

Commissioner Johansson



Date: 14 October 2020

Dear Commissioner Johansson,

Please be informed that the Danish Government, in accordance with the provisions in Article 25 and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of 9 March 2016 (Schengen Borders Code), has decided to temporarily reintroduce border controls at the internal borders. The reintroduction of border control at the Danish internal borders will be carried out for 6 months as from 12 November 2020.

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.

The persistent and significant threat to our public order and internal security caused by militant Islamists and organized criminals who are able to exploit the free mobility within the Schengen area continues to be of grave concern for the Danish Government. Furthermore, the COVID-19 outbreak remains a serious and unprecedented threat to us all and the Danish Government is handling the current situation with the utmost caution.

Against this backdrop and after careful consideration, the Danish Government considers the temporary internal border controls as a necessary and effective measure to address these threats to public order and internal security.

On 3 September 2020, the Danish Government adjusted the internal border control which was introduced on 14 March 2020. As a result, the border controls on the land borders relating to COVID-19 are now carried out as periodic spot checks where the amount, timing, and intensity of controls are adjusted to the expected amount of travelers in addition to the intelligence,

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local conditions, and traffic patterns at the border crossings. The overall intensity of the border controls is subject to continuous adjustments by the Danish police. In the current situation, the intensity of the border controls is greater than what was the case prior to the introduction of COVID-19 related restrictions.

At the air borders, the police carries out border controls as spot checks based on the profiling of travelers. The focus of the profiling is to control travelers arriving from countries classified as “banned” under the Danish travel restriction scheme. The intelligence, local conditions, and traffic patterns at the border crossings are also taken into consideration. Flights arriving from “banned countries” will undergo a full border control. Under the Danish scheme for travel restrictions, residents from “banned countries” are allowed to enter Denmark with a worthy purpose. De facto, this means that primarily tourists residing in “banned countries” are denied entry into Denmark.

Please also rest assured that the scope of the internal border checks will continue to be limited to what is deemed strictly necessary to respond to the threat to our public order and internal security.

Accordingly, Denmark expects to lift the COVID-19 related travel restrictions at all internal and external borders as soon as the situation allows for it.

The Danish Government will notify the other Member States about this decision.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Hækkerup