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COMIX 176

DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject: Schengen evaluation of the new Member States
- Reply from Latvia to the additional general question presented by
the Commission Services concerning border management

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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NOTE

from : the Latvian delegation

to: the Schengen Evaluation Working Party

No. prev. doc. : 5143/06 SCHEVAL 7 COMIX 17

Subject : Schengen evaluation of the new Member States

- Reply from Latvia to the additional general question presented by the Commission Services concerning border management

How do you intend to redeploy staff, who are currently deployed for border control at future internal borders, after the lifting of internal border control. Will border guards currently deployed for border control at future internal borders continue to be deployed in areas close to these borders? If so, what proportion of current border guards will continue to be deployed and what tasks will they have?

The government of Latvia has adopted the *Integrated Border Management Strategy* on May 28, 2003. This comprehensive programme covers the issues regarding the state border security. One of the tasks and objectives of the programme is to maintain the high level security after becoming a full Schengen Memberstate and abolition of the internal border control.

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Taking into account the statistics of the previous years the increase not only of persons and traffic flows, but also of illegal immigration and cross border crime is foreseeable. That is why after the abolishing of the internal border control border guards carrying out their tasks at the structural units of the State Border Guard at the internal borders will be redeployed to carry out their tasks at other structural units.

To optimize the functioning of the State Border Guard:

- the additional vacancies are created at the structural units carrying out the immigration control and criminal investigation as well as at the structural units carrying out the external border control;
- the necessity to reintroduce the internal border control in the case of emergency at the Latvian-Estonian and Latvian-Lithuanian borders is considered;
- the personnel carrying out the border control at the internal borders after its abolishing will be involved in the carrying out the irregular controls in the border areas, joint patrols with Lithuanian and Estonian law enforcement authorities, assistance to the State Police in order to ensure the public order in the border areas, the maintenance of the state border and the performance of risk analyses;
- participation of the border guards in the joint operations with the Lithuanian and Estonian border guard institutions and other Latvian law enforcement authorities (the Customs, the State Police);
- the systematic development of the joint coordination centres, police cooperation strengthening, especially in the border areas, joint police activities at the internal borders and the knowledge of the operational situation will be carried out.

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The planned personnel removal strategy of State border guard:

Personnel of the State Border Guard – 2768 (01/01/2006)

