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European Union

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NOTE

From:	Norwegian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/ Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	10790/20
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Articles 25(3) and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union 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 General Secretariat of the Council on 13 October 2020 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Norway at all internal borders (land, sea and air borders) between 13 October and 11 November 2020.



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E-MAIL

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

The State Secretary

European Commission
European Parliament
Secretary-General of the Council
Member States of the Schengen Cooperation

Your ref.	Our ref.	Date
	20/1379 - SEK	12.10.2020

Temporary control at the Norwegian internal borders

In order to combat the further spread of the Covid-19 virus infections, Norway reintroduced internal border controls at all internal borders (land, sea and air borders) on the 16th of March this year, pursuant to article 28 of the Regulation 2016/399 on the rules governing the movements of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code). The measure was prolonged in accordance with article 28 until the 15th of May.

In her letter of 14th of April this year, Minister of Justice and Public Security Monica Mæland expressed the view of the Norwegian authorities that it would be reasonable to assume that several of the measures adopted to contain and combat the infections would have to be kept in place over time. As a consequence, in order to combat the further spread of the virus infections, the Norwegian government decided to reintroduce internal border controls at all internal borders (land, sea and air borders) for 90 days from the 15th of May, pursuant to the Schengen Borders Code articles 25 and 27.

The unprecedented measures taken to reduce and prevent the further spread of the Covid-19 virus infections have made it possible to move towards a return to the unrestricted free movement of persons on the territory of the Schengen Member States. Norway have supported a coordinated, phased approach in order to achieve this goal. Since the 15th of July, it has been possible for residents of most of the Schengen area/EEA to enter Norway without being required to quarantine. For residents of countries within the Schengen/EEA with a higher than acceptable level of infection, entry into Norway can still be done, but on the condition of documenting where they will stay during the first 10 days of their stay in Norway, in order to meet the quarantine requirements. Travelers without such documentation will be refused entry. The list of

Office address: Gullhaug Torg 4A Telephone: +47 22 24 51 06 \ 22 24 31 04 \ 22 24 54 23 \ 22 24 71 22
Postal address: PO Box 8005 Dep, N-0030 Oslo, Norway
Org. no.: 972 417 831

countries with a higher than acceptable level of infection is regularly reassessed. In our view, this strikes a balance between restoring the integrity of the Schengen area and protecting the lives and health of our citizens.

It is the view of the Norwegian government that, as long as travel restrictions into Norway still apply for groups of residents of certain Schengen/EEA-countries, controls at the Norwegian internal borders must be maintained. The situation regarding the level of infection within the Schengen/EEA area has unfortunately deteriorated. In light of this, the Norwegian government have decided to prolong the internal border controls at all borders (land, sea and air borders) for 30 days from 13th of October, pursuant to the Schengen Borders Code article 25, paragraph 3, and article 27, in order to combat the further spread of the virus infections.

The temporary reintroduction of internal border controls are an exceptional measure of last resort. As such, the carrying out of internal border controls as a measure to limit the further spread of the Covid-19 virus infections will be limited in scope, both operationally and geographically, to what is considered strictly necessary to prevent the possible threats to internal security and public policy. The controls will be targeted, based on risk assessment and carried out in accordance with the relevant Commission guidelines.

Yours sincerely


Hilde Barstad

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