



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Estonian delegation

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

No. prev. doc.: 7350/20

Subject: Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Estonian internal 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)

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 28 April 2020 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Estonia at the internal borders between 2 and 17 May 2020.

E-MAIL



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

IM 004015 2020
28.04.2020

Ylva JOHANSSON
EU-Commissioner for Home-Affairs

Ministers of the Interior
EU Member States and Schengen Countries

27.04.2020 nr 9-8/13-2

Notice on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU and prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border control at the internal borders of Estonia

Dear colleagues,

Following the European Commission's Communication on 8 April (COM (2020) 148 final) inviting the Schengen States and the Schengen Associated States to prolong the application of the travel restriction on non-essential travel from third countries to the EU+ area to 15 May 2020, I would like to inform you that, pursuant to the order no 78 of the Government of Estonia as of 15 March 2020, the crossing of the external border for the purpose of entering Estonia has been temporarily restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures set out in the Order, which took effect on 17 March 2020, shall apply until the Order is changed. The need for the measures are being assessed no later than on a fortnightly basis. With this background and considering the continuous worldwide spread of Covid-19, the above-mentioned travel restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future and will not be lifted before 17 May 2020.

Furthermore, Estonia has informed you about the reintroduction of border control at land, sea and air borders of the Republic of Estonia as of 17 March. Subsequently, further notices on the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border control at the internal borders were issued on 25 March and 15 April 2020.

Despite the first positive signs about the slowdown of the spread of Covid-19, I am hereby also notifying you that Estonia, on the basis of Article 28 (3) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399, on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), has decided to prolong the temporary reintroduction of border control at the Republic's internal borders for additional 16 days, until 17 May 2020 23:59.

The movement of persons wishing to return to their countries of residence, for the purpose of frontier work and transport of goods is not hindered and is facilitated, when possible. The temporary border control is carried out to the extent strictly necessary to prevent the further spread of Covid-19 and to ensure public order on the territory of the Republic.

Yours sincerely,

Mart Helme
Minister of the Interior

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