



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY

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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 incident at the Baltconnector pipeline and the communication cable between the two NATO-countries Finland and Estonia in the Baltic Sea underlined the importance of securing this critical infrastructure.

Norway has an important role in assuring European security as producer and supplier of energy to European Allies and must, both nationally and in cooperation with Allies, apply measures to secure this supply.

As regards measures in cooperation with Allies, a declaration was signed 9 April between six North Sea countries that sets out an agreement to cooperate and share information on the protection of underwater infrastructure.

Measures undertaken in cooperation with Allies are, however, additional to measures implemented nationally. The new Defence Plan for Norway presented 5 April is a roadmap to a significant increase in Norwegian defence capabilities in the coming years. The plan underlines that the threat to critical infrastructure has increased.

The annual threat assessment from the Norwegian Police Security Service similarly concludes that Russian intelligence services use civilian vessels in their operations and that such vessels can be used for sabotage. The service further assesses that objects connected to Norwegian exports of gas or military support to Ukraine are considered most exposed for eventual sabotage.

On this backdrop, Norway must consider a broad range of measures available to increase the protection of our critical infrastructure. The Norwegian government has therefore 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 May 2024. The border controls will be limited in scope, both operationally and geographically, to what is strictly necessary to prevent 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.

Norway strongly supports restoring the functioning of the Schengen area as an area without internal border controls. However, given the high value and high vulnerability the infrastructure represents, the measures implemented are considered necessary and proportionate.

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



Emilie Mehl