



Council of the  
European Union

**Brussels, 29 March 2023**  
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**NOTE**

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From: Icelandic 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 Icelandic internal borders in accordance with Article 25 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 29 March 2023 regarding the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Iceland from 26 April for four weeks.

E-MAIL

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



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Reykjavík March 28, 2023  
Reference: DMR23030281/10.13.1

Subject: Reintroduction of border control at the Icelandic internal borders.

Please be informed that the Icelandic government has decided to temporarily reintroduce border control at the Icelandic internal borders. The control will be carried out for four weeks as from 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. Other measures at our disposal have, after detailed consideration, been deemed insufficient.

This decision has been reached, in accordance with article 25 of the Regulation (EU) no 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code). The border control may extend to all internal borders, including sea and air borders, whereby the specific border sections and border crossing points will be determined by the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police (NCIP), pursuant to an active risk analysis.

The border control will be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the threat to public policy and internal security and constantly adapted to the relevant circumstances.

The serious threat to public policy and internal security in Iceland will be considered high during the designated time because Iceland will be hosting the Council of Europe Summit from 16 to 17 May 2023 in Reykjavík.

The main reasons underlying the decision and that are included in the NCIP's risk assessment, include the war in Ukraine and its consequences, persistent pressure on the borders in the form of an ever-increasing number of applicants for international protection in Iceland, as well as efficient deployment of police officers before and during the summit.

The decision is directly tied to the hosting of the summit and the increased risk it entails for the internal security in Iceland. Therefore, the internal border control is expected to be immediately lifted when the summit has concluded, and the elevated risk factors are no longer a factor. Hence, this decision is considered to be a one-time measure that will not be extended beyond the designated period of time.

Minister of Justice