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European Union

**Brussels, 16 October 2023**  
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**NOTE**

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

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Delegations will find attached a copy of the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 16 October 2023 regarding the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders as of 12 November 2023 for 6 months.

E-MAIL



**MISSION OF NORWAY  
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

*The Ambassador*

IM 011564 2023  
16-10-2023

14. 10. 2023

Brussel, 14.10.2023

Dear Vice-President of the Commission,  
Dear Commissioner,  
Dear President of the European Parliament,  
Dear Secretary-General of the Council,  
Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed please find a letter from Ms Emilie MEHL, the Norwegian Minister of Justice and Public Security, dated 12 October 2023 concerning reintroduction of temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders.

Yours sincerely,

Anders EIDE

Mr Margaritis SCHINAS  
Vice-President of the European Commission  
1049 Brussels

Ms Ylva JOHANSSON  
Commissioner for Home Affairs  
1049 Brussels

Ms Roberta METSOLA  
President of the European Parliament  
1049 Brussels

Ms Thérèse BLANCHET  
Secretary-General of the Council  
1048 Brussels

To the  
Ministers of Home Affairs in the Schengen States

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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.  
20/1379 - KAM

Date  
12.10.2023

**Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders**

On the 13th October 2022, the Norwegian government decided to temporarily reintroduce border control at the internal borders for six months from 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, pursuant to the Schengen Borders Code articles 25 and 27. This measure was taken with the reference to an assessment of the need to increase the security of the Norwegian on-shore and off-shore oil and gas facilities in light of the breach in the Nord Stream pipeline.

The recent incident at the Baltconnector pipeline and the communication cable between the two Nato-countries Finland and Estonia in the Baltic Sea brings in a new dimension and underlines the need to apply measures in order to safeguard energy supply to Europe.

The importance of applying such measures is underlined in a report from the Norwegian National Security Authority prior to the latest incident. This report underlines that Norway has an important role in assuring European security as producer and supplier of energy to European Allies. It is further stressed that experience from the time after the Russian invasion of Ukraine shows that the subsea infrastructure transporting gas, power and electronic communication is significantly exposed to sabotage and threats during crisis. The Norwegian Police Security Service reports that foreign intelligence services map out Norwegian critical infrastructure, further underlining the severity of this assessment.

This development has to be met with a broad range of measures, where controls at internal borders plays a part.

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Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border controls. However, in the light of the above, the Norwegian government has decided, in accordance with articles 25 and 27 of the Schengen Borders Code, to temporarily reintroduce border control at the internal borders for six months from 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. The border controls will be limited in scope, both operationally and geographically to what is strictly necessary to prevent the possible threats to the internal security and public policy. The controls will be targeted and based on risk assessment, and carried out in accordance with the Commission guidelines for border management issues. Furthermore, the controls will be limited to ports with ferry connections to the Schengen Area.

In accordance with the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area of 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, Norway has been carrying out intensified police checks in the areas of Viken region 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 Norwegian ports.

Yours sincerely



Emilie Mehl