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European Union

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NOTE

From: Icelandic Mission

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

No. prev. doc.: 7724/20

Subject: Prolongation of the 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 15 May 2020 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Iceland at the internal borders between 15 May and 3 June 2020.

E-MAIL

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

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Reykjavík May 14, 2020
Reference: DMR20040102/10.13.1

Subject: Prolongation of border controls at the Icelandic internal borders

To combat further spread of the Covid-19 virus, Icelandic authorities reintroduced internal border control at all internal borders (air and sea) for 10 days on 24 April. The measure was prolonged for 11 days from 4 May 2020.

As other member states Iceland has slowly started to ease its restrictions and therefore thinks it is necessary to prolong border controls at all internal borders in Iceland (air and sea borders). The prolongation is based on a risk assessment by the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police and recommendations from the Icelandic Chief Epidemiologists on the ongoing need for mandated quarantine upon arrival. 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 it will prolong border controls for a period of 20 days on May 14 2020.

I would also like to notify the Commission that Iceland will align with the Commissions invitation on prolonging the travel restriction on non-essential travel from third countries into the EU area until June 15 2020.

I would also like to emphasise that all measures taken will be in line with Iceland's obligations as a Schengen member state. With that said I would like to highlight that only three infections have been confirmed in May so Iceland seems to be on a good path controlling the virus with broad based testing and tracing measures. I would therefore like to use this opportunity to inform the Commission and other member states that the Government of Iceland announced on 12 May 2020 that it expects to be able to start easing restrictions on international arrivals on 15 June 2020 and hopefully sooner for travellers inside the Schengen area. From 15 May 2020 some professionals arriving in Iceland including scientists, filmmakers and athletes will be eligible for a modified quarantine. The exact details of the revisions will be decided by the Government's multisector working group. It is expected that the government will give travellers a choice between getting tested for the virus upon arrival or a two-week quarantine.

Ólafur Þór Sigurðsson
Minister of Justice