

Private Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs and Equal Opportunities

To the attention of:

- Mrs. Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Home Affairs
- Mr. Klaus Welle, Secretary-General of the European Parliament
- Mr. Nikos Dendias, President of the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the European Union
- Mr. Uwe Corsepius, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Regarding: The temporary reintroduction of border controls at the internal borders of Belgium according art. 23(1) and 24 of the Schengen Borders Code.

Dear Colleagues, dear Secretaries-General,

On the 4th and 5th of June 2014, Belgium will be hosting the G7 Summit. The heads of State and Government of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission will meet in Brussels to discuss a number of sensitive themes that might evoke important public demonstrations.

Considering the serious incidents that occurred during recent G8 and G20 summits in other countries, and based upon a thorough risk assessment, the consequences of this event being organized in our country are to be considered as posing a serious risk to our national public order and internal security. Apart from the credible and significant involvement of organized and violent demonstrators, the presence of the heads of state of the participating G7 members will incontestably increase the potential terrorist threat and the threat to our national security.

Hence, a vast number of increased security measures are required to guarantee public order and internal security.

Therefore I have decided to temporarily reintroduce border controls at the internal borders of Belgium, pursuant to Article 23(1) and in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).



These controls at our internal borders will be introduced from 01st June until 06th June 2014 at our maritime and air borders and at the land borders with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Grand-Duché of Luxemburg.

Border control will be limited to the strictly necessary measures in order to ensure public policy and to safeguard the internal security. Any inconvenience to the public and to the EU right of free movement will be minimized. Border checks will not be implemented systematically nor permanently, but will be based on an intelligence led approach. The reintroduction of border controls has to be considered as an essential and temporary tool to prevent potential instigators from disturbing public order and national security during the G7 Summit.

At our internal land borders, temporary border controls will be carried out at all border crossing roads and railway connections. The other external Border Crossing Points where temporary internal border checks can also be executed are mentioned in the attachment to this letter.

All Member States are kindly requested to actively provide any relevant information concerning this event and to cooperate to putting the above mentioned measures into effect.

Sincerely yours,

Joëlle Milquet,

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Home Affairs and Equal Opportunities