Council of the European Union

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NOTE

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.
Spoštovani podpredsednik za spodbujanje evropskega načina življenja, sploštovana komisarka za notranje zadeve, sploštovana generalna sekretarka Sveta EU, sploštovana predsednica Evropskega parlamenta, sploštovane ministerke in ministri,


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 povisana stopnja teroristične ogroženosti.

Dodatno zaskrbljujoče ostaja naraščanje organiziranega kriminala na Zahodnem Balkanu, vključno s tihotopljenjenjem ljudi. Obstaja namreč možnost, da bi pripadniki ali podpomiki terorističnih skupin, tudi s pomočjo storitev mednarodnih hudoželjskih združb, skušali na nedovoljen način vstopiti v Republiko Slovenijo, kjer smo v letošnjem letu do 12. novembra zabeležili že 53 tisoč nedovoljeneh prehodov notranjih mej.


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 mej. 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
genralna sekretarka Sveta EU

Gospa Roberta Metsola
predsednica Evropskega parlamenta

Notranje ministrice in ministri držav članic EU
in pridruženih članic schengenskemu območju
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 (Sicciolo) – checkpoint,
- Dragonja (Dragogna),
- Sočerga,
- Starod,
- Ješkane,
- Petrina,
- Metlika,
- Obrežje,
- Dobovec,
- Gruškovje,
- Zavrč, and
- Petljovec.

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 Soči,
- 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 – Hosszúfalva, 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 border crossing points for international road traffic (passengers and cargo transport):

• Pince (local road) – Pince,
• Prosenjakovci – Párosfalva,
• Hodoš – Hodos,
• Kobilje,
• Čepinci, and
• Martinj.

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.