

Danish Minister for Immigration and Integration



Ministry of Immigration
and Integration

Dear Commissioner Avramopoulos,

The many failed, foiled and completed terrorist attacks carried out in EU Member States in 2016 and 2017 have demonstrated in all their horror that terrorist groups are likely to try to take advantage of deficiencies in our border controls – that crossing the external and internal borders of the Schengen area is part of their strategy, which often involves preparing attacks in one Member State from the territory of a neighbouring Member State.

The persistent shortcomings and structural deficiencies at the EU external borders as well as the fact that the Dublin regulation is still not applied by all Member States facilitate significant irregular secondary migration within the Schengen area, which constitutes a real threat to the public order and internal security in our societies. Furthermore, the large number of irregular migrants and failed asylum seekers present in our neighbouring countries that are waiting to be returned to their country of origin or transit poses a real security threat, as there is a risk that some terrorist group will exploit their vulnerable situation.

In light of this volatile and unpredictable situation internal border controls are considered by the Danish Government as a necessary tool to manage the migratory flows and ensure the security of our citizens.

Against this background, 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 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 Police.

The reintroduction of borders control at the Danish internal borders will be carried out for 6 months as from 12 November 2017.

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Please rest assured that the scope of the internal border checks will remain limited to what is a strictly necessary minimum to respond to the threat to public policy and internal security and subject to regular review.

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

Yours sincerely,

Inger Støjberg

