



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 26 February 2021
(OR. en, es)

6327/21

FRONT 66
COMIX 106
COVID-19 61

NOTE

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

No. prev. doc.: 5785/21

Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Spanish 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 a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 25 February 2021 regarding prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Spain at the borders with Portugal between 2 and 16 March 2021.

Mr Margaritis Schinas
Vice-President
of the European Commission

Ms Ylva Johansson
Commissioner for Home Affairs
European Commission

Mr Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen
Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Mr David Maria Sassoli
President of the European Parliament

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

Madrid, 25 February 2021

I notified you in a letter dated 29 January 2021 of the reintroduction of checks at the internal land border with Portugal, as from 31 January at 1.00, as a result of consultations with the Portuguese authorities. That measure was one of the serious restrictions on mobility imposed within the territory of both Member States in response to the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, and was subsequently prolonged until 1 March at 1.00, as notified in my letter of 9 February.

Despite the improvement in the epidemiological situation in Spain and Portugal and the easing of some of the restrictive internal mobility measures, these measures still have a considerable impact, and it is therefore advisable to maintain the checks at the internal land border between the two countries for a time. To this end, the appropriate coordination consultations have been held with the Portuguese authorities. The prolongation will last for a period of 15 days, until 16 March at 1.00, thus remaining below the 20 days permitted under Article 28 of the Schengen Borders Code. The categories of persons allowed to cross the border remain unchanged.

CSV: GEN-fcae-93e9-2e54-df36-e991-3eae-6629-5235

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SIGNATORY (1): FERNANDO GRANDE-MARLASKA GOMEZ | DATE: 25.2.2021 16.02 | No specific action

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The public will be duly informed of any adjustments that may be made to the list of authorised crossing points and their opening hours.

Spain remains committed to limiting the duration of checks at the internal borders to the minimum necessary time, and always in line with the measures taken.

Yours sincerely,

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