



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Switzerland Mission

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

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Subject: Prolongation of temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Swiss borders with Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Spain 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 20 March 2020 regarding prolongation of temporary reintroduction of border controls by Switzerland

- at the land borders with Italy between 23 March-11 April 2020;
- at the land borders with France, Germany and Austria between 26 March-14 April 2020;
- at the air borders with Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Spain between 28 March-16 April 2020.

E-MAIL

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To the
Ministers of Home Affairs of the Schengen States

Berne, 20 March 2020

Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border control at the internal borders of Switzerland with Italy, Germany, France, Austria and Spain

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

By the letters of 13, 16 and 18 March I informed you about the reintroduction of border control at the land and air borders of Switzerland with Italy, France, Germany, Austria and the air border with Spain in the light of the threat to public order and internal security posed by the spreading of the corona virus.

The situation in Switzerland and throughout Europe remains critical. The number of corona virus infections is increasing significantly also in Switzerland. We still need to undertake all necessary measures in order to slow down the spreading of the virus, ensure the capacity of the medical facilities and protect the most vulnerable.

In order to limit the spreading of the virus, we limited the mobility with the already mentioned measures at the land and air borders of Switzerland.

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In light of the persistence of the threat posed by the virus, these measures need to be extended over the coming weeks in order to serve their purpose. Therefore the border controls implemented by Switzerland must be maintained beyond the initial period of 10 days for 20 more days.

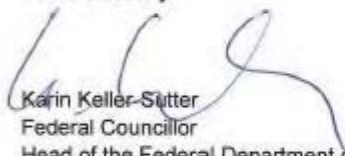
In application of article 28 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), Switzerland has therefore decided to prolong the border controls already reintroduced:

- at the land borders with Italy as of 23 March 00:00,
- at the land borders with France, Germany and Austria as of 26 March 00:00, and
- at the air borders with Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Spain as of 28 March 00:00,

each for 20 days.

By maintaining these measures, Switzerland aims to prevent the disease from spreading too rapidly, which would endanger the ability to provide adequate care to the population and protect the most vulnerable people from the virus, while minimizing the impact of the measures on the free movement of persons.

Yours sincerely



Karin Keller-Sutter
Federal Councillor
Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP