



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 1 March 2021
(OR. en)

6577/21

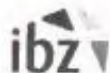
FRONT 76
COMIX 117
COVID-19 65

NOTE

From:	Belgian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	6006/21
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Belgian 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)

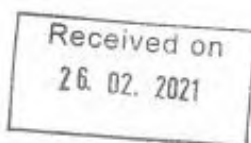
Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 1 March 2021 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Belgium at the internal borders between 26 February and 17 March 2021.

E-MAIL



Minister of Home Affairs, Institutional Reforms and
Democratic Renewal of Belgium

IN 002142 2021
01.03.2021



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

The Ministers of Home Affairs of the
EU and Schengen countries

Brussels, 26 February 2021,

Dear Colleagues,

By letter of 27 January and 5 February I informed you about the temporary reintroduction of targeted border controls at all internal Belgian borders, and this in accordance with article 28 of the Schengen Borders Code, in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

These controls at internal borders were reintroduced to enforce the decision taken on 22 January by the Belgian Government concerning non-essential travel to and from Belgium from 27 January.

Taking account of the actual epidemiological situation, and in particular the increased risk of the spread of the more contagious variants of the Covid 19 virus, targeted checks remain essential to ensure that these travel restrictions are respected. For this reason and in line with article 28 (3) of the Schengen Border Code, I have to inform you that, for a further period from 26 February until 17 March, some of these checks will be carried out at the internal borders.

I reiterate that no internal borders will be closed and that all checks will be carried out in a proportionate and non-discriminatory way, while ensuring the smooth border crossing for essential travel, the supply chain and the local cross-border traffic.

Yours sincerely,

Annelies Verlinden