

Minister of Immigration and Integration



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Dear Commissioner Avramopoulos,

The persistent and significant threat to our public order and internal security caused by militant Islamists who are able to exploit the free mobility within the Schengen area is a grave concern for the Danish Government.

It is the assessment of the Center for Terror Analysis (CTA) under the Danish Security and Intelligence Service that ISIL and other militant Islamist groups may still exploit refugee and migrant routes to bring persons to Europe to commit acts of terrorism in Europe.

CTA assesses that there may be individuals among the refugees and migrants who have already arrived in Europe and Denmark who can pose a terror threat either because of a direct link to militant Islamist groups abroad or due to radicalisation. In addition, there remains a threat from foreign fighters returning from Syria/Iraq and from radicalised individuals in neighbouring states.

In a number of cases in Europe, terrorist attacks have been planned in one country but executed in another. We have also seen examples of this kind of attack planning against Denmark.

Against this backdrop, the Danish Government considers the temporary internal border controls as an effective measure to address these threats to the public order and internal security. It is also found – after careful consideration – that alternative measures such as e.g. intensified police checks in the border areas would not achieve the same effect.

Therefore, the Danish Government has decided, in accordance with the provisions in Article 25 and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of 9 March 2016 (Schengen Borders Code) to temporarily reintroduce border controls at the internal borders with Germany due to the severe threat to our public order and internal security.

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 National Police. However, the border control will initially focus on the Danish-German land border and the Danish ports with ferry connection to Germany.

12 April 2019

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Case no.
Act ID

The reintroduction of border control at the Danish internal borders will be carried out for 6 months as from 12 May 2019.

Please rest assured that the scope of the internal border checks will continue to be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the threat to our public order and internal security. Furthermore, the scope of the internal border checks will be subject to regular review and organised in a manner which ensures that obstacles to the free movement of persons and goods are kept to an absolute minimum.

In this context, the Danish Police authorities will continue to have a close cooperation with its German counterparts. This cooperative framework has been, and will continue to be, a central platform for information exchange and discussions on the effects of internal border control.

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

Yours sincerely,



Inger Støjberg