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The Ministers of Home Affairs of the
EU and Schengen countries

Brussels, 17 April 2020

Dear Colleagues,

By letters of 20 and 30 March I informed you about the temporary reintroduction of border controls at all internal Belgian borders in accordance with article 28 of the Schengen Borders Code in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Actual figures show that the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Belgium and many other parts of Europe is starting to slow down but the risk for public health remains high. For this reason Belgium is extending the measure of internal border control for a new period of 20 days until 8 May. Further extensions may be envisaged. They will depend on future evaluations of the health risk. As stated in my first letter of 20 March, the controls at the internal borders are intended to ensure that the measures of non-essential movements and social distancing, as adopted by the government, are complied with on Belgian territory.

As stated in my previous letter of 30 March, several local authorities have taken the initiative to close a number of border crossings on local roads. However, passage at all primary border crossings remains fully assured.

Please rest assured that the border controls will only be carried out to the extent necessary and in a proportionate way, and that the Belgian authorities will work closely with the authorities of neighbouring countries. Traffic of goods, and movements of persons for the purpose of frontier work or returning home to their residence on the territory of a country of the European Union will not be impeded, and where possible, facilitated.



Pieter De Crem