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NOTE

From:	Maltese delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
Subject:	Temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Maltese 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)

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 21 November 2024 regarding the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Malta for a period of six days from 1st December 2024 until 6th December 2024.

EMAIL

IM 12796 2024
22-11-2024

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,
SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT

Received on
21. 11. 2024

His Excellency Mr. Margaritis Schinas
Vice-President of the European Commission
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Her Excellency Ms. Ylva Johansson
European Commissioner for Home Affairs
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Her Excellency Ms. Therese Blanchet
Secretary General of the Council of the European Union and European Council
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Her Excellency Ms. Roberta Metsola
President of the European Parliament
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Home Affairs Ministers of the EU and Schengen States

21 November 2024

Your Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

I would hereby like to inform you that the Maltese Government intends to temporarily reintroduce internal border controls at the Maltese border crossing points for a period of six days from 1st December 2024 until 6th December 2024 pursuant to Article 25a(4) of the Schengen Borders Code.

The decision has been taken to ensure the smooth conduct and to maintain public order for the upcoming 31st Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) which will take place from 5–6 December 2024 in Malta. As the OSCE's principal decision-making body, the Ministerial Council offers a key platform for Foreign Ministers to review and address the security situation in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area. Given the significance of hosting such an international event, it is essential to enhance security measures in light of concerns brought about by recent developments in the international sphere.

All necessary mitigation measures, in line with Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 shall be taken to ensure smooth passenger flows through the conduct of targeted checks at the Malta International Airport, Valletta Seaport, Malta Freeport, Msida Marina, and the Mgarr Gozo Marina. Targeted checks upon entry at the borders will be based on passenger data received and vetted in advance through the use of available technology and by well trained staff, so that controls are focused on persons presenting migration or security risks.

201 Strait Street, Valletta, VLT 1433 Malta
T +356 2568 9000 E byron.carmilleri@gov.mt
www.homeaffairs.gov.mt

Given the nature and scale of the international event, along with the presence of various delegations and prevailing international security concerns, the reintroduction of internal border controls during this timeframe is deemed both necessary and proportionate.

I assure you of Malta's commitment to restoring a Schengen area without internal border controls following the conclusion of the OSCE Ministerial Council, and to strengthening cooperation within the Schengen area.

Yours Sincerely,



Hon Byron Camilleri
Minister for Home Affairs, Security and Employment