Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 12 April 2016 concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Belgium at its internal borders until 22 April 2016.
Concerning: 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 earlier communications and in accordance with article 25.3 of the Schengen Borders Code, Belgium hereby announces the prolongation of the temporary internal border controls at the border between the Province of West Flanders and France for the period from 13 April up to and including 22 April 2016.

The number of intercepted transmigrants has dropped after the introduction of border controls at the end of February, but last week a new rise could be noticed.

The risk is real that this rise will continue because of the start of the summer season and the better weather conditions.

Moreover one also needs to take into account the further evacuation of tent camps in the north of France.

We will continue to do everything possible to avoid that tent camps arise on Belgian territory. For this kind of camps has a big impact on the public order and security and on the general sense of security of the citizens. In the past few weeks different attempts were noticed to set up tent camps in the coastal zone and the police services already had to intervene several times to clear starting camps.
The transmigrants continuously make attempts to enter the port of Zeebrugge, with all accompanying security risks, and one also found that the smugglers try to bring migrants to the UK from the marina of Nieuwpoort.

If the situation does not change, Belgium will consider to continue the border controls after 22 April 2016, in accordance with articles 23 and 24 of the Schengen Border Code.

Yours sincerely,

Jan JAMBON
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Security and Home Affairs

Charles MICHEL
Prime Minister