Dear Commissioner,

Due to the recently held parliamentary elections in Sweden the process of forming a new government is currently ongoing. I would like to inform you that the Swedish caretaker government is contemplating a decision on the temporary reintroduction of border control at the Swedish internal borders. The control would be carried out for six months as from 12 November 2018. Other measures at our disposal have, after detailed consideration, been deemed insufficient.


The scope of the border control may extend to all internal borders, be it land, sea or air borders, whereby the specific border sections and border crossing points would be determined by the Swedish Police Authority, following a continuous risk analysis. However, the scope would be limited to what is strictly necessary to respond to the threat to public policy and internal security and constantly adapted to the relevant circumstances.

The serious threat to public policy and internal security in Sweden remains. The Head of the Swedish Security Service has decided that the threat level in Sweden remains at the current elevated level (level 3 out of 5) which is the same level as on 7 April 2017 when Stockholm experienced a terrorist attack. Shortcomings in the protection of the external borders persist and contribute to this threat, as they enable potential terrorists and other criminals to enter the Schengen territory unnoticed. As I foresee that this situation will last beyond the near future, the temporary reintroduction of
border control at the Swedish internal borders would be carried out for a period of six months.

The reintroduction of border control at the internal border is truly a last resort. The existing Swedish legislation does not allow for police checks on persons in the border areas in line with the Commission’s Recommendation from 12 May 2017 and instruments like these can never have the same effect as border control at the internal border.

Let me assure you that I remain committed to the goal of returning to an area without internal border controls and a well-functioning Schengen cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Morgan Johansson