



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 18 March 2021  
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**NOTE**

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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 Articles 28, 25 and 27 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 18 March 2021 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Belgium at the internal borders between 18 March and 1 April 2021.

E-MAIL

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Minister of Home Affairs, Institutional Reforms and  
Democratic Renewal

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

17 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

By letters of 27 January, 5 February and 26 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. The measure currently applies until 1 April and the Government intends to maintain it until 18 April unless the evaluation which is foreseen on 26 March leads to the conclusion that a prolongation of the measure is not necessary.

Taking account of the current deteriorating 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 Borders Code, I have to inform you that, for a further period from 18 until 26 March, some of these checks will be carried out at the internal borders. At that moment, the maximum period of 2 months, provided for in article 28 SBC, will be covered.

However, as mentioned above, the measure currently applies until 1 April and I therefore have to notify further internal border controls, based on articles 25 and 27 SBC, from 27 March until 1 April.

As in my previous letters, I would like to 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