

Permanent Secretary of State for Immigration and Integration



**Ministry of Immigration
and Integration**

Dear Mr Ruete,

Thank you for your letter of 23 October 2017 regarding the decision by the Danish Government to temporarily reintroduce border controls at the internal borders as from 12 November 2017.

First of all, let me assure you that the Danish Government values the benefits of a well-functioning Schengen cooperation and supports the goal of returning to an area without internal border controls.

As you are aware, the Danish Government's decision to carry out internal border controls beyond 11 November 2017 in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code articles 25 and 27 was made due to the severe threat to our internal security caused by terrorists exploiting the deficiencies in border controls.

As part of the decision on whether to temporarily reintroduce border controls, the Danish Government asked the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (DSIS) to produce an assessment of the security situation in Denmark pertaining to international terrorism. DSIS assesses that the terror threat against Denmark is significant. DSIS assesses that the present terror threat picture has a cross border dimension, including that militant Islamists continuously aim to conduct terrorist attacks in other countries than where they are based. Following hereto, the appropriate authorities found that alternative measures such as e.g. intensified police checks in the border areas would not be sufficient to address the identified threats.

In this context, please be informed that since the beginning of 2016 a total of 4,898 persons (as of 5 November 2017) have been refused entry to Denmark as a result of the temporary internal border controls, and that the authorities are aware of at least one case where the border controls have prevented potential terrorists from getting into Denmark.

As mentioned in our notification of 11 October 2017, the border controls 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

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

The internal border checks will continue to be limited in scope to what is strictly necessary, carried out in a targeted manner as spot checks based on risk assessments, and organised with only limited inconveniences for the people travelling from Germany to Denmark. Only few vehicles are examined based on a specific assessment. The Danish authorities will continue to regularly examine and reevaluate the necessity, frequency, location and time of the controls at the specific border sections and border crossing points.

In this regard, I can inform you that so far there has not been registered a change in the normal traffic patterns that can be directly attributed to the temporary border controls. In addition, the Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs has informed the Ministry of Immigration and Integration that according to Scandlines – the company that operates the Rødby-Puttgarden and Gedser-Rostock ferry lines between Germany and the islands Lolland and Falster – the border controls in both Rødby and Gedser run smoothly without any negative economic or operational impact.

The Danish police authorities have a longstanding 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.

Yours sincerely,



Uffe Toudal Pedersen
Permanent Secretary of State for Immigration and Integration