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European Union

**Brussels, 11 December 2023**  
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**NOTE**

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From: Norwegian delegation

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

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Subject: Reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian 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 December 2023 regarding the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders as of 08 December 2023 to 18 December 2023.

E-MAIL



IM 014493 2023  
07-12-2023

Brussels, 07.12.2023

Dear Vice-President of the Commission,  
Dear Commissioner,  
Dear President of the European Parliament,  
Dear Secretary-General of the Council,  
Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed please find a letter from Ms Emilie MEHL, the Norwegian Minister of Justice and Public Security, dated 7 December 2023 concerning reintroduction of temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders.

Yours sincerely,

John GLOSJØE  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Mr Margaritis SCHINAS  
Vice-President of the European Commission  
1049 Brussels

Ms Ylva JOHANSSON  
Commissioner for Home Affairs  
1049 Brussels

Ms Roberta METSOLA  
President of the European Parliament  
1049 Brussels

Ms Thérèse BLANCHET  
Secretary-General of the Council  
1048 Brussels

To the  
Ministers of Home Affairs in the Schengen States

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E-MAIL



IM 014493 2023  
07-12-2023

ROYAL NORWEGIAN  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

*Minister of Justice and Public Security*

European Commission  
European Parliament  
Secretary-General of the Council  
Member States of the Schengen Cooperation

Your ref.

Our ref.  
20/1379 - KAM

Date  
07.12.2023

**Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders**

Dear colleagues,

I have decided to temporarily reintroduce border controls at our internal borders.

The control will be carried out for 10 days, from 8 until 18 December 2023. Alternative measures are considered insufficient.

This decision has been reached in accordance with article 25 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). The border control may extend to all internal borders, and in particular the air borders. The measure will be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the threat to public policy and internal security.

I am aware that this notification is made later than the stipulated 4 weeks prior notification foreseen in the Schengen Border Code. Our evolving assessment in this matter has made the necessity more acute, and I ask for your understanding of the circumstances giving rise to this reintroduction.

The measure aims at preventing threats and increase the security in connection to the ceremonies of The Nobel Peace Prize, granted by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. The prize is awarded during a ceremony in Oslo. Due to its nature, the Nobel Peace Prize has, for most of its history, been the subject of attention and is known for attracting several international profiles. The ceremony will take place in Oslo on 10

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December 2023, and is part of a more comprehensive celebration that expands in the days ahead and prior to the actual awarding ceremony.

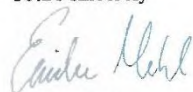
Our consideration is dominated by the current situation, and specifically the tense relationship between Russia and NATO. In addition, the national threat assessment (NTV 2023) from the Norwegian Police Security Service highlights that Russian security services constitute the most important threat to our national interest. The global security situation is demanding, in particular in Europe.

The increased tension between NATO and Russia, in combination with the above-mentioned threat assessment, make the venue particularly exposed and could also be of particular interest to others, including the symbolic value for terrorist attacks.

Finally, the meeting is scheduled at a time where EU Commissioner Ylva Johansson is warning that Europe faces “a huge risk of terrorist attacks” over the Christmas holiday period. The combination of global tension and large gatherings of people could represent a vulnerability. The serious threat to public safety and internal security in Norway is considered as high during the Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies. The consequences from the invasion of Ukraine, as well as persistent pressure on the borders will be notable before and during this event.

The measure will be lifted when the Nobel Peace Prize celebrations are finalized, and will not be extended beyond the designated period of time.

Yours sincerely



Emilie Mehl

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