Brussels, 12 May 2016
(OR. en)

8827/16

FRONT 203
COMIX 355

NOTE
From: Norwegian delegation
To: Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.: 7948/16 FRONT 177 COMIX 291
Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union 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 11 May 2016 concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Norway at its internal borders until 11 June 2016.
Prolongation of border control

Dear Madam /Sir

The Norwegian government decided on 25. November 2015 to temporary reintroduce border control at the Norwegian internal borders during the period 26. November at 08:00 hours to 6. December at 08:00 hours. The decision was made in order to remedy the serious threat to public policy and internal security posed by the consequences of the unpredictable migratory pressure and the ensuing challenges to the functioning of the Norwegian society. Other measures had been deemed insufficient. The border controls have been prolonged six times.

Since my letter dated 13. April 2016, the number of asylum seekers to Norway continues to be low. However, we fear that this may change if the controls are lifted, as the migratory pressure at the external border continues to be significant. It is also important to view the situation in the Nordic countries as a whole, and it is therefore necessary to for Norway to maintain the border controls along the internal borders.

As a result, Norway has decided to further prolong the border controls at the internal border. Reference is made to the Schengen Borders Code art 24. The controls will take place for 30 days, until 11. June 2016.

The reintroduced border control will remain limited to ports with ferry connections from
other Schengen-countries, and continue to be based on a risk analysis with minimal impact on regular passenger flow. The border control may, however, extend to all internal borders, i.e. air, sea and land borders, if necessary.

I would be grateful if you would pass on this information to all states taking part in the Schengen cooperation. I also kindly invite the respective delegations to pass on the information to their relevant national authorities, media and public as they see fit.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Tor Saglie