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**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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Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Swedish internal borders 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 07 October 2024 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Sweden at the internal borders for six months as of 12 November 2024.



IM 11073 2024  
07-10-2024

7 October 2024

Ministry of Justice  
Minister for Justice

Secretary-General of the Council  
Thérèse Blanchet

Dear Madam 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 2024.

The decision will be in accordance with article 25a (4) and (5) 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) and is due to the serious threat to public policy and internal security that follows from risks related to terrorism as well as risks connected to serious crime.

The terrorist threat level in Sweden remains high (level four out of five on the scale of the National Centre for Terrorist Threat Assessment) and recent terrorism related events in Sweden as well as incidents in other Member States, show that the threat is persistent and that the need for continued and heightened vigilance is real.

As well as the threat from terrorism, a string of serious and violent incidents related to an ongoing armed conflict in the organised and gang-related crime environment, continues to create great concern. The conflict between rival criminal factions is no longer confined to Sweden and is now affecting both the Swedish and the Danish side of the strait of Öresund. Attacks on human lives and property that have involved military grade weapons and explosives are believed to be part of the conflict. In order to plan and to carry out these very serious criminal acts, persons belonging to organised criminal gangs and networks have been found to be travelling between Sweden and Denmark on a regular basis.

Telephone: +46 8 405 10 00  
Fax: +46 8 20 27 34  
Web: [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se)

Postal address: SE 103 33 Stockholm  
Street address: Drottninggatan 3  
E-mail: [ju.registrator@gov.se](mailto:ju.registrator@gov.se)

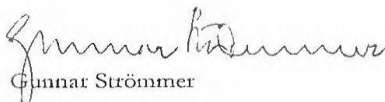
The scope of the border control is initially likely to remain focused on the same border crossing points as today but may extend to all internal borders, be it land, sea, or air. The specific border sections and border crossing points will still be determined by the Swedish Police Authority following 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 decision of reintroducing border control at the internal border is the most effective response to this very diverse and serious threat. It provides the Police Authority with vital tools that are needed in the effort to effectively counter a combined threat of this kind. The reintroduction of border control is also a measure of last resort. Although the Police Authority is working with police checks in border areas, using the legislation and its powers to great effect, there are still some technical issues and methods that need to be resolved and developed further before full efficiency can be achieved.

Just as before, the Swedish authorities are doing their utmost to mitigate the effects from the performance of border checks. This means adjusting checks to a proportionate level, adjusting working methods to fit with train waiting times and traffic flows, but also working increasingly with the legislation and tools of police checks in border areas.

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 situation allows.

Yours sincerely,

  
Gunnar Strömmer

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