



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Swedish delegation

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

No. prev. doc.: 13064/19

Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Swedish internal borders in accordance with Article 25 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 8 April 2020 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Sweden at the internal borders between 12 May and 11 November 2020.



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08.04.2020

8 April 2020

Ministry of Justice
Minister for Home Affairs

Secretary General for Justice and
Home Affairs
Jeppa Tranholm Mikkelsen

Dear Mr Secretary General,

I would like to inform you that the Swedish government is considering a decision to temporarily reintroduce border control at the Swedish internal borders. The control would be carried out for six months as from 12 May 2020. Other measures at our disposal have, after detailed consideration, been deemed insufficient.

The decision would be taken in accordance with article 25 of the Regulation (EU) no 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).

The scope of the border control may extend to all internal borders, be it land, sea or air borders, whereby the specific border sections and border crossing points would be determined by the Swedish Police Authority, following a continuous risk analysis. However, the scope would be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the threat to public policy and internal security and constantly adapted to the relevant circumstances.

The serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden remains. The terrorism threat level in Sweden is still at the current elevated level (level 3 out of 5) which is the same level as on 7 April 2017 when Stockholm experienced a terrorist attack. The shortcomings in the protection of the external borders contributes to this threat. It enables potential terrorists and other criminals to enter the Schengen territory unnoticed.

The reintroduction of border control at the internal border is truly a last resort. The current Swedish legislation does not allow for police checks on persons in the border areas in line with the Commission's Recommendation

Telephone: +46 8 405 10 00
Fax: +46 8 20 27 34
Web: www.regeringen.se

Postal address: SE 103 33 Stockholm
Street address: Herkulesgatan 17
E-mail: ju.registrator@gov.se

from 12 May 2017. Such measures also seem insufficient compared to the effect of border checks as part of a reintroduced border control at the internal border.

Please let me assure you that I do remain committed to the goal of returning to an area without internal border controls and a well-functioning Schengen cooperation as soon as the situation allows.

Yours sincerely,



Mikael Damberg

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