

Minister for Immigration and Integration

The European Commission



Ministry of Immigration,
Integration and Housing

Dear Commissioner Avramopoulos,

On 11 November 2016, the Council adopted an Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation allowing the continuation of temporary border control on the basis of Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2016/339 of 9 March 2016 (Schengen Borders Code). According to the Implementing Decision, border controls should be targeted and limited in scope, frequency, location and time, to what is strictly necessary to respond to the serious threat and to safeguard public policy and internal security.

Please find below information on the results of the checks carried out at the Danish-German border since my letter of 18 January 2017 on the implementation by Denmark of the Council's Implementing Decision.

In the period from 9 January 2017 – 12 February 2017 (week no. 2 – 6), a total number of 258,878 persons have been checked at the Danish ports with ferry connections to Germany or at the Danish-German land border. 162 persons have been refused entry, and 268 persons have applied for asylum, of which 97 applications have been submitted in the police districts closest to the border. Furthermore, in the period from 9 January 2017 – 5 February 2017 (week no. 2-5), the Danish Immigration Service has made a total number of 154 requests according to the Dublin Regulation to other Member States as well as 101 decisions to transfer an asylum seeker to another Member State based on acceptance of responsibility from the Member State. The numbers broken down per week are:

Week	Number of persons checked	Number of refusals of entry	Number of asylum requests	Number of asylum requests in border area	Dublin requests	Dublin decisions
2	43,669	45	52	21	43	30
3	53,068	34	59	26	26	29
4	51,786	25	48	11	38	23
5	60,587	29	60	25	47	19
6	49,768	29	49	14	N/A	N/A

As it was the case in January 2017, 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 Gedser – the border controls in both Rødby and Gedser run smoothly without any negative economic or operational impact.

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The Danish border controls consist of spot checks based on continuous observation of traffic across the border. This means that only some vehicles are being examined based on a specific assessment. The assessment is made on the basis of analyses, intelligence and the experience of the border guards. The above-mentioned analyses are being put into operation via specific profiles of vehicles with possible irregular migrants and profiles of human smugglers and traffickers. It should be noted in this regard, that the National Police produces an intelligence assessment, which is being continuously updated, regarding the migration situation to the police districts. This intelligence assessment is available to be used by the police districts in their operational work with border control. The situation is monitored closely, and the control effort is adjusted accordingly to ensure public order and internal security.

The border control is carried out as a last resort since alternative measures would not achieve the same effect. Thus, the Danish Government still considers the temporary border controls a necessary instrument in order to prevent an inflow of irregular migrants and asylum seekers who do not want to stay in Denmark, but who cannot continue their onward journey due to the Swedish border controls and ID checks. This could constitute a serious risk for public order and security, in particular in light of the pressure on the Schengen external border and the risk of secondary movements of unregistered migrants within the Schengen area.

For that reason, the Danish Government remains of the opinion that, although the number of irregular arrivals to Denmark has decreased, there are, at this stage, no grounds for phasing out or scaling down the border controls against Germany.

Yours sincerely,



Inger Støjberg