



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 18 April 2024  
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**NOTE**

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From:	Norwegian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers / Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
No. prev. doc.:	14245/23
Subject:	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)

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Delegations will find attached a copy of the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 16 April 2024 regarding the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Norwegian internal borders as of 12 May 2024 for 6 months.

E-MAIL



**MISSION OF NORWAY  
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

*The Ambassador*

IM 004390 2024  
16-04-2024

Brussel, 16.04.2024

Dear Vice-President of the Commission,  
Dear Commissioner,  
Dear President of the European Parliament,  
Dear Secretary-General of the Council,  
Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed please find a letter from Ms Emilie MEHL, the Norwegian Minister of Justice and Public Security, dated 16 April 2024 concerning reintroduction of temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Eide'.

Anders EIDE

Mr Margaritis SCHINAS  
Vice-President of the European Commission  
1049 Brussels

Ms Ylva JOHANSSON  
Commissioner for Home Affairs  
1049 Brussels

Ms Roberta METSOLA  
President of the European Parliament  
1049 Brussels

Ms Thérèse BLANCHET  
Secretary-General of the Council  
1048 Brussels

To the  
Ministers of Home Affairs in the Schengen States

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E-MAIL



IM 004390 2024  
16-04-2024

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 -

Date  
16.04.2024

### **Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders**

On the 13th October 2022, the Norwegian government decided to temporarily reintroduce border control at the internal borders for six months from 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, pursuant to the Schengen Borders Code articles 25 and 27. This measure was taken with the reference to an assessment of the need to increase the security of the Norwegian on-shore and off-shore oil and gas facilities in light of the breach in the Nord Stream pipeline. The incident at the Baltconnector pipeline and the communication cable between the two NATO-countries Finland and Estonia in the Baltic Sea underlined the importance of securing this critical infrastructure.

Norway has an important role in assuring European security as producer and supplier of energy to European Allies and must, both nationally and in cooperation with Allies, apply measures to secure this supply.

As regards measures in cooperation with Allies, a declaration was signed 9 April between six North Sea countries that sets out an agreement to cooperate and share information on the protection of underwater infrastructure.

Measures undertaken in cooperation with Allies are, however, additional to measures implemented nationally. The new Defence Plan for Norway presented 5 April is a roadmap to a significant increase in Norwegian defence capabilities in the coming years. The plan underlines that the threat to critical infrastructure has increased.

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The annual threat assessment from the Norwegian Police Security Service similarly concludes that Russian intelligence services use civilian vessels in their operations and that such vessels can be used for sabotage. The service further assesses that objects connected to Norwegian exports of gas or military support to Ukraine are considered most exposed for eventual sabotage.

On this backdrop, Norway must consider a broad range of measures available to increase the protection of our critical infrastructure. The Norwegian government has therefore 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 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. The border controls will be limited in scope, both operationally and geographically, to what is strictly necessary to prevent 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 the Schengen Area.

Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border controls. However, given the high value and high vulnerability the infrastructure represents, the measures implemented are considered necessary and proportionate.

In accordance with the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area of 12<sup>th</sup> 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. However, such measures cannot fully substitute internal border controls in the Norwegian ports.

Yours sincerely



Emilie Mehl

2/2