry into the Austrian territory.

Hereby, I wish to submit the required notification pursuant to Article 29 (2) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).

I have sent identical letters to the Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and to the President of the European Parliament and to the Member States.

Yours sincerely,

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