



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 25 March 2020
(OR. en)

7003/20

FRONT 67
COMIX 127

NOTE

From: Lithuanian delegation

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

Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Lithuanian 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 24 March 2020 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Lithuania at the internal borders between 24 March and 13 April 2020.

E-MAIL



Received on
24. 03. 2020

IN 003050 2020
25. 03. 2020

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Data are accumulated and stored in the Register of Legal Entities, code 188601464

European Commission

24/03/2020 No. 1D-1503

General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

European Parliament

Home Affairs Ministers of EU Member States
and Schengen Associated Countries

RE PROLONGATION OF INTERNAL BORDER CONTROL

Dear Colleagues,

In the notification of 14 March 2020, the Republic of Lithuania informed about the decision of the Government to temporarily reintroduce border control at all internal land, sea and air borders in accordance with Article 28 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).

This decision was taken in reaction to serious and immediate threat caused by the spread of COVID-19. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania considered the reintroduction of internal border control to be a necessary, proportionate and effective measure to address this threat.

Moreover, the Government has announced a quarantine on the entire territory of the Republic of Lithuania for 2 weeks, from March 16th till March 30th (this period will be prolonged as needed). A number of measures and restrictions were adopted in the areas of cross-border and domestic movement, activities of public and private sectors, public life, organisation of work in educational, social service establishments and health care institutions.

After thorough examination of the evolving situation and taking into account the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Lithuania and across Europe, we find that the grounds for internal border control continue to be valid, making it necessary to prolong internal border control for a period of 20 days in accordance with the paragraph 3 of Article 28 of the Schengen Borders Code.

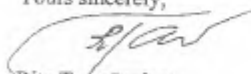


The prolongation of border control will take effect as of 24th March 2020 18:00 and will last until 13th April 2020 18:00.

The border control will continue to be carried out at international airports, seaport of Klaipėda and the following land border crossing points (BCP): with Republic of Poland – Kalvarijos BCP, Lazdijų BCP and additionally Mockavos BCP; with Republic of Latvia – Būtingės BCP, Saločių BCP and Smėlynės BCP.

Please rest assured that the scope and duration of the internal border checks will be limited to what is strictly necessary and that we will continue to carefully monitor and assess the development of the situation, as well as the impact and proportionality of the measures taken.

Yours sincerely,



Rita Tamašunienė

Minister of the Interior of Lithuania