Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 15 October 2019, concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of borders controls by Norway at its internal borders between 12 November 2019 and 11 May 2020.
European Commission  
European Parliament  
General Secretariat of the Council

Please find enclosed a letter from the Norwegian Minister of Justice and Immigration Jørn Kalsvik, dated 10 October 2019 regarding temporary reintroduction of border control at the Norwegian internal borders.

The reintroduction of internal border controls will be carried out for 6 months beyond 11 November this year. The decision has been made in accordance with the articles 25 and 27 of the Regulation (EU) no. 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code).

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Rolf Einar Fife

Enclosed: 2
Mr. Frans TIMMERMANS  
First Vice-President of the European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

Mr. Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS  
EU-Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship  
B-1049 Brussels

Mr. David Maria SASSOLI  
President of the  
European Parliament  
B-1049 Brussels

Mr. Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKESEN  
General Secretariat of the Council  
B-1049 Brussels

Ministers of the Interior of the EU and Schengen States
Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders

The Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) monitors and evaluates trends and developments nationally and abroad. In its annual threat assessment for 2019, the PST concludes that extremist Islamist groups will still represent the most serious terrorist threat towards Norway in 2019. This conclusion remains unchanged. At the same time, according to Europol, the overall terrorist threat to the security of the EU remains acute.

Many foreign fighters that have returned to Europe will be released from prison during 2019. According to the twenty-fourth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to the UN Security Council resolutions 1325 (2004) and 2253 (2015), submitted to the Security Council on 15th July this year, many of the returnees retain extremist views, and de-radicalization programmes have not proven to be fully effective. Furthermore, recent history has shown that terrorists have used the possibility to move freely within the Schengen area to plan, prepare and execute terrorist attacks.

According to the report on secondary movements presented by the EASO, Frontex and Europol on 25th March this year, uncontrolled or unmeasured secondary movements of third-country nationals who enter illegally, are smuggled or remain illegally after legal entry into the EU pose a serious challenge for the Union as an area of freedom, security and justice. The scale of the phenomenon remains undisputable and considerable. According to the Frontex Risk Analysis for 2019, a significant increase in document fraud detections on secondary movements was recorded in 2018. This underscores that establishing the identity of irregular migrants remains a challenge. It is therefore the assessment of the Norwegian authorities that a potential for significant
secondary movements into Norway of migrants with an unclear identity still remains. It should also be considered that terrorism could potentially exploit irregular migratory movements to enter into the European Union.

Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border control. However, in light of the above, the Norwegian Government has decided, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 25 and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code), to temporarily reintroduce border control at the Norwegian internal borders for six months from 12th of November 2019. The temporary reintroduction of internal border control is an exceptional measure of last resort. As such, the carrying out of internal border controls beyond that date 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 limited to ports with ferry connections to Denmark, Sweden and Germany. They will be targeted and based on risk assessment. The relevant authorities will regularly examine and re-evaluate the operational and geographical scope of the controls. It is our assessment and experience that through this approach, the negative consequences on the free movement of persons and the internal market will be kept to a minimum.

In accordance with the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen Area of 12th of May 2017, Norway has been carrying out, and will continue to carry out, intensified police checks in the areas of the Østfold region bordering on Sweden. The Norwegian and Swedish police authorities have a very good bilateral cooperation. However, such measures cannot fully substitute internal border control in the Norwegian ports with ferry connections to Denmark, Sweden and Germany, as it does not provide the possibility to perform controls based on the screening of passenger lists.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Jøran Kallmyr