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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 Estonian delegation

to: the Schengen Evaluation Working Party

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Subject : Schengen evaluation of the new Member States

- Questionnaire - Additional general question presented by the Commission

Services concerning border management – Reply from ESTONIA

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 conception covering activities in the transition to internal borders, including restructuring affecting border guard personnel, is in development and will be completed in the Ministry of the Interior on 15 December 2006. Therefore the following can be considered a preliminary plan.

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There are currently 253 border guards serving in structural units located on the Estonian-Latvian border, which is the future internal border. The BCP at the Tallinn Passenger Port, where today there are 101 border guards in service, will in the future be allocated mainly for the use of intra-Schengen ship traffic, since the ship traffic passing through the BCP is primarily between member states.

When border checks are lifted on the internal border, it will be possible to redeploy an estimated 64% of these aforementioned border guards to service on the external border.

Under consideration is enhancement of mobile control of illegal migration in the Tallinn region using border guards from the port BCP, and using a certain part of the border guards freed up for increasing the proportion of intelligence, risk analysis and investigative proceedings at the passenger port BCP. Some of the best experts in passport control are finding a use at the Travel Document Evaluation Centre. The purpose is to enhance the quality of domestic control of migration and border control, and to preserve a sufficient number of well-trained and experienced border guards in the Tallinn region for use in temporarily reintroduction controls at the BCP. For the same purpose, two border guard stations will be retained in areas near the Estonian-Latvian border. After the transition to internal borders, the functions of the border guard officials serving at the station will be distributed as follows:

- Performing checks on the legality of the stay of aliens in Estonia;
- Gathering and analyzing information in order to prevent cross-border crime and illegal migration and distributing operational information;
- Participating in around the clock mobile patrols together with the customs and police;
- Organizing joint operations in cooperation with the police and customs;
- Ensuring the public order and security of the populace in areas near the border;
- Readiness to reintroduction of border control on the internal border and participating in reinforcing surveillance on external borders.

The creation of a joint Estonian-Latvian border guard, police and customs information and coordination centre is being planned. It is to be staffed with representatives from the relevant agencies. The cooperation agreement between the Estonian Ministry of the Interior and the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs sets forth the possibility for the creation of such an information centre.

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The purpose of the joint information centre is above all to enhance interagency cooperation between all parties (border guard, customs, police) in order to prevent cross-border crime. The information centre would fulfil the following functions:

- Exchange, verification and distribution of operational information;
- Cross-border surveillance and coordination of joint operations;
- Coordination of mobile checks in border areas;
- Performing analysis of risks to internal security on a regional level;
- A point of contact for exchange and analysis of information for the purposes of ensuring internal security;
- Exchange of information supporting surveillance of Estonian and Latvian external borders;
- Coordinating reinstatement of border checks;
- Advising the population in border-related issues;
- Coordinating of security measures and background checks for major regional events;
- Coordinating joint marking and maintenance of state borders.