Note

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

No. prev. doc.: 8842/20
Subject: Lifting/prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Finnish internal borders in accordance with 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 10 July 2020 regarding the prolongation and partial lifting of the temporary internal border controls by Finland between 13 July and 11 August 2020.
Helsinki, 30th of August 2020

Dear colleagues,

The Finnish government on 17th of August 2020 issued an order to close the borders of the Helsinki metropolitan area to non-Finnish residents due to an increase in the number of coronavirus cases. The order is in effect until 7th of August 2020, 5th of July 2020 and 12th of August 2020 to prevent the spread of the virus. The order is based on the recommendations of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare.

The Finnish government has also announced that the school year will start on 13th of August 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Ohisalo
Siäministeri
Ministry of the Interior
Finland

Helsinki, 10 July 2020

Mr Margaritis Schinas
Vice-President of the
European Commission

Ms Ylnna Johansson
Commissioner for Home Affairs
European Commission

Mr Joeppe Trastholm-Mikkehen
Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Mr David Maria Sassoli
President of the European Parliament

The Ministers of Home Affairs of the
EU and Schengen countries

Dear Colleagues,

Finland's Government made 17.3.2020 a decision to reintroduce controls at the internal borders. Simultaneously, the Government decided to temporarily close certain border crossing points and limit traffic. These decisions have been prolonged with decisions made 7.4.2020, 7.5.2020 and 12.6.2020. Changes concerning border crossing points have been introduced 24.3.2020 and 20.5.2020. Controls have been partially lifted with decisions made 7.5.2020 and 12.6.2020.

Finland's Government made today, based on epidemiological evaluation, a decision to prolong controls until 11.8.2020 at the internal borders between Finland and Sweden, Luxemburg, Portugal, Poland, France, Sweden and the Czech Republic, with the exception of leisure boats. In addition, with the aforementioned limitations, Ports of Eckerö and Hanko are opened for passenger traffic and Coast Guard Stations of Alvensalmi, Hanko and Helsinki are added to the list of open air border crossing points for seaplanes. These changes enter into force 13.7.2020.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Ohisalo
Minister of the Interior