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**NOTE**

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From: Slovenian delegation

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

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No. prev. doc.: 10303/24

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Subject: Prolongation of border controls at the Slovenian 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 22 November 2024 regarding the prolongation of border controls by Slovenia with Croatia and Hungary as of 22 December 2024 for six months.

E-MAIL

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA NOTRANJE ZADEVEBoštjan Poklukar  
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Spoštovani podpredsednik za spodbujanje evropskega načina življenja,  
spoštovana komisarka za notranje zadeve,  
spoštovana generalna sekretarka Sveta EU,  
spoštovana predsednica Evropskega parlamenta,  
spoštovane ministrice in ministri,

Evropska unija je danes obkrožena z nestabilnostjo in konflikti. Vse od začetka ruske agresije na Ukrajino so države članice EU in države kandidatke za članstvo v EU predmet destabilizacijskih aktivnosti in hibridnih groženj s strani Ruske federacije. Poleg nepredvidljivega razvoja dogodkov v Ukrajini, ostaja nestabilna tudi širša regija Bližnjega vzhoda, z več kriznimi žarišči pa se prav tako sooča Afrika, kjer je posebej zaskrbljujoče stanje v regijah Sahela, Afriškega roga in Velikih jezer.

Teroristično ogroženost in grožnje z obeležjem ekstremizma podkrepi podatek, da so varnostni organi nekaterih držav članic v okviru protiterorističnih akcij na območju Evropske unije prijeli več oseb, ki so prišle iz tretjih držav. Migracijski tokovi lahko v tem kontekstu predstavljajo varnostno tveganje. V preteklosti je več držav članic Evropske unije potrdilo, da so znotraj migracijskih tokov potovali tudi posamezniki, ki so na območje Evropske unije prihajali iz kriznih območij in so se povezovali s fenomenom tujih terorističnih borcev. Posebno tveganje torej predstavlja vse večja povezanost med mrežami tihotapcev in terorističnimi skupinami oziroma prepletenost kriminalnih ter terorističnih aktivnosti.

Medresorska delovna skupina za protiterorizem (MDS-PTR) je 7. oktobra 2024 sprejela novo oceno teroristične ogroženosti Republike Slovenije, ki ostaja na predhodni opredeljeni stopnji SREDNJA (tretja od petih stopenj; ocena označena s stopnjo tajnosti). Pristojni organi, ki sodelujejo pri delu MDS-PTR ocenjujejo, da je stopnja teroristične ogroženosti ustrezna zaradi trenutnih zaostrenih varnostnih razmer v Evropi in na Bližnjem vzhodu ter številnih pozivov terorističnih organizacij k izvajanju terorističnih in drugih nasilnih dejanj v zahodnih državah. Velja spomniti, da tudi v več drugih državah članicah Evropske unije še vedno velja povišana stopnja teroristične ogroženosti. Upoštevajoč povezanost schengenskega območja pa lahko grožnja v eni članici predstavlja grožnjo celotnemu območju oziroma lahko povečana ogroženost v naših sosednjih državah vpliva tudi na varnost v Republiki Sloveniji. Zaradi razmer na Bližnjem vzhodu je opazen trend prihodov radikaliziranih islamističnih posameznikov, ki bi lahko izkoristili praznično razpoloženje v evropskih prestolnicah.

Zaskrbljujoča je stopnja organiziranega kriminala na Zahodnem Balkanu, vključno s trgovino z orožjem in tihotapljenjem ljudi. Slovenska policija je v letošnjem letu obravnavala 440 primerov tihotapljenja ljudi (v primerljivem obdobju lani 340), pri čemer je bilo prijeto 486 tihotapcev, od tega 477 tujih državljanov. Ta podatek opozarja na velik obseg te oblike organiziranega kriminala v regiji in kaže na nujnost ustreznega odziva pristojnih organov, tudi z dodatnimi ukrepi na področju upravljanja meja. Ne gre namreč izključiti tveganja, da bi zahodnobalkansko migracijsko pot, ki poteka preko Republike Hrvaške

in Madžarske čez Republiko Slovenijo, skušali radikalizirani posamezniki in pripadniki terorističnih skupin uporabiti za vstop v državo in za prehod v druge članice Evropske unije. Na vseh naših notranjih mejah smo v obdobju od 1. 1. 2024 do 17. 11. 2024 zabeležili 43.058 nedovoljenih vstopov, od tega večino na notranji meji z Republiko Hrvaško (97,2%). Število je zaradi izvajanja ukrepov manjše za 18,9% od primerljivega obdobja lani, ko je bilo zabeleženih 53.093 nedovoljenih vstopov.

Ob nadaljevanju ruske vojaške agresije na Ukrajino velja opozoriti tudi na s tem povezane izzive za zagotavljanje varnosti v schengenskem območju – na potrebo po okrepljenem boju proti različnim oblikam organiziranega kriminala, vključno s preprečevanjem širjenja orožja, kot tudi hibridnih groženj. Za državljane Ruske federacije – v letošnjem letu smo do 17. 11. 2024 obravnavali 660 nedovoljenih vstopov s strani ruskih državljanov – namreč še vedno velja izvetje iz vizumske obveznosti v nekaterih državah Zahodnega Balkana, skrbijo pa nas tudi posledice odločitve sosednje Madžarske o vključitvi državljanov Rusije (in Belorusije) v nacionalni program za enostavnejšo pridobitev dovoljenja za prebivanje in s tem olajšan vstop v schengensko območje, če pri tem ne bodo izvedena ustrezna varnostna preverjanja teh oseb.

Posledično vas obveščam o nameri, da bo Republika Slovenija na podlagi člena 25. in sledečih členov iz II. poglavja 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), zadnjič spremenjene z Uredbo (EU) 2024/1717 Evropskega parlamenta in Sveta z dne 13. junija 2024, z 22. decembrom 2024 ob 00.00 uri začasno ponovno uvedla nadzor na notranjih kopenskih mejah z Republiko Hrvaško in Madžarsko za obdobje šestih mesecev.

Začasna ponovna uvedba nadzora na naših notranjih mejah z Republiko Hrvaško in Madžarsko predstavlja nujen ukrep, ki je sorazmeren glede na ugotovljeno grožnjo. Glede na podatke pristojnih služb je mogoče sklepati, da se varnostna situacija v naslednjih šestih mesecih ne bo izboljšala in bo v tem času potrebno še naprej izvajati dodatne ukrepe. Izvajanje mejne kontrole na notranjih mejah daje policiji možnost identifikacije oseb, ki vstopajo v državo, s tem pa predstavlja dodatno orodje za obravnavo prepoznane resne grožnje javnemu redu ali notranji varnosti, ki izhaja zlasti iz terorističnih groženj in tveganj, ki jih predstavljajo hude oblike organiziranega kriminala, vključno z omenjenim tihotapljenjem ljudi.

Na mejnih prehodih bodo policisti izvajali ciljno usmerjeno mejno kontrolo, osredotočeno na preprečevanje terorizma, ekstremizma in čezmejne kriminalitete, podkrepjeno z analizami tveganja in vzpostavljenimi profili tveganja. Ob upoštevanju načela sorazmernosti se bo mejna kontrola na mejnih prehodih izvajala na način, da bo čim manj vplivala na pretok potnikov, na okolje in gospodarstvo in še posebej na življenje prebivalstva ob meji.

Slovenska policija si bo prizadevala za dobro koordinacijo in nadaljnje tesno sodelovanje s policijama obeh zadevnih držav, s katerima med drugim sodeluje tudi v okviru Centra za sodelovanje varnostnih organov Dolga vas. Kljub začasni ponovni uvedbi nadzora na notranji meji z Republiko Hrvaško in Madžarsko ohranjamo oblike policijskega sodelovanja na podlagi dvostranskih sporazumov z vsemi našimi sosednjimi državami. Tako se z vsemi, tudi Republiko Hrvaško in Madžarsko, nadaljuje izvajanje mešanih patrolj, ki so usmerjene v preprečevanje čezmejne kriminalitete in odkrivanje nedovoljenih prehodov državne meje, s poudarkom na odkrivanju oseb na podlagi indikatorjev za terorizem in ekstremizem, prav tako pa si stalno izmenjujemo operativne in statistične podatke o problematiki na skupni meji ter izvajamo druge oblike policijskega sodelovanja.

Upoštevač aktualno varnostno situacijo ocenjujemo, da uporaba obstoječih alternativnih ukrepov v tem trenutku ne zadošča za dosego ciljev ponovne uvedbe nadzora na notranjih mejah. Podobno tudi predlagana uporaba postopka za predajo oseb, ki ga predvideva 23a. člen Zakonika o schengenskih mejah, v tem trenutku ne predstavlja ustrezne alternative, saj je odvisna od ustreznih dogovorov s sosednjimi državami, katerih usklajevanja še potekajo. Republika Slovenija si bo tudi v prihodnje

prizadevala za izvajanje ukrepov iz Priporočila Komisije (EU) 2024/268 z dne 23. novembra 2023 o sodelovanju med državami članicami v zvezi z resnimi grožnjami notranji varnosti in javnemu redu na območju brez nadzora na notranjih mejah. Ob tem dodajam, da se od novembra 2023 v okviru tristranskega formata med Republiko Slovenijo, Republiko Hrvaško in Italijansko republiko razvijajo nove pobude za okrepitev operativnega sodelovanja, med katerimi je tudi vzpostavitev trilateralnih patrolj na zunanji meji. Prav tako še naprej pozivamo k čimprejšnji sklenitvi statusnega sporazuma z Bosno in Hercegovino, ki bi omogočil napotitev stalne enote evropske mejne in obalne straže z izvršilnimi pooblastili za podporo pri upravljanju meja te države. To bi namreč pozitivno vplivalo na varnost v regiji in nenazadnje prispevalo k učinkovitejšemu upravljanju zunanjih meja EU.

Nacionalni varnostni organi Republike Slovenije bodo še naprej pozorno spremljali morebitna tveganja in varnostne razmere v državi in širši regiji ter učinke zadevnega ukrepa – s ciljem vrnitve k območju brez nadzora na notranjih mejah, takoj ko bodo razmere to dopuščale. Posledično tako ne izključujemo možnosti, da bi znatno izboljšanje varnostne situacije lahko vodilo k predčasni odpravi nadzora.

Seznam mejnih prehodov z Republiko Hrvaško in Madžarsko, na katerih bo v času trajanja začasnega ponovnega nadzora dovoljeno prehajati državno mejo, je priloga temu obvestilu.

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

**SEZNAM MEJNIH PREHODOV Z REPUBLIKO HRVAŠKO IN MADŽARSKO, NA  
KATERIH JE V ČASU TRAJANJA ZAČASNEGA PONOVRNEGA NADZORA DOVOLJENO  
PREHAJATI DRŽAVNO MEJO**

**Prehajanje meje z Republiko Hrvaško**

Za prehajanje notranje kopenske meje s Hrvaško je določenih **12 mejnih prehodov za mednarodni cestni potniški in tovorni promet:**

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

Za prehajanje notranje kopenske meje s Hrvaško je določenih **sedem mejnih prehodov za mednarodni železniški promet:**

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

Za prehajanje notranje kopenske meje s Hrvaško samo za osebe, ki imajo pravico do prostega gibanja po pravu Evropske unije, je določenih **12 mejnih prehodov za mednarodni cestni potniški in tovorni promet:**

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

- Rogatec,
- Ormož,
- Središče ob Dravi, in
- Gibina.

*Osebe, ki imajo pravico do prostega gibanja po pravu Evropske unije, so državljani Evropske unije in državljani Norveške, Islandije, Lihtenštajna, Švice in njihovi družinski člani ne glede na državljanstvo. Prav tako so to državljani tretjih držav in njihovi družinski člani ne glede na njihovo državljanstvo, ki imajo v skladu s pogodbami med Unijo in njenimi državami članicami na eni strani in temi tretjimi državami na drugi strani pravico do prostega gibanja, ki je enakovredna pravici državljanov Unije.*

#### **Prehajanje meje z Madžarsko**

Za prehajanje notranje kopenske meje z Madžarsko sta določena **dva mejna prehoda za mednarodni cestni potniški in tovorni promet:**

- Dolga vas – Hosszúfalu, in
- Pince (avtocesta) – Pince.

Za prehajanje notranje kopenske meje z Madžarsko je določen **en mejni prehod za mednarodni železniški promet:**

- Hodoš - Hodos.

Za prehajanje notranje kopenske meje z Madžarsko samo za osebe, ki imajo pravico do prostega gibanja po pravu Evropske unije, je določenih **šest mejnih prehodov za mednarodni cestni potniški in tovorni promet:**

- Pince (lokalna cesta) – Pince,
- Prosenjakovci – Pártosfalva,
- Hodoš – Hodos,
- Kobilje,
- Čepinci, in
- Martinje.

*Osebe, ki imajo pravico do prostega gibanja po pravu Evropske unije, so državljani Evropske unije in državljani Norveške, Islandije, Lihtenštajna, Švice in njihovi družinski člani ne glede na državljanstvo. Prav tako so to državljani tretjih držav in njihovi družinski člani ne glede na njihovo državljanstvo, ki imajo v skladu s pogodbami med Unijo in njenimi državami članicami na eni strani in temi tretjimi državami na drugi strani pravico do prostega gibanja, ki je enakovredna pravici državljanov Unije.*

[COURTESY TRANSLATION]

Ljubljana, 22 November 2024

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,

Today, the European Union is surrounded by instability and conflict. Since the start of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, EU Member States and EU candidate countries have been subject to destabilising activities and hybrid threats from the Russian Federation. In addition to the unpredictable developments in Ukraine, the wider Middle East region remains unstable, while Africa also has several crisis hotspots, with the situation in the Sahel, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions being of particular concern.

The terrorist and extremist threats are underlined by the fact that as part of counter-terrorism operations in the European Union law enforcement authorities in some Member States have arrested a number of persons who have come from third countries. In this context, migratory flows may constitute a security risk. In the past, several Member States of the European Union have confirmed that migratory flows included individuals who came to the European Union from crisis areas and were associated with the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. The growing links between smuggling networks and terrorist groups, or the intertwining of criminal and terrorist activities, therefore pose a particular risk.

On 7 October 2024, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Counter-Terrorism adopted a new terrorist threat assessment for the Republic of Slovenia, which remains at the previously defined level of MEDIUM (level three of five; the assessment is classified). The competent authorities involved in the work of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group consider that the terrorist threat level is appropriate in view of the current heightened security situation in Europe and the Middle East and the numerous calls by terrorist organisations to carry out terrorist and other violent acts in Western countries. It should be recalled that several other Member States of the European Union continue to be subject to an elevated terrorist threat level. Taking into account the interconnected nature of the Schengen area, a threat in one Member State may pose a threat to the entire area, or an increased threat in our neighbouring countries may also have an impact on the security of the Republic of Slovenia. The situation in the Middle East has led to an increase in arrivals of radicalised Islamist individuals, who might take advantage of the coming holiday season's festivities in European cities.

Another matter of concern is the level of organised crime in the Western Balkans, including arms trafficking and people smuggling. This year, the Slovenian police dealt with 440 cases of people smuggling (compared to 340 in the same period last year), and arrested 486 smugglers, 477 of whom were foreign nationals. This figure highlights the large scale of this form of organised crime in the region and demonstrates the urgency of an adequate response by the competent authorities, including through additional border management measures. The risk of radicalised individuals and members of terrorist groups using the Western Balkan migration route, which runs through the Republic of Croatia and Hungary via the Republic of Slovenia, to enter the country and to cross into other EU Member States cannot be ruled out. In the period from 1 January 2024 to 17 November 2024, 43,058 unauthorised crossings were recorded at our internal borders, the majority of them at the internal border with the Republic of Croatia (97,2%). Due to the implementation of measures, the number has decreased for 18,9% compared to the same period of last year when 53,093 unauthorised crossings were recorded.

In the context of the continued Russian military aggression against Ukraine, it is also worth recalling the related challenges for ensuring security in the Schengen area – the need to step up the fight against various forms of organised crime, including the prevention of the spread of weapons, as well as hybrid threats. For nationals of the Russian Federation – there were 660 unauthorised entry attempts by Russian nationals this year up to 17 November 2024 – visa exemptions are still in place in some Western Balkan countries, and we are also concerned about the implications of neighbouring Hungary's decision to include Russian (and Belarusian) nationals in a national scheme to facilitate the acquisition of residence permits and thus entry into the Schengen area, if appropriate security checks are not carried out on these persons.

Hence, I inform you of the intention of the Republic of Slovenia, on the basis of Article 25 and subsequent Articles of Chapter II 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), as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1717 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024, to temporarily reintroduce control at the internal land borders with the Republic of Croatia and Hungary for a period of six months as from 22 December 2024 at 00.00 hours.

The temporary reintroduction of controls at our internal borders with Croatia and Hungary is a necessary measure that is proportionate to the threat identified. Based on the information provided by the competent services, it can be concluded that the security situation will not improve over the next six months and that additional measures will continue to be necessary in the meantime. The implementation of border controls at internal borders enables the police to identify persons entering the country and thus in the current situation constitutes an additional tool to deal with an identified serious threat to public order or internal security, in particular terrorist threats and the risks posed by serious forms of organised crime, including people smuggling.

At border crossing points, officers will carry out targeted border checks focused on preventing terrorism, extremism and cross-border crime, underpinned by risk analyses and established risk profiles. Adhering to the principle of proportionality, checks at border crossing points will be carried out in a way that minimises the impact on the flow of passengers, on the environment and the economy, and in particular on the lives of the people living along the border.

The Slovenian Police will strive for good coordination and further close cooperation with the police forces of the two countries concerned, with whom they cooperate also within the framework of the Dolga vas Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. Despite the temporary reintroduction of internal border control with Croatia and Hungary, we are retaining the forms of police cooperation based on bilateral agreements with all our neighbouring countries. With all of them, including Croatia and Hungary, we continue to carry out mixed patrols aimed at preventing cross-border crime and detecting unauthorised border crossings, with an emphasis on detecting persons based on indicators of terrorism and extremism, and we also continuously exchange operational and statistical data on the problems at the common border and carry out other forms of police cooperation.



Taking into account the current security situation, we consider that the use of alternative measures is not sufficient at this point to achieve the same objectives as the reintroduction of internal border control. Similarly, the proposed use of the transfer procedure provided for in Article 23a of the Schengen Borders Code does not constitute an adequate alternative, as it depends on the relevant arrangements with neighbouring countries, the coordination of which is still ongoing. The Republic of Slovenia will continue its efforts to implement the measures set out in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 of 23 November 2023 on cooperation between Member States on serious threats to internal security and public policy in the area without internal border controls. I would like to add that since November 2023, new initiatives to strengthen operational cooperation have been developed in the framework of the trilateral format between the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia and the Italian Republic, including the establishment of trilateral patrols at the external border. We also continue to call for the prompt conclusion of a status agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, which would allow for the deployment of the standing corps of the European Border and Coast Guard with executive powers to support the management of its borders. This would have a positive impact on security in the region and ultimately contribute to a more effective management of the EU's external borders.

The national law enforcement authorities of the Republic of Slovenia will continue to closely monitor potential risks and the security situation in the country and the wider region, as well as the effects of the measure in question – with the aim of reverting to an area free of internal border control as soon as the situation permits. We therefore do not rule out the possibility that a significant improvement in the security situation could lead to an early lifting of controls.

The list of border crossing points with the Republic of Croatia and Hungary where crossing the national border will be allowed for the duration of the temporary reintroduction of controls is enclosed to this notification.

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**

**ANNEX**

**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.*