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From:	Norwegian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers / Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
No. prev. doc.:	8133/22
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Articles 25 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 the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 17 October 2022 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Norway at parts of the internal borders for six months as of 12 November 2022.

E-MAIL



In 010543 2022
17.10.2022

ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

Minister of Justice and Public Security

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

Your ref.

Our ref.
26/1379

Date
13.10.2022

Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders

On the 7th of April 2022, the Norwegian government notified the EU institutions and the Member States of its decision to temporarily reintroduce border control at parts of the Norwegian internal borders for six months from 12th of May 2022. The measure was introduced with reference to the general threat assessment by the Norwegian Police Security Service for 2022, and in light of the overall terrorist threat to the security of the EU. Reference was also made to the potential for significant secondary movements into Norway of migrants with an unclear identity. The controls have been limited to ports with regular ferry connections to the Schengen area.

It is the view of the Norwegian authorities that the temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders as applied over the last six months have been effective and necessary in order to mitigate these threats. Still, they are matters of concern for the Norwegian authorities.

However, the ongoing war in Ukraine have highlighted the need to increase the security of the Norwegian on-shore and off-shore oil and gas facilities. This must also be viewed in light of the recent disruptions of the Nord Stream pipelines in the Baltic Sea. To this end, the Norwegian authorities have mobilised elements of the Norwegian Home Guard, increased other types of military presence at relevant locations and allocated additional police resources. It is the view of the Norwegian authorities that these measures must be complemented by the screening and control of relevant passenger flows into Norway, also across the internal borders.

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Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border controls. However, in light of the above, the Norwegian government has decided, in accordance with articles 25 and 27 of the Schengen Borders Code, to temporarily reintroduce control at parts of the internal borders for six months from 12th November this year.

In order to minimize the negative impact on the right to free movement and the internal market, the border controls will be limited in scope, both operationally and geographically, to what is at any time considered strictly necessary to prevent the possible threat to our internal security and public policy. The scope of the controls will be adapted to complement internal border control measures adopted by the Swedish and Danish authorities. As such, the controls at the Norwegian internal borders will from the 12th of November be limited to ports with ferry connections to the Schengen area. The need to uphold the measure will be regularly reassessed.

The controls will be targeted, and based on risk assessment. As far as possible, while still achieving the goals of the controls, they will be conducted through screening of passenger lists (APF) against relevant databases. The experience gained by the relevant authorities in prior periods of carrying out internal border controls will be taken into consideration. Notice will also be taken of relevant Commission guidelines for border management issues.

In accordance with the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area of 12th of May 2017, Norway will continue to carry out intensified police checks in the relevant areas of the regions bordering on Sweden. The Norwegian and Swedish police authorities have a very good bilateral cooperation. However, such measures cannot fully substitute internal border controls in the ferry ports. The major ports are all situated in city centres, and intensified police checks in that type of border areas have reduced efficiency.

Yours sincerely



Emilie Mehl

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