



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 14 October 2019
(OR. en)

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COMIX 466

NOTE

From: Norwegian delegation

To: Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)

Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Articles 25 and 27 of Regulation 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 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.

E-MAIL / FAX



**MISSION OF NORWAY
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The Ambassador

IM 010774 2019
15.10.2019

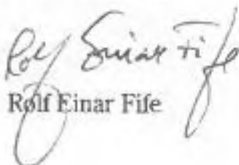
Brussels, 11.10.2019

European Commission
European Parliament
General Secretariat of the Council

Please find enclosed a letter from the Norwegian Minister of Justice and Immigration Jøran Kallmyr, 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


Rolf Einar Fife

Enclosed: 2

Mr. Frans TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President of the European Commission
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Mr. Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS
EU-Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship
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Mr. David Maria SASSOLI
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Mr. Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN
General Secretariat of the Council
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E-MAIL / FAX



IM 010774 2019
15.10.2019

ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

Minister of Justice and Immigration

European Commission
European Parliament
Secretary-General of the Council

Your ref.	Our ref.	Date
	14/7726 - KKA	10.10.2019

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 extreme 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 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 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015), submitted to the Security Council on 15th of July this year, many of the returnees retain extremist views, and deradicalization programmes have not proven to be fully effective. Furthermore, recent history have 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 of March this year, uncontrolled or unmeasured secondary movements of third-country nationals who enter illegally, are smuggled or remain illegally after legal entry in to 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

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secondary movements into Norway of migrants with an unclear identity still remains. It should also be considered that terrorists 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 the 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



Jøran Kallmyr

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