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- In the last ten years the concept (external) border management has been significantly developed in the European Union in the framework of Schengen cooperation. A number of basic principles have been developed for credible border management.
- **First precondition** for effective border control is that the competent authorities on both sides of the border in question shall have a common goal: prevention of unwanted phenomena crossing the border. A border can't be effectively controlled from one side only. This common goal has first and foremost to be established by diplomatic means. A country promoting or even tolerating spreading of illegal immigration or human and drugs trafficking across the border is not a good neighbour and should be discouraged by all means available.
- **Second precondition** is that border management is a task for professionals and not for the military. On this basis day-today practical co-operation can be organised without interference from political fluctuations between the capitals. Competence to solve problems and disputes at the border shall be delegated to local competent authorities to avoid escalation of difficulties
- **Third precondition** is a well-functioning co-operation and co-ordination between all national authorities, which are represented at the border. The legitimate traffic crossing the border should be treated as customers and providing them a seamless service by the authorities at the border should be a primary goal.
- These three preconditions provide the necessary framework for implementing the four basic rules for controlling a Schengen external border:

1. The border may be crossed only at a border-crossing point and the border between the border crossing points is kept under sufficient surveillance to ensure this
 2. Everyone crossing the border will be controlled without discrimination although a lighter control procedure is used for EU Nationals
 3. Everyone crossing the border is required to present a travel document including a visa, where appropriate
 4. Entry shall be denied for those not fulfilling the conditions set out in the Schengen Acquis
- The reason for applying these rules is the fact that no internal border controls exist inside the Schengen area and external border States are responsible for the controls of the whole area. There is, however, no reason why they couldn't be applied in a single country as well. They are fairly straightforward, non-discriminatory and provide a reasonable level of security.
 - The Finnish Delegation suggests consequently that the OSCE could take the framework of these preconditions and basic rules as a basis for common international norms, principles and standards for Border Security and Management.
 - Setting such standards should be the primary task of the OSCE. Concrete Border Security projects are carried out by many international organisations e.g. EU, NATO, EAPC. The OSCE should concentrate to projects where its contribution could give added value, for instance where OSCE missions have already established a good basis for a project.