NOTE

from: Portuguese delegation
to: Working Party on Frontiers/EU-Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland Mixed Committee

Subject: Report on temporary reintroduction of border controls at internal borders in accordance with Article 23(1) of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Delegations will find attached a translation of the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 9 February 2011 concerning the report on the temporary reintroduction of border control by Portugal at internal borders from 16 to 21 November 2010.
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION
BRUSSELS

Brussels, 7 February 2011

Subject: Temporary reintroduction of border controls at our internal borders

Mr Ivan BIZJAK
Director-General for Justice and Home Affairs
General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Brussels

Sir,

In accordance with Article 29 of the Schengen Borders Code (Regulation No 562/2006), I enclose a report on the temporary reintroduction of border control at Portuguese internal borders from 16 to 20 November 2010, on the occasion of the NATO Summit in Lisbon.

(Complimentary close)

p.p. The Permanent Representative
(signature)

cc: Mr Stefano Manservisi, Director-General for Home Affairs at the European Commission
From the 00:00 hours of the 16th to the 00:00 hours of the 21st of November 2010, and in accordance with the Article 23(1) of the regulation (EC) No 562/2006 of the European Parliament on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), and after a previous communication from the Portuguese Government to the Council of the European Union, the border control at the Portuguese internal borders was temporarily reintroduced.

This reintroduction was required in view of the increased security requirements for the NATO Summit taking place in Lisbon on the 19th and 20th of November, in order to minimise the risk of threat to the public safety and internal security, as well as the NATO Member States delegations attending the summit.

This decision was taken in view of the risk of disturbances of public order likely to disrupt the holding of this event, which was attended by representations at the highest level of Heads of State and Governments of the 28 NATO Member States, partner countries and other participating organizations.

The general public was informed about the measures via the media.

The border control was reintroduced at the Portuguese borders with the following relevant border crossing points:

Land border (with Spain):
- Valença, Vila Verde de Raia, Quintanilha, Vilar Formoso, Termas de Monfortinho, Marvão, Caia, Vila Verde de Ficalho e Vila Real de Santo António;

- Air border and sea border:
The border control was reintroduced on all border posts and all incoming traffic including intra-Schengen was controlled.

The objectives of the temporary reintroduction of border control at the Portuguese internal borders were achieved, by using flexible, proportional and relevant methods. The running of the
NATO Summit was considered a success due to this measure and no other incidents were reported at the border.