



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 21 December 2015
(OR. en)

15497/15

FRONT 303
COMIX 717

NOTE

From:	Norwegian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	14996/15 FRONT 279 COMIX 661
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EC) 562/2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the Council on 18 December 2015 concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Norway at its internal borders until 15 January 2016.

E-MAIL / FAX



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY**

Secretary General

European Commission
DG Home Affairs - Unit A2
Rue de Luxembourg 46

SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE	
SGE15/12124	
Reçu le	18 -12- 2015
DEST. PRINC.
DEST. COPISTES	Mme ROGER
.....
.....

Your ref.

Our ref.
14/7726 - SEK

Date
18.12.2015

Prolongation of border control at Norwegian internal borders

Dear Madam /Sir

The Norwegian government decided on 25. November 2015 to temporary reintroduce border control at the Norwegian internal borders during the period 26. November at 08:00 hours to 6. December at 08:00 hours. The decision was made in order to remedy the serious threat to public policy and internal security posed by the consequences of the unpredictable migratory pressure and the ensuing challenges to the functioning of the Norwegian society. Other measures had been deemed insufficient. On 3. December 2015, the Norwegian government decided to prolong the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders for an additional 20 days, i.e. until 26 December 2015 at 08:00 hours. I refer to my letters dated 25. November and 3. December 2015.

Norway has decided to further prolong the border control at internal borders. With reference to article 25 of the Schengen border code, border control at internal borders will continue to take place until 15. January 2016 at 08:00 hours.

Since my letter dated 3. December 2015, there has been a further decrease in the number of migrants applying for asylum in Norway. The measures taken, including the reintroduction of internal border control at our sea borders, have had the desired effect. We have during this period been able to distinguish between the different categories of arriving migrants already on the internal border. Although there has been a significant decrease in the number of migrants applying for asylum in Norway, we fear that the situation may change rapidly again if we abolish the introduced internal border control.

Office address: Gullhaug Torg 4A Telephone: +47 22 24 51 08 Telefax: +47
Postal address: PO Box 8005 Dep, N-0030 Oslo, Norway
Org. no.: 972 417 831

I thereby find the conditions and reasoning in my letter dated 25. November still to be valid.

The reintroduced border control will remain focused on ports with ferry connections from other Schengen-countries. The scope and intensity of the control measures will be limited to what is strictly necessary in order to respond to the serious threat to public policy and internal security. The National Police Directorate has recommended that there is no longer a need for full border control at internal ports. The controls will therefore, from now on, be carried out based on a risk analysis. The transport companies will still have a responsibility to check travel documents of their passengers. The border control may, however, extend to all internal borders, i.e. air, sea and land borders, if necessary.

The overall situation is not likely to change any time soon. I therefore inform you that we may continue to carry out checks at the internal borders according to the Schengen Borders Code article 24 from January 15th 2016 at 08:00 hours for three further months.

I would be grateful if you would pass on this information to all states taking part in the Schengen cooperation. I also kindly invite the respective delegations to pass on the information to their relevant national authorities, media and public as they see fit.

Yours sincerely



Tor Saglie

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