



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 27 March 2020  
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**NOTE**

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From: Spanish delegation

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

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Subject: 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)

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Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 27 March 2020 regarding temporary reintroduction of border controls by Spain at the internal borders between 27 March and 11 April 2020.



E-MAIL

Fernando Grande-Mariská Gómez

MINISTRO

Received on

26. 03. 2020

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*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 Interior of the  
EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries*

*Madrid, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2020*

*On March 16<sup>th</sup> Spain decided to reintroduce controls at its internal land borders for a period of 10 days, from March 17<sup>th</sup> until March 26<sup>th</sup>, in order to avoid the spreading of COVID-19.*

*The current circumstances in Spain recommend prolonging all preventive measures taken against the spread of the disease, including the state of alarm. A further extension of controls at the internal borders is considered a proportionate measure, coherent with those adopted inside our territory and by other Member States, especially France and Portugal, the two EU Member States neighboring our land borders.*

*Therefore, in accordance with art. 28.3 of the Schengen Borders Code, I have issued Resolution of the Minister of Interior of March 25<sup>th</sup> prolonging controls temporarily reintroduced at the internal borders due to COVID-19, by which border controls at the internal land borders are maintained from 00:00, March 27<sup>th</sup>, to 24:00, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The following categories of persons are exempted:*

- Spanish citizens.*
- Residents in Spain.*



- Residents in other Member States or Schengen Associated Countries going to their place of residence.
- Frontier workers.
- Healthcare and elderly care professionals going to their work.
- Those able to prove with documents being subject to force majeure or state of necessity.
- Staff of diplomatic missions, consular offices or international organizations seated in Spain, accredited as such and travelling in the scope of their official mission.
- Transport of goods.

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 evolution of the situation, as well as the impact and proportionality of measures taken.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez