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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.11.2025)

The Commission is in contact with the authorities of Member States concerned as well as with other public and private actors and has received letters and complaints from citizens about difficulties due to the reintroduction of internal border control. The Commission is aware of the negative impact of reintroduced control on cross-border travel and regions[1].

The revised Schengen Borders Code[2] obliges Member States to consider the impact of reintroduced control on cross-border travel and regions. Article 26(1)(b)(ii) obliges Member States to carry out the assessment of the likely impact of a reintroduction on the functioning of cross-border regions, with a reassessment required for prolongations under Article 26(2). Article 26(3) obliges Member States to ensure that a reintroduction is accompanied by mitigating measure. Member States must notify to the Commission the areas of their territory considered to be cross-border regions[3].

The Commission started to include visits to the internal borders where control has been reintroduced in the framework of the Schengen Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanism[4]. The Commission has not yet visited the Dutch-German border but remains in close contact with both authorities.

Between April and July 2025, the Commission held a consultation process with Member States that had prolonged internal border control and those directly affected, paying specific attention to the control's impact and mitigating measures. The Commission is now assessing the arguments put forward by the Member States and will fully comply with its obligations under the revised Schengen Borders Code.

[1] Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, EU Border Regions: Living labs of European integration, COM/2021/393 final.
[2] Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1–52, as recently amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1717.
[3] List of cross-border regions referred to in Article 42b of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code); OJ C, C/2025/4643, 18.8.2025.
[4] Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 of 9 June 2022 on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013; OJ L 160, 15.6.2022, p. 1–27.