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European Union

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**NOTE**

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From:	Icelandic Mission
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	8079/21
Subject:	Prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls at the Icelandic 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)

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Delegations will find attached a copy of a letter received by the General Secretariat of the Council on 11 May 2021 regarding the prolongation of the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Iceland at the internal borders between 7 and 16 May 2021.

E-MAIL

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European Commission  
European Parliament  
Secretary-General of the Council  
Member States of the Schengen Cooperation

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Reykjavík May 7, 2021  
Reference: DMR21030078/10.13.1

Subject: Prolongation of border control at the Icelandic internal borders

In order to combat the spread of the Covid-19 virus, Icelandic authorities reintroduced internal border controls at all borders for 10 days on the 18 March and prolonged for another 20 days on 28 March and 17 April.

For Icelandic authorities to continue to be able to enforce existing regulation for travelers to Iceland and to combat further spread of the virus, it is deemed necessary to prolong border controls at all internal borders in Iceland (air and sea borders). The prolongation is unavoidable at this time, based on a risk assessment by the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police. Therefore, pursuant to Art. 28. of Regulation 2016/399 on the rules governing the movements of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), Iceland kindly informs the Commission that it will prolong border controls for a period of 10 days on May 7.

Furthermore Iceland kindly informs the Commission that it intends to further prolong border controls at the internal borders in accordance with Art. 25 of of Regulation 2016/399. The main reason for the further prolongation is a recent enactment of domestic regulation that requires all travelers that are coming from areas that are designated as high-risk for COVID-19 to quarantine in specific quarantine hotels for a period of 5-6 days. Additionally, a ban on all non-essential travel from such areas has also been implemented. To enforce these latest regulations it is imperative for Iceland to prolong border control at all internal borders.

Iceland maintains a policy of exemption for EU/EEA citizens with prior infection, as well as those who are fully vaccinated, from all border measures. Our experience and data so far indicate strongly that there is a very little risk if infection stemming from individuals who have acquired immunity against the disease, either by vaccination or by

prior infection. The same exemption also covers individuals arriving from outside the Schengen-area irrespective of the purpose of their travel. Only vaccines approved by European Medicines Agency will be accepted, and all certificates on vaccines and prior infection must meet the requirements defined by the Chief Epidemiologist in Iceland and Icelandic regulations.



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