



Council of the
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NOTE

From:	Belgian delegation
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	7136/21
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Belgian 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)

Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 31 March 2021 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Belgium at the internal borders between 2 and 18 April 2021.

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Minister of Home Affairs, Institutional Reforms and
Democratic Renewal

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

30 MAART 2021

Dear Colleagues,

By letters of 27 January, 5 February, 26 February and 17 March 2021, I informed you about the temporary reintroduction of targeted border controls at all internal Belgian borders, and this in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code, in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

These controls at internal borders were reintroduced to enforce the decision taken on 22 January by the Belgian Government concerning non-essential travel to and from Belgium from 27 January. In the meantime the Government confirmed its intention to maintain this restriction on non-essential travel until 18 April.

Taking account of the current deteriorating epidemiological situation in Belgium as well as in other parts of the EU, and in particular the increased risk of the spread of the more contagious variants of the COVID-19 virus, targeted checks remain essential to ensure that these travel restrictions are respected. For this reason and in line with articles 25 and 27 of the Schengen Borders Code, I have to inform you that, for a further period from 2 April until 18 April, some of these checks will be carried out at the internal borders.

As in my previous letters, I would like to reiterate that no internal borders will be closed and that all checks will be carried out in a proportionate and non-discriminatory way, while ensuring the smooth border crossing for essential travel, the supply chain and the local cross-border traffic.

Yours sincerely

Annelies Verlinden