

Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS

Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 08.02.2016
ARES (2016) 679851

Dear Minister,

I am contacting you following your letter dated 2 February 2016 in which you inform about your decision to prolong the controls as reintroduced at the Danish internal borders as of 4 January 2016, in accordance with Articles 23 and 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1051/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 in order to provide for common rules on the temporary reintroduction of border control at the internal borders in exceptional circumstances (Schengen Borders Code).

As already mentioned in our telephone conversation last week, I would like to thank you for your reply of 20 January 2016 providing clarifications and data related to your decision to reintroduce border controls and subsequently to prolong them.

In your latest notification you state that the Danish internal security and public policy continue to be at threat in view of the continued influx of migrants heading subsequently north and in result of the measures adopted by the Swedish Government, namely the reintroduction of border controls at internal borders and the adoption of the law imposing carriers' liability with regard to intra-Schengen connections.

I welcome your commitment to keep the scope of the control measures taken by your authorities in the limits strictly necessary to the threat to public policy and internal security, as required under the Schengen Borders Code, and to monitor and adequately adapt these measures. At the same time I take note of your statement in your letter of 20 January 2016 that the reintroduction of border controls reduced not only the number of asylum seekers but in general persons entering Denmark.

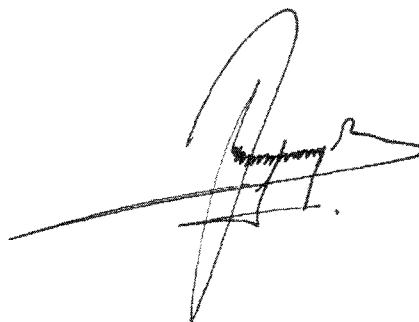
In this context, as mentioned before, the Commission assesses the necessity and proportionality of the decision on the reintroduction of border controls, as well as its impact on the freedom of movement. Therefore, I would like to invite you to share with the Commission within 5 days any relevant information and in particular figures demonstrating the need and the proportionality of the decision to prolong temporary border control, as well as information on the concrete implementation of the controls at internal borders and their effects.

Ms. Inger Støjberg
Minister for Immigration, Integration and Housing
The Kingdom of Denmark

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In order for the Commission to base its assessment on factual data, I have consulted and sought the same information from other Member State who decided to introduce temporary border controls or prolong them, where further information was necessary.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a series of horizontal and vertical strokes that form the rest of the name.

Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS