



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 15 April 2019
(OR. en)

8628/19

FRONT 155
COMIX 225

NOTE

From: Norwegian delegation

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

Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders in accordance with Articles 25 and 27 of Regulation 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 12 April 2019, concerning the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of borders controls by Norway at its internal borders between 12 May and 11 November 2019.



IM 004459 2019
12.04.2019

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

Minister of Justice and Immigration

European Commission
European Parliament
General Secretary of the Council

Your ref.

Our ref.
14/7726-EGKA

Date
12.04.2019

Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders

The Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) continuously monitors and evaluates trends and developments nationally and abroad. In its annual threat assessment for 2019, the PST concludes that extreme Islamist groups will still represent the most serious terrorist threat towards Norway in 2019. The service considers it possible that extreme Islamists will try to carry out a terrorist attack in Norway. At the same time, according to the Europol, the overall terrorist threat to the security of the EU remains acute.

Furthermore, many foreign fighters will be released from prison in Europe during 2019. Several of them have operational experience from conflict areas, and many will be radicalised. Recent history have shown that terrorists have used the possibility to move freely within the Schengen territory to plan, prepare and execute terrorist attacks.

The number of irregular migrants arriving in Norway remains low. In addition, the number of illegal border crossings into the EU continues to decrease, along with the number of applications for international protection received by the EU countries. These are positive developments. However, according to the Frontex Risk Analysis for 2019, a significant increase in document fraud detections on secondary movements was recorded in 2018. In addition, the number of detections of persons staying illegally in the Schengen area remains high, and secondary movements continued on a large scale in 2018. This underscores that establishing the identity of irregular migrants remains a challenge.

It is therefore the assessment of the Norwegian authorities that a potential for

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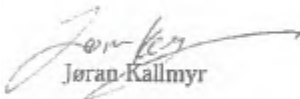
significant secondary movements into Norway of migrants with an unclear identity, still remains. It should also be considered that terrorists could potentially exploit irregular migratory movements to enter into the European Union.

Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border control. However, in light of the above, the Norwegian Government has decided, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 25 and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code), to temporarily reintroduce border control at the Norwegian internal borders for six months from 12 May 2019. The temporary reintroduction of internal border control is an exceptional measure of last resort. As such, the carrying out of internal border controls beyond that date will be limited in scope, both geographically and operationally, to what is considered strictly necessary to prevent the possible threats to internal security and public policy.

The controls will be limited to ports with ferry connections to Denmark, Sweden and Germany. The controls will be targeted and based on risk assessment. The relevant authorities will regularly examine and re-evaluate the operational and geographical scope of the controls. It is our assessment that through this approach, the negative consequences on the free movement of persons and the internal market will be kept to a minimum.

In accordance with the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen Area of 12 May 2017, Norway has been carrying out, and will continue to carry out, intensified police checks in the area of the Østfold region bordering on Sweden. The Norwegian and Swedish police authorities have a very good bilateral cooperation. However, such measures cannot fully substitute internal border control in the Norwegian ports with ferry connections to Denmark, Sweden and Germany, as it does not provide for the possibility to perform controls based on the screening of passenger lists.

Yours sincerely



Jøran Kallmyr

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