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European Union

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NOTE

From:	Swedish delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers / Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
No. prev. doc.:	13593/22
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Swedish internal borders for a period of six months as of 12 May 2023 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)

Delegations will find attached a copy of the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 12 April 2023 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Sweden at the internal borders for six months as of 12 May 2023.

IM 004492 2023
12-04-2023

11 April 2023

Ministry of Justice
Minister for Justice

Secretary-General Thérèse Blanchet

Dear Secretary-General,

I would like to inform you that the Swedish Government will shortly take the decision of temporarily reintroducing border control at the Swedish internal border for a period of six months as of 12 May 2023.

The decision will be 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 scope of the border control may extend to all internal borders, be it land, sea, or air borders, whereby the specific border sections and border crossing points would be determined by the Swedish Police Authority, following a continuous risk analysis. In accordance with the Schengen Borders Code the scope would be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the serious threat to public policy and internal security.

During the last few months, manifestations by different political actors has taken place in Sweden in relation to the Swedish application to join NATO. These manifestations have among other expressions included the burning of the Qur'an.

Following intelligence gathering and analysis the Swedish Security Services has in their risk assessment for 2023, concluded that the risk of an Islamist terrorist attack against Sweden has been elevated. The assessment states that it is likely that Sweden is now considered as not just a legitimate target but as a prioritized one by violent Islamists and that this will be the case for the first half of 2023 and possibly for the entire year.

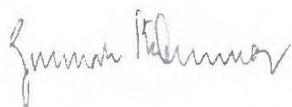
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Following this elevated risk the Swedish Government makes the assessment that a serious threat to public policy and internal security exist, which in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code provides justification for the reintroduction of border control at the internal border.

The decision of reintroduction of border control is a last resort since the current Swedish legislation does not allow for police checks on persons in border areas (in line with the Commission's Recommendation from 12 May 2017). Such legislation will not be in place until August 2023 and a decision of reintroduction of border control at the internal border is therefore the most effective and available response to the current threat.

I remain committed to the goal of returning to a Schengen area without internal border controls and a well-functioning Schengen cooperation as soon as the situation allows.

Yours sincerely,



Gunnar Strömmer

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