



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Belgian delegation
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 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 30 March 2020 regarding prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Belgium at the internal borders between 30 March and 18 April 2020.

E-MAIL

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Minister of the Interior, Security and Foreign Trade

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**The Ministers of Home Affairs of the
EU and Schengen countries**

Brussels, 30 March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

By letter of 20 March I informed you about the temporary reintroduction of border controls at all internal Belgian borders in accordance with article 28 of the Schengen Borders Code in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Figures on the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Europe show that the risk for public health remains. As the situation hasn't changed, I'm obliged to extend this measure by at least 20 days. Belgium will continue to carry out border controls at all internal borders. As stated in my letter of 20 March,

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these controls are intended to ensure that the measures of social distancing and non-essential movements, as adopted by the government, are complied with on Belgian territory.

Finally, I would like to inform you that several local authorities have taken the initiative to close a number of border crossings on local roads. However, passage at all primary border crossings remains fully assured.

Please rest assured that the border controls will only be carried out to the extent necessary and in a proportionate way, and that the Belgian authorities will work particularly closely with the authorities of neighbouring countries. Traffic of goods, and movements of persons for the purpose of frontier work or returning home to their residence on the territory of a country of the European Union will not be impeded, and where possible, facilitated.

Yours sincerely,



Pieter De Crem