



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 12 October 2023  
(OR. en)

14086/23

FRONT 312  
COTER 181  
MIGR 329  
COMIX 448

**NOTE**

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From: Swedish delegation

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

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No. prev. doc.: 8234/23 ADD1

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Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Swedish internal borders for a period of six months as of 12 November 2023 in accordance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 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 the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 11 October 2023 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Sweden at the internal borders for six months as of 12 November 2023.

E-MAIL



Government Offices of Sweden

10 October 2023

Ministry of Justice  
Minister for Justice

Secretary-General  
Thérèse Blanchet

IM 011318 2023  
11-10-2023

Dear Secretary-General,

I would hereby like to inform you that the Swedish Government intends to take the decision of temporarily reintroducing border control at the Swedish internal border for a period of six months as of 12 November 2023.

The decision will be in accordance with article 25 of the Regulation (EU) no 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).

The scope of the border control may extend to all internal borders, be it land, sea, or air. The specific border sections and border crossing points will be determined by the Swedish Police Authority following a continuous risk analysis. In accordance with the Schengen Borders Code the scope will be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the serious threat to public policy and internal security.

The security situation in Sweden has deteriorated following recent developments and the overall state of circumstances is very serious. The Government is however committed to the protection of both freedom of expression as well as upholding internal security and public policy. On 17 August, the Director General of the Swedish Security Service took the decision to raise the terrorist threat level from Elevated (3) to High (4) on the five-level scale of the National Centre for Terrorist Threat Assessment (NCT). The assessment follows on intelligence gathering and careful analysis of both classified information and public statements. The summer has also seen attacks against the Swedish Embassies in Iraq and Lebanon. The current terrorist threat is predominately coming from violent Islamist actors that can be found both within the EU, as well as in third countries. A new

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development of concern is the recent threats made by terrorist organisations such as al-Qaida as well as statements made by state actors. These circumstances have elevated the situation even further.

As a result of these recent development and events, the Swedish Government makes the assessment that a serious threat to public policy and internal security exists against Sweden. In accordance with the Schengen Borders Code this threat provides justification for the reintroduction of border control at the internal border.

New legislation that allows for Police checks in border areas is in force as of 1 August. The new legislation is still being implemented and although some positive results has already been reached, the Government considers it too early to make a thorough assessment of the effectiveness in responding to the current serious threat. The decision of reintroduction of border control at the internal border is therefore the most effective response to the serious threat and a last resort.

I want to reassure you that I remain committed to the goal of returning to a Schengen area without internal border control, and to a well-functioning Schengen cooperation as soon as the security situation allows.

Yours sincerely,



Gunnar Strömmer

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