

## Minister for Immigration, Integration and Housing

The European Commission



Udlændinge-, Integrations-  
og Boligministeriet

2nd February 2016

Udlændinge-, Integrations- og  
Boligministeriet

Dear Commissioner Avramopoulos,

The Danish Government decided on 4 January 2016 to temporarily reintroduce border control at the Danish internal borders between 4 January 2016 at 12.00 hours and 14 January 2016. Other measures had, after detailed consideration, been deemed insufficient. The Danish Government decided on 13 January 2016 to prolong the border control at the internal borders for the period from 14 January to 3 February 2016.

The decision to prolong the border control at the Danish internal borders was made due to the measures set in place by our neighbouring countries and particularly the measures set in place by Sweden. As a consequence of these measures, Denmark is faced with a serious risk to public policy and internal security because a very large number of illegal immigrants might be stranded in the Copenhagen area within a short period of time.

On 7 January 2016, the Swedish government decided to prolong the border control at the Swedish internal borders until 8 February 2016. Furthermore, the Swedish regulation obliging carriers to ensure that persons transported into Sweden are in possession of identity documents is still in force.

As mentioned in my letter of 20 January 2016, the numbers of asylum seekers in Europe are historically high, and according to Frontex, there is an ongoing pressure on Europe's external borders. Moreover, the number of immigrants who are continuing their journey further north remains very high. Combined with the Swedish regulation on carrier liability resulting in a de facto closed border for immigrants and asylum seekers with no identification, Denmark is still faced with a serious risk to public policy and internal security if the border control at the Danish internal borders were to be lifted at this point.

On this background, the Danish government has today decided to prolong the border control at the Danish internal borders until 23 February 2016.

The border control may extend to all internal borders, including land-, sea- and air borders, whereby the specific border sections and border crossing points are determined by the Danish Police. The border control will, however, remain focused on the ferries arriving from Germany and the land border between Denmark and Germany. The scope of the control will remain limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the threat to public policy and internal security.

The decision to prolong the border control is made in accordance with Article 23 and 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1051/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 Octo-

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ber 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No. 562/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 March 2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules of governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Border Code).

If the overall situation does not improve in the near future and the serious threat to public policy and internal security remains, I hereby wish to inform you that the Danish Government intends to decide on temporarily carrying out the controls at the internal borders on the basis of articles 23 og 24 of the Schengen Border Code.

In accordance with the Schengen Border Code, the Danish Government will notify the other Member States about the Danish decision.

Yours sincerely,



Inger Støjberg