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From: Norwegian Mission

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 Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Articles 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)

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 16 April 2021 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Norway at the internal borders between 12 May and 11 November 2021.

E-MAIL / FAX

IN 004075 2021
16.04.2021



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY**

Minister of Justice and Public Security

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

Your ref.

Our ref.
20/1379 - KAM

Date
16.04.2021

Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders

On the 7th of April 2020, the Norwegian government decided to temporarily reintroduce border control at the internal borders for six months from 12th of May 2020, pursuant to the Schengen Borders Code articles 25 and 27. This measure was taken with the reference to an assessment of the terrorist threat to Norway by the Norwegian Police Security Service, and in the light of the overall terrorist threat to the security of the EU. Reference was also made to the potential for significant secondary movements into Norway of migrants with an undocumented identity, posing a risk to the internal security. These controls have been limited to ports with ferry connections to Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

Although the current travel restricting measures in the Schengen area introduced in order to combat further spread of Covid-19 have made it more difficult for potential terrorists to exploit the freedom of movement, it is the view of the Norwegian government that these threats remain unchanged and that threats may resurface if internal border controls are lifted. This assessment is reinforced by the threat assessment from the Norwegian Police Security Service for 2021 underlining an aggravated threat from extreme islamists.

Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border controls. However, in the light of the above, the Norwegian government has decided, in accordance with articles 25 and 27 of the Schengen Borders Code, to temporarily reintroduce border control at the internal borders for six months from 10th of May 2021. The border controls will be limited in scope, both

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operationally and geographically to what is strictly necessary to prevent the possible threats to the internal security and public policy. The controls will be targeted and based on risk assessment, and carried out in accordance with the Commission guidelines for border management issues. Furthermore, the controls will be limited to ports with ferry connections to Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

In accordance with the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area of 12th of May 2017, Norway has been carrying out intensified police checks in the areas of Viken region bordering on Sweden. The Norwegian and Swedish police authorities have a very good bilateral cooperation. Due to Covid-19, the controls at the border between Sweden and Norway are rigorous. However, such measures cannot fully substitute internal border controls in the Norwegian ports.

Yours sincerely



Monica Mæland