



Four years of Hungarian accession to the Schengen zone an analysis of the Austrian Interior Ministry's experiences

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Cooperation with Hungary

- Situation prior to accession
- Situation since accession
- Analysis of the first four years from Austrian pov



Situation prior to accession

- Austria in Schengen since end of 1996; external community border to HU (366 km)
- 37 border crossings, 5 of international significance
- Nickelsdorf/Hegyeshalom – approx. 22 Mio. travellers yearly; 5.000 trucks daily;
- Cooperation „Schengen“-like (treaty since 1.6.2006)
- Intensive border checks & bilateral control measures
- PKZ Nickelsdorf/Hegyeshalom – 2001



Preparation of accession

- Diligent preparations undertaken by HU
- Cooperation with A – twinning projects
- activation of land border 21.12.2007
- Activation of air border 30.3.2008
- Negotiations on changes/amendments to existing bilateral contracts including border related issues



Situation since accession

- Since 30.3.2009 no more checks on travellers
- Controls on goods abolished with membership HU to Union 1.5.2004
- External frontier moved to Serbia, Croatia, Romania and the Ukraine
- Bilateral campaigns at border to Serbia
- Cooperation on criminal- & security police issues rather than border issues
- Further enhancement of the position of PKZ Hegyeshalom/Nickelsdorf
- PKZ Dolga Vas established - HU, SI, A & HR



Analysis BM.I (1)

- Massive simplification in respect to movement of persons
- New means of cooperation due to the Schengen convention
- Closer cooperation between police forces HU
- Further impulse through HU accession Prüm treaty
- Flexible and day-to-day assessment of needed forces
- Reintroduction of border controls by Austrian officials due to EURO 2008 and WEF 2011 – excellent support by HU colleagues
- No significant increase in crimes in close to border territory



Analysis BM.I (2)

- Accession made HU a part of the migration route from southern europe
- 5-point action plan in September 2011
- Bilateral treaties including border related issues not fully amended yet
- Border cooperation has become a Schengen-partnership; basically no request not treated in an atmosphere other than friendly neighbourhood



Thank you
for your kind attention