



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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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 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)

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Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 25 March 2020 regarding prolongation of temporary reintroduction of border controls by Switzerland. In addition to the already existing internal border control, Switzerland is extending the controls to the air border with all Schengen States except Liechtenstein between 25 March and 3 April 2020.

## E-MAIL



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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The Head of the  
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To the  
Ministers of Home Affairs of the Schengen States

Berne, 25 March 2020

**Extension of the temporary reintroduction of border control to all internal borders of Switzerland except the Principality of Liechtenstein**

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

By the letters of 13, 16, 18 and 20 March I informed you about the reintroduction and prolongation 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 continue to increase significantly in Switzerland as well as all over Europe. We, thus, need to continue 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 light of the persistence of the threat posed by the virus and its ever growing spread, the mentioned measures need to be extended in order to serve their purpose.

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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 extend the already existing internal border controls to the air borders with all Schengen States except the Principality of Liechtenstein as of 25 March 00:00 for ten days.

In order to make controls at the internal borders effective and at the same time as efficient as possible, a channeling of the passenger flights originating from Schengen States to the three large airports of Switzerland, Zürich-Kloten, Genf-Cointrin and Basel-Mulhouse, is inevitable. For this reason, all other Swiss airports and airfields have to be closed for passenger flights coming from Schengen States.

By these measures, Switzerland aims to prevent the disease from continuing to spread 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