



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 25 March 2020  
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**NOTE**

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From: Norwegian Mission

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

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Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian 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)

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Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 25 March 2020 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Norway at the internal borders between 26 March and 14 April 2020.



IN 003067 2020  
25.03.2020

Brussels, 25.03.2020

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

Enclosed please find a letter from the Norwegian Minister of Justice and Public Security dated 25 March 2020 on the prolongation of the border control at the Norwegian internal borders.

We kindly ask delegations to forward it to their respective capital.

Yours sincerely

Rolf Einar FIFE

Enclosed: 1

Mr Margaritis SCHINAS  
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Ms Ylva JOHANSSON  
Commissioner for Home Affairs  
1049 Brussels

Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN  
Secretary-General of the Council  
1048 Brussels

To the  
Ministers of Home Affairs in the Schengen States

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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.      | Date       |
|           | 20/1379 - KKA | 25.03.2020 |

### **Prolongation of the border controls at the Norwegian internal borders**

Although unprecedented measures have been introduced to reduce and prevent the further spread of the covid-19 virus infections, the number of infected persons in Norway continues to increase.

In my letter of March 15<sup>th</sup>, I informed you that Norway would temporarily reintroduce internal border controls at all internal borders (land, sea and air) for 10 days, effective from March 16<sup>th</sup> at 08:00, pursuant to article 28 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on the rules governing the movements of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).

The accelerating spread of the covid-19 virus throughout Europe and in Norway continues to constitute a threat to our public policy and internal security. In accordance with the Schengen Borders Code article 28, I have therefore decided to prolong the temporary internal border controls at all Norwegian borders for a further 20 days, starting from March 26<sup>th</sup> this year at 08:00.

Norway recognizes that the temporary reintroduction of internal border control is an exceptional measure of last resort. As such, the carrying out of internal border controls will be limited, both operationally and geographically, to what is considered strictly necessary to avert the threat to our public policy and internal security. In order to make the controls at the internal borders effective, while as efficient as possible, a certain channelling of traffic flows to larger border crossing points may be necessary, but has so far not been decided.

The internal border controls will of course be implemented in light of the Commission

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guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services.

Yours sincerely

  
Monica Mæland

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