



Council of the  
European Union

**Brussels, 13 October 2017  
(OR. en)**

**13205/17**

**FRONT 427  
COMIX 686**

**NOTE**

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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)

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Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 13 October 2017, concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of borders controls by Norway at its internal borders between 12 November 2017 and 11 May 2018.

E-MAIL / FAX



ROYAL NORWEGIAN  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

IM 10578 2017  
13.10.2017

Reçu le  
12. 10. 2017

*The Minister of Justice and Public Security*

European Commission  
European Parliament  
General Secretary of the Council

Your ref.

Our ref.

Date  
12.10.2017

#### **Reintroduction of border controls at internal borders**

On 11 May 2017, the Council of the European Union, at the proposal of the European Commission, adopted the "Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation for prolonging temporary internal border control in exceptional circumstances putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk". On the basis of this Decision, temporary internal border checks at the in the Norwegian ports with ferry connections to Denmark, Germany and Sweden will be continued until 11. November 2017.

The European Commission announced that it will not be able to present another proposal on prolonging internal border controls to the Council of the European Union. The terrorist threat in Europe is a grave concern, and the European security situation remains tense. On 27. September 2017, the European Commission therefore suggested that the current rules on the temporary reintroduction of internal border checks should be amended. Shortcomings in the protection of the external borders and significant irregular secondary migration within the Schengen area persist. This uncontrolled irregular migration creates serious threats to public security and order, with a risk of persons suspected of having terrorist intentions posing as refugees. Norway's targeted border controls at selected ports has been vital to prevent and detect the entry of persons posing a security concern.

The Norwegian Police Security Service publicised an updated national threat assessment on 27. June this year, which concluded that it is probable that terrorist attacks will be

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attempted to be carried out in Norway. A new classified threat assessment on the significance of internal border controls was recently conducted. The measures available as part of the border controls cannot be replaced by other means, for example (random) police checks in border areas and on the rest of the territory.

We continue to strongly support the goal of returning to an area without internal border controls in the future. When this will be possible, will depend on how the overall security situation develops. It is very unlikely that the situation will significantly change in the near future. Therefore, we have decided that internal border checks at the Norwegian ports with ferry connections to Denmark, Germany and Sweden will be carried out for 6 months beyond 11. November 2017, in accordance with Schengen Border Code articles 25 & 27. Additional internal border controls at air- and land borders are subject to the ongoing assessment of the threats to the internal security.

These temporary internal border checks will be limited to what is strictly necessary, and will be carried out in a targeted manner based on risk assessments. The consequences for bona fide travellers will be kept as low as possible. We will regularly examine and re-evaluate the necessity, frequency, location and time of the controls at the relevant border sections.

Yours sincerely

  
Per-Willy Amundsen

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