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NOTE

From:	Finnish delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/ Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	5598/21
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Finnish internal borders in accordance with 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 the letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 11 February 2021 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls by Finland between 27 January and 25 February 2021.



Ministry of the Interior
Finland

IM 001531 2021
11.02.2021

Helsinki, 11 February 2021

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 Home Affairs of the
EU and Schengen countries

Dear Colleagues,

The threat posed by COVID-19 persists. Due to the fact that compensatory measures are not sufficiently available yet and that the situation remains epidemiologically difficult, the Finnish Government decided on 11 February to amend the previous decision made on 22 January 2021.

The border controls at the internal borders will remain between Finland and all Schengen countries, except Iceland, and in all modes of transport with the exception of leisure boats. Based on an epidemiological evaluation the previous decision is amended as of 15 February 2021 by limiting the opening hours of land border crossing points between Finland and Norway at all crossing points to 09.00-21.00 and between Finland and Sweden at Karesuvanto, Kolari, Muonio and Pello border crossing points to 07.00-21.00. Limitations to the opening hours will not affect the possibility of border crossing of transport workers and cargo or any other crossing with essential purpose to take place outside the opening hours. Other border crossing points will remain open as per the previous decision. This decision is valid until 25 February 2021.

Regarding the external borders based on the epidemiological situation the current restrictions to non-essential travel will continue until 25 February 2021 with the addition of Ruanda to which the restrictions will apply as of 15 February 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Ohisalo
Minister of the Interior

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