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NOTE

From: Icelandic Mission

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

Subject: Temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Icelandic 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 23 April 2020 regarding temporary reintroduction of border controls by Iceland at the internal borders between 24 April and 3 May 2020.

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European Commission
European Parliament
Secretary-General of the Council
Member States of the Schengen Cooperation

DÓMSMÁLARÁÐUNEYTIÐ

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Reykjavík April 21, 2020
Reference: DMR20040102/10.13.1

Subject: Reintroduction of border control at the Icelandic internal border, pursuant to Art. 28 of the Schengen Borders Code.

The number of new Covid-19 virus infections in Iceland has declined rapidly over the last two weeks as measures taken to halt the spread of the virus seem to have been effective. Estimates and statistics indicate that the peak of the epidemic has been reached and that it is currently on a downward trajectory. The Icelandic government is determined to apply all measures to limit the potential of any possible reinfections in society resulting in a second wave of the epidemic. An integral part of any such measures is to require all persons to quarantine upon arrival in the country.

On 24 April, a new regulation was introduced in Iceland in order to combat the further spread of Covid-19. The regulation, which is based on recommendations from the Icelandic Chief Epidemiologist, stipulates that all persons entering the country must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

A previous regulation on the matter required only persons residing in Iceland to quarantine for a corresponding number of days. In order to monitor and enforce the quarantine, all persons traveling to Iceland will have to fill out a Public Health Passenger Locator Form (PLC) and present it to a border guard upon arrival. Hence, a temporary reintroduction of border controls at the internal border is a prerequisite for the effective enforcement of the mandated quarantine.

For Icelandic authorities to be able to enforce the regulation on quarantine for all travelers to Iceland and to combat further spread of the virus, it is imperative to reintroduce border control at all internal borders in Iceland (air and sea borders). The temporary reintroduction of internal border control in Iceland is unavoidable at this time, based on a risk assessment by the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police. Therefore, pursuant to Art. 28. of Regulation 2016/399 on the rules governing the movements of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), Iceland kindly informs The Commission that Iceland will reintroduce border controls for a period of 10 days on 24 April. A decision on a possible prolongation for another 20 days is expected to be taken later.

Through the above measures Iceland hopes to contribute to the common objective of the Schengen

member states of providing for free movement of people within the Schengen area at the earliest possible date.



Minister of Justice