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From:	Slovenian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers / Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
No. prev. doc.:	14889/23
Subject:	Prolongation of border controls at the Slovenian internal borders in accordance with Article 28 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 November 2023 regarding the prolongation of border controls by Slovenia with Croatia and Hungary as of 19 November 2023 to 09 December 2023.

E-MAILIM 013612 2023
20-11-2023REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA NOTRANJE ZADEVEBoštjan Poklukur
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17. 11. 2023

Ljubljana, 17. november 2023

Spoštovani podpredsednik za spodbujanje evropskega načina življenja,
spoštovana komisarka za notranje zadeve,
spoštovana generalna sekretarka Sveta EU,
spoštovana predsednica Evropskega parlamenta,
spoštovane ministricе in ministri,

Republika Slovenija je v skladu z 28. členom Uredbe (EU) 2016/399 Evropskega parlamenta in Sveta z dne 9. marca 2016 o Zakoniku Unije o pravilih, ki urejajo gibanje oseb prek meja (Zakonik o schengenskih mejah) z 21. oktobrom 2023 začasno ponovno uvedla nadzor na notranjih mejah z Republiko Hrvaško in Madžarsko. Za ta ukrep se je Vlada Republike Slovenije primarno odločila zaradi zaostrovanja varnostnih razmer v Evropi in na Bližnjem vzhodu ter številnih pozivov terorističnih organizacij k izvajanju terorističnih in drugih nasilnih dejanj v zahodnih državah. Medresorska delovna skupina za protiterorizem je namreč na podlagi opravljene ocene povišala stopnjo teroristične ogroženosti v Republiki Sloveniji na tretjo (srednjo) stopnjo po petstopenjski lestvici. Zaradi nespremenjene stopnje ogroženosti je bil začasni ponovni nadzor na notranjih mejah v nadaljevanju podaljšan do 19. novembra 2023.

Pristojni nacionalni organi dnevno spremljajo varnostne razmere v državi in v širši regiji, ter si z organi drugih držav in mednarodnimi organizacijami izmenjujejo informacije o morebitnih tveganjih. Vendar razvoj dogodkov na žalost ostaja nepredvidljiv. V Republiki Sloveniji, podobno kot v sosednji Italijanski republiki in Republiki Avstriji, še vedno velja povišana stopnja teroristične ogroženosti.

Dodatno zaskrbljujoče ostaja naraščanje organiziranega kriminala na Zahodnem Balkanu, vključno s tihotapljenjem ljudi. Obstaja namreč možnost, da bi pripadniki ali podporniki terorističnih skupin, tudi s pomočjo storitev mednarodnih hudodetskih združb, skušali na nedovoljen način vstopiti v Republiko Slovenijo, kjer smo v letošnjem letu do 12. novembra zabeležili že 53 tisoč nedovoljenih prehodov notranje meje.

Glede na navedeno ocenjujemo, da je v trenutnih razmerah nadaljnje izvajanje nadzora na notranjih mejah z Republiko Hrvaško in Madžarsko nujno za preprečevanje resnih groženj javnemu redu in varnosti in odkrivanje čezmejnega kriminala. Posledično vas obveščam, da bo Republika Slovenija ob upoštevanju 26. in 28. člena Zakonika o schengenskih mejah podaljšala nadzor na notranjih mejah z navedenima državama še za 20 dni, tj. do 9. decembra 2023.

Ob spoštovanju načela sorazmernosti, bodo načini in intenziteta ukrepov ustrezno prilagojeni, s ciljem čim manjšega negativnega vpliva na potnike, okolje in gospodarstvo, predvsem pa na življenje

prebivalstva ob meji. Slovenska policija si bo pri izvajanju ukrepa prav tako še naprej prizadevala za dobro koordinacijo in tesno sodelovanje s policijama obeh zadevnih držav.

S spoštovanjem,



Gospod Margaritis Schinas
podpredsednik za spodbujanje evropskega načina življenja

Gospa Ylva Johansson
komisarka za notranje zadeve

Gospa Thérèse Blanchet
generalna sekretarka Sveta EU

Gospa Roberta Metsola
predsednica Evropskega parlamenta

Notranje ministrice in ministri držav članic EU
in pridruženih članic schengenskemu območju

E-MAIL

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20-11-2023

Received on
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[COURTESY TRANSLATION]

Ljubljana, 17 November 2023

Dear Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life,
Dear Commissioner for Home Affairs,
Dear Secretary-General of the Council of the EU,
Dear President of the European Parliament,
Dear Ministers,

In accordance with Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), the Republic of Slovenia temporarily reintroduced controls at its internal borders with the Republic of Croatia and Hungary as of 21 October 2023. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia decided to take this measure primarily because of the heightened security situation in Europe and the Middle East and calls by terrorist organisations to carry out terrorist and other violent acts in Western countries. Based on an assessment carried out by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, the terrorist threat level in the Republic of Slovenia was raised to level 3 (medium) on a five-point scale. In view of the unchanged threat level, the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls was extended until 19 November 2023.

The competent national authorities monitor the security situation in the country and the wider region on a daily basis, and share information on potential risks with authorities in other countries and with international organisations. Unfortunately, however, developments remain unpredictable. In the Republic of Slovenia, as in the neighbouring Italian Republic and the Republic of Austria, the terrorist threat level continues to be elevated.

A further concern is the rise of organised crime in the Western Balkans, including people smuggling. There is a risk that members or supporters of terrorist groups, aided by international criminal organisations, may attempt to illegally enter the Republic of Slovenia, where 53,000 unauthorised crossings of the internal border were recorded this year up to 12 November.

In view of the above, we consider that, in the current situation, the continuation of internal border controls with Croatia and Hungary is necessary to prevent serious threats to public order and security and to detect cross-border crime. Consequently, I would like to inform you that the Republic of Slovenia will, subject to Articles 26 and 28 of the Schengen Borders Code, extend the internal border controls with the two countries for a further 20 days, i.e. until 9 December 2023.

In compliance with the principle of proportionality, the method and intensity of the measures will be adjusted so as to minimise their impact on travellers, the environment and the economy, and in particular on the border population. The Slovenian police will continue to pursue good coordination and close cooperation with the police forces of both countries concerned.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]
Boštjan Poklukar
Minister of the Interior
Republic of Slovenia

Mr Margaritis Schinas
Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life

Ms Ylva Johansson
Commissioner for Home Affairs

Ms Thérèse Blanchet
Secretary-General of the Council of the EU

Ms Roberta Metsola
President of the European Parliament

Home Affairs Ministers of the EU Member States
and Schengen Associated Countries

**LIST OF AUTHORIZED CROSSING-POINTS FOR THE DURATION OF THE REINTRODUCED
INTERNAL BORDER CONTROLS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AND HUNGARY****CROSSING THE BORDER WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

The crossing of the internal land border with Croatia is allowed at the following **12 border crossing points for international road traffic** (passengers and cargo transport):

- Sečovlje (Sicciole) – checkpoint,
- Dragonja (Dragogna),
- Sočerga,
- Starod,
- Jelšane,
- Petrina,
- Metlika,
- Obrežje,
- Dobovec,
- Gruškovje,
- Zavrč, and
- Petišovci.

The crossing of the internal land border with Croatia is also possible at the following **7 border crossing points for international rail traffic**:

- Rakitovec,
- Ilirska Bistrica,
- Metlika,
- Dobova,
- Rogatec,
- Središče ob Dravi, and
- Lendava.

The persons enjoying the right to free movement under the EU law can cross the internal land border with Croatia at the following **12 border crossing points for international road traffic** (passengers and cargo transport):

- Podgorje,
- Babno polje,
- Vinica,
- Slovenska vas,
- Rigonce,
- Orešje,
- Bistrica ob Sotli,
- Imeno,
- Rogatec,

- Ormož,
- Središče ob Dravi, and
- Gibina.

The persons who enjoy the right to freedom of movement under the EU law are citizens of the European Union and nationals of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, and their family members, regardless of their nationality. The same right also applies to third-country nationals and their family members, regardless of their nationality, who, pursuant to agreements between the EU and its member states and relevant third countries, have a right to free movement equivalent to that enjoyed by EU citizens.

CROSSING THE BORDER WITH HUNGARY

Travellers are allowed to cross the internal land border with Hungary at the following **border crossing points for international road traffic** (passengers and cargo transport):

- Dolga vas – Hosszúfalu, and
- Pince (motorway) – Pince.

The crossing of the internal land border with Hungary is also possible at the following **border crossing point for international rail traffic**:

- Hodoš - Hodos.

The persons enjoying the right to free movement under the EU law can cross the internal land border with Hungary at the following **6 border crossing points for international road traffic** (passengers and cargo transport):

- Pince (local road) – Pince,
- Prosenjakovci – Pártosfalva,
- Hodoš – Hodos,
- Kobilje,
- Čepinci, and
- Martinje.

The persons who enjoy the right to freedom of movement under the EU law are citizens of the European Union and nationals of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, and their family members, regardless of their nationality. The same right also applies to third-country nationals and their family members, regardless of their nationality, who, pursuant to agreements between the EU and its member states and relevant third countries, have a right to free movement equivalent to that enjoyed by EU citizens.