



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 13 May 2020  
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COMIX 209

**NOTE**

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From: Spanish delegation

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

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Subject: Temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Spanish internal borders in accordance with Articles 25 and 27 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 12 May 2020 regarding the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Spain at the internal air and sea borders between 15 and 24 May 2020.

E-MAIL

IH 004552 2020  
12.05.2020MINISTERIO  
DEL INTERIOR

Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez

MINISTRO

Mr Margaritis Schinas  
Vice-President of the  
European Commission

Ms Ylva Johansson  
Commissioner for Home Affairs  
European Commission

Mr Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen  
Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Mr David Maria Sassoli  
President of the European Parliament

The Ministers of Interior of the  
EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries

Madrid, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Spain reintroduced controls at its internal land borders in order to support the measures taken inside its territory by the state of alarm to limit the spreading of COVID-19. These controls have been successively prolonged, the last time until May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

However, in the de-escalation process initiated by Spain, the lifting of some restrictions could create a pull effect on movements from other Member States, especially in order to travel to second residences in our country. Therefore, it is now considered necessary to reintroduce controls also at internal air and sea borders, similarly to what other fourteen and nine Member States and Schengen Associated Countries respectively have done. This measure is considered proportionate regarding the internal situation, where residents in Spain are still not allowed to travel between provinces, and regarding the restrictions in force throughout the Schengen Area.

Articles 25 and 27 of the Schengen Borders Code are resorted to, as in the last prolongation of controls at the internal land borders. We have not been able to communicate the reintroduction four weeks in advance, since the situation and the resulting measures are re-evaluated at shorter periods.

The categories of persons allowed to cross the internal air and sea borders are:

- Spanish citizens.
- Residents in Spain.
- Frontier workers.
- Healthcare and elderly care professionals going to their work.

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- Those able to prove with documents being subject to force majeure or state of necessity.
- Staff of diplomatic missions, consular offices or international organizations seated in Spain, accredited as such and travelling in the scope of their official mission.
- Transport of goods, including maritime and air crews, only if an onward journey is guaranteed.
- Entries for work reasons will be allowed if documentary evidence can be provided.

Therefore, in accordance with articles 25 and 27 of the Schengen Borders Code, I have issued the Order INT/XXX/2020 of the Minister of Interior of May 12th temporarily reintroducing controls at the internal air and sea borders due to COVID-19. Duration comprises from 00:00, May 15<sup>th</sup> until 00:00, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please rest assured that the scope and duration of the internal border checks will be limited to what is strictly necessary and that we will continue to carefully monitor and assess the evolution of the situation, as well as the impact and proportionality of measures taken.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez

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