



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 29 March 2016
(OR. en)

7351/1/16
REV 1

FRONT 143
COMIX 239

NOTE

From:	Belgian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	6490/1/16 REV 1
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Belgian internal borders in accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EC) 562/2006 establishing a Community 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 of the Council on 22 March 2016 concerning the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Belgium at its internal borders from 24 March up to and including 12 April 2016.

THE PRIME MINISTER



~~E-MAIL / FAX~~

SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE SGE16/02825	
Reçu le	22-03-2016
DEST. PRINC.....	Mme. ROGER
DEST. COPISTES.....	
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To the attention of:

Mr. Dimitri AVRAMOPOULOS, Commissioner for Home Affairs
Mr. Klaus WELLE, Secretary-General of the European Parliament
Mr. Klaas DIJKHOF, President of the Justice and Home Affairs Council
of the European Union
Mr. Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council
of the European Union

Concerning: The prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of internal border control according to article 25.3 of the Schengen Borders Code.

Dear Commissioner, President, Secretary-General,

Following its earlier communication and in accordance with article 25.3 of Regulation 562/2006, as amended by Regulation 1051/2013 (the Schengen Borders Code), Belgium hereby announces the extension of the temporary internal border controls at the border between the Province of West Flanders and France for the period from 24 March up to and including 12 April 2016.

This decision was prompted by several considerations.

Even though the number of transmigrants dropped significantly in the days following the implementation of the border controls, indicating the dissuasive effect of our measures, the security impact remains high.

Belgium wants to do everything possible to prevent the emergence of tent camps, that have a serious impact on the internal security. In the past few days several attempts to set up tent camps were noticed and almost every day our police services also have to clear the beginnings of tent camps.

While transiting, many migrants try to get into the Zeebrugge port area which results in well-known security and safety risks. Apart from the hazards to the physical integrity and wellbeing of the

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migrants, there is also a lot of material damage. In addition, this has an impact on the general feeling of insecurity of the inhabitants of the region.

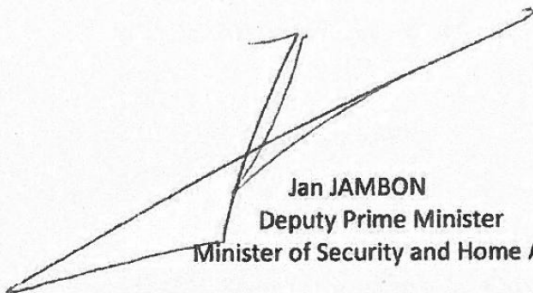
The border controls of the past month have definitely led to an increased level of security in the border region and have had an impact on organised immigration crime, since special attention was also given to human smuggling.

With improved weather conditions ahead, the chances are that more people will want to attempt to cross over to the UK. The presence of large concentrations of migrants in the immediate vicinity of our border and a motorway leading to our country offer a lot of possibilities to get to Belgium quickly.

Moreover, it has been noticed that travel routes are increasingly diversifying and that the marina of Nieuwpoort is also used by smugglers as point of departure.

If the circumstances remain unchanged, Belgium will extend the border controls, in accordance with article 23 and article 24 of the Schengen Borders Code.

Yours sincerely,



Jan JAMBON
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Security and Home Affairs



Charles MICHEL
Prime Minister