



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

Minister of Justice and Public Security

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

Your ref.

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Temporary controls at the Norwegian internal borders

On the 13th October 2022, the Norwegian government decided to temporarily reintroduce border control at the internal borders for six months from 12th of November 2022, pursuant to the Schengen Borders Code articles 25 and 27. This measure was taken with the reference to an assessment of the need to increase the security of the Norwegian on-shore and off-shore oil and gas facilities in light of the breach in the Nord Stream pipeline.

The recent incident at the Baltconnector pipeline and the communication cable between the two Nato-countries Finland and Estonia in the Baltic Sea brings in a new dimension and underlines the need to apply measures in order to safeguard energy supply to Europe.

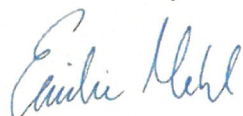
The importance of applying such measures is underlined in a report from the Norwegian National Security Authority prior to the latest incident. This report underlines that Norway has an important role in assuring European security as producer and supplier of energy to European Allies. It is further stressed that experience from the time after the Russian invasion of Ukraine shows that the subsea infrastructure transporting gas, power and electronic communication is significantly exposed to sabotage and threats during crisis. The Norwegian Police Security Service reports that foreign intelligence services map out Norwegian critical infrastructure, further underlining the severity of this assessment.

This development has to be met with a broad range of measures, where controls at internal borders plays a part.

Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border controls. However, in the light of the above, the Norwegian government has decided, in accordance with articles 25 and 27 of the Schengen Borders Code, to temporarily reintroduce border control at the internal borders for six months from 12th of November 2023. The border controls will be limited in scope, both operationally and geographically to what is strictly necessary to prevent the possible threats to the internal security and public policy. The controls will be targeted and based on risk assessment, and carried out in accordance with the Commission guidelines for border management issues. Furthermore, the controls will be limited to ports with ferry connections to the Schengen Area.

In accordance with the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area of 12th of May 2017, Norway has been carrying out intensified police checks in the areas of Viken region bordering on Sweden. The Norwegian and Swedish police authorities have a very good bilateral cooperation. However, such measures cannot fully substitute internal border controls in the Norwegian ports.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emilie Mehl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emilie Mehl