Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
C series

C/2026/4252

4.8.2026

**COMMISSION OPINION**

**of 2 June 2026**

**on the necessity and proportionality of the reintroduction of border control by Austria at its land borders with Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia in accordance with Article 27a(3) of Regulation (EU) No 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code)**

**(only the German text is authentic)**

(C/2026/4252)

(1) In accordance with Article 3(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the Union shall offer its citizens an area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers in which the free movement of persons is ensured, in conjunction with appropriate measures with respect to external border controls, asylum, immigration and the prevention and combating of crime.

(2) Pursuant to Article 25 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) (codification) ([1]), a Member States may, when confronted with a serious threat to public policy or internal security, exceptionally and temporarily reintroduce internal border control at all or specific sections of its internal borders. This should only be done as a measure of last resort and the scope and duration of the temporary reintroduction of border control should not exceed what is strictly necessary to respond to the serious threat identified.

(3) Article 25a(4) of the Schengen Borders Code specifies that where a Member State intends to reintroduce border control at internal borders to address a foreseeable threat, it is to notify the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the other Member States of the planned reintroduction of such control, at the latest four weeks before the planned reintroduction of border control, or as soon as possible where the circumstances giving rise to the need to reintroduce border control at internal borders become known to the Member State less than four weeks before the planned reintroduction.

(4) Article 27a(3) of the Schengen Borders Code requires the Commission, following receipt of notifications submitted in relation to a prolongation of border control at the internal border under Article 25a(4) which leads to the continuation of border control at internal borders for more than 12 months in total, based on the same grounds, to issue an opinion on the necessity and proportionality of such border control.

(5) The framework for the reintroduction and prolongation of internal border control was substantially revised by Regulation (EU) 2024/1717of the European Parliament and of the Council ([2]), which entered into force on 10 July 2024. Consequently, the start of all the periods referred to in Title III, Chapter II of the Schengen Borders Code have therefore been calculated from that date.

(6) By letter dated 16 October 2024, the Austrian authorities notified the reintroduction of border control on the basis of Article 25a of the Schengen Borders Code, at the internal land borders with Czechia and Slovakia for a period of six months, from 16 October until 15 April 2025. By letter dated 15 April 2025, the Austrian authorities notified the prolongation of this reintroduction for an additional period of six months, from 16 April 2025 until 15 October 2025. By letter dated 15 October 2025, the Austrian authorities notified a second prolongation of this reintroduction for an additional 2 months, from 16 October until 15 December 2025.

([1]) OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1.
([2]) Regulation (EU) 2024/1717 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (OJ L, 2024/1717, 20.6.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1717/oj).

(7) By letter dated 11 November 2024, the Austrian authorities notified the reintroduction of border control on the basis of Article 25a of the Schengen Borders Code, at the internal land borders with Hungary and Slovenia for a period of six months, from as of the following day. By letter dated 9 May 2025, the Austrian authorities notified the prolongation of this reintroduction for an additional period of six months, from 12 May until 11 November 2025. By letter dated 15 October 2025, the Austrian authorities notified a second prolongation of this reintroduction on the same grounds for a period of 1 month and 3 days, from 12 November 2025 to 15 December 2025.

(8) By letter dated 10 December 2025, the Austrian authorities notified a third prolongation of the reintroduction of border control at the Austrian internal land borders with Czechia and Slovakia, as well as with Hungary and Slovenia, for an additional 6 months, from 16 December 2025 until 15 June 2026.

(9) By letter dated 8 January 2026 and in accordance with Article 33(2) of the Schengen Borders Code, Austra submitted two reports on the reintroduction of internal border control, based on Article 33(2) of the Schengen Borders Code. The first report covered the reintroduction of border control at Austria's internal land borders with Slovenia and Hungary for the period between 12 November 2024 and 11 November 2025. The second report covered the reintroduction of border control at Austria's internal land borders with Czechia and Slovakia for the period between 16 October 2024 and 15 October 2025.

(10) Austria was included in the Commission's structured dialogue on the reintroduction of internal border control. Following the receipt of Austria's notification for a prolongation, this structured dialogue has continued as part of a consultation process provided for by Article 27a(4) of the Schengen Borders Code.

(11) On 5 June 2025, a Schengen Evaluation Team visited the internal land border between Austria and Slovenia as part of the periodic evaluation under the Schengen Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanism of Austria.

(12) The current state of play at internal borders was described in the State of Schengen Report of 23 April 2025 ([3]) and is regularly discussed at the Schengen Council.

(13) Following receipt of notifications submitted in relation to a prolongation of border control at the internal border under Article 25a(4) of the Schengen Borders Code which leads to the continuation of border control at internal borders for 12 months in total, the Commission is to issue an opinion on the necessity and proportionality of such border control, as provided for by Article 27a(3) of the Schengen Broders Code. For the prolongation of border control at the internal land borders with Czechia and Slovakia, this was the notification submitted on 15 April 2025. For the prolongation of border control at the internal land borders with Hungary and Slovenia, this was the notification submitted on 9 May 2025.

(14) Following an assessment of the all the abovementioned notifications and the reports, supplemented by the information provided by Austria in the framework of the consultation process and other documents, publicly available, the Commission adopts the present Opinion.

ASSESMENT OF THE NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS

I. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

(15) In the framework of the reintroduction of internal border control, the Schengen Borders Code imposes several formal obligations on the Member States.

(16) Article 25a(4) SBC requires Member States, where a serious threat to public policy or internal security is foreseeable in a Member State, to notify the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the other Member States at the latest four weeks before the planned reintroduction of border control.

([3]) COM(2025) 185 final.

(17) The Commission observes that the notifications of the reintroductions of internal border control and the prolongations thereof were notified less than four weeks prior to their entry into effect due to the 'dynamic situation' and the wish to provide 'the latest information and assessment'. The Commission stresses that compliance with the obligation to timely submit a notification can only be dispensed with in case the circumstances giving rise to the need to reintroduce internal border control become known to the Member State less than four weeks before the planned reintroduction.

(18) The Commission observes that the duration of the second prolongation of the reintroduction of border control at Austria's internal land borders with Czechia and Slovakia as well as with Hungary and Slovenia is shorter than the preceding reintroductions. The Austrian authorities indicated that during this period, they would evaluate all reintroductions of internal border control and possibly align the expiry dates thereof, which they did through their notification of a third prolongation at the internal land borders with Czechia and Slovakia, as well as with Hungary and Slovenia of 10 December 2025.

(19) The notifications for the prolongations of internal border control were made making use of the template established for this purpose by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/315 ([4]).

(20) Article 27(2) of the Schengen Borders Code requires the Member States, in situations where the border control has been in place for six months to provide a risk assessment in any subsequent notification presenting the scale and anticipated evolution of the serious threat.

(21) Whilst a precise assessment of the scale and anticipated duration of the serious threat may be difficult to provide by the national authorities given the fact that the situation on the ground may develop rapidly and can be difficult to predict, the Commission nonetheless stresses the importance of the obligation pursuant to Article 27(2) of the Schengen Borders Code to make a risk assessment of the serious threat at the moment of the notification of a reintroduction or its prolongation, taking into account trends in the development of the serious threat in the preceding period of reintroduction of internal border control, and using risk analyses prepared at national level and by the relevant Union agencies.

(22) The Commission notes that the report on the reintroduction and prolongation of internal border control, based on Article 33(2) of the Schengen Borders Code, was due for the reintroduction of internal border control at the Austrian borders with Czechia and Slovakia on 16 October 2025 and for the Austrian borders with Hungary and Slovenia on 12 November 2025. Both reports were submitted on 8 January 2026.

(23) The reports on the reintroduction and prolongation of internal border control follow the uniform format established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/308 ([5]).

## II. NECESSITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

### Position of the Austrian Authorities

(24) The Austrian authorities invoke the existence of a serious threat to public policy or internal security arising from challenges related to migration and security. The reintroduction of internal border control serves to address the strain on public services and pressure on social cohesion due to the consistently high numbers of asylum seekers and irregular migrants, including Ukrainian nationals benefiting from temporary protection.

([4]) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/315 of 14 February 2025 establishing a template for the notification of the temporary reintroduction or prolongation of border control at internal borders (OJ L, 2025/315, 17.2.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/315/oj).

([5]) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/308 of 14 February 2025 establishing a uniform format for the report on the reintroduction or prolongation of border control at internal borders in accordance with Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L, 2025/308, 17.2.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/308/oj).

(25) As regards the security situation, the Austrian authorities refer to global security developments, including Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East. In addition, Austria is facing a high terrorist threat level resulting from the intensification of Islamist extremism in Austria due to the presence of terrorist networks in its territory, in particular from the Western Balkans, whose members travel across internal borders.

(26) As regards the migration situation, the Austrian authorities consider that in the absence of full implementation of the Pact on Asylum and Migration, deficiencies in the asylum system and external border management make the reintroduction of internal border control necessary and proportionate.

In this regard, the Austrian authorities point at:

— the low level of Dublin transfers, with the impossibility to carry out Dublin returns to responsible Member States;

— the need to consolidate the downward trend in unauthorised border crossings and address the expected increase in 2025 along the coastal Western Balkan Route;

— the continued instability in Afghanistan, Türkiye, Sub-Saharan and North-Africa, as well as in Syria that result in a continued pressure on the EU's external borders;

— the significant investigative results against human smuggling as a result of the reintroduction of internal border control.

(27) The Austrian authorities indicate that the reintroduction of internal border control is the only way to prohibit the crossing of internal borders outside designated border crossing points, allowing for surveillance between border crossing points by the Austrian military acting under the control of the border police.

(28) Under Austrian law, only the reintroduction of internal border control enables Austrian border police to carry out entry and identity checks linked to the (intention of) crossing of the internal border.

(29) The Austrian authorities submit that internal border control is limited to a minimum and takes place in a non-systematic, risk-based manner, in the form of targeted spot-checks.

**Commission Observations**

(30) The Austrian authorities have provided information on the various aspects of the identified serious threats to the internal security and public policy as well as arguments to substantiate the necessity and proportionality of the reintroduced internal border control.

(31) Whilst the difficult global security situation may give rise to serious concerns for Member States' national security, the notification could provide additional analysis explaining how the global security environment affects Austria specifically, and how the instrument of internal border control may serve to address this serious threat.

(32) In the assessment of the serious threat to public policy and national security, there is no explanation of how different parts of Austria's internal borders are affected by these threats.

(33) The Commission acknowledges that Austria is facing a complex migration situation, as evidenced by data on the overall numbers of asylum applications, including those lodged following an unauthorised entry, by applicants for international protection registered in another Member State, by beneficiaries of international protection in another Member State, as well as the number of permits issued to the family members of recognised refugees for the purpose of family reunification. Austria's capacity to provide adequate reception conditions for applicants for international protection has also been affected by the need to support beneficiaries of temporary protection following the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

(34) Unauthorised secondary movements of third country nationals may constitute grounds for a reintroduction of internal border control if these unauthorised movements pose a serious threat to public policy or internal security. In this regard, in its article 25(1)(c) the revised Schengen Borders Code refers specifically to the situation in which sudden large-scale unauthorised movements of third-country nationals between the Member States put a substantial strain on the overall resources and capacities of well-prepared competent authorities and which is likely to put at risk the overall functioning of the area without internal border control.

(35) Recent data show that the migratory situation has significantly improved in the Union. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency has observed a sharp drop in the Union of unauthorised border crossings at the external borders in 2024, including a 78 % fall on the Western Balkan route in 2024. In 2025, according to the EU's Integrated Situation Awareness and Analysis, unauthorised border crossings decreased again, with 41 percent as compared to 2024 (from 12 687 in 2025 to 21 637 in 2024). In addition, according to Eurostat-data, in 2024, Austria saw a 49 % drop in first-time asylum applications, with numbers continuing to decline in 2025. This decline is part of a wider trend owing to increased collective efforts to protect the EU's external borders and cannot be solely attributed to the reintroduction of internal border control by Austria.

(36) The Commission underlines that the reintroduction of internal border control does not alter Austria's obligations under the applicable rules of EU law on asylum and return. The reintroduction of internal border control may contribute to the detection of unauthorised border crossings into a Member State's territory, facilitate swift readmissions at the internal border and ensure that unauthorised movements of applicants for international protection are swiftly detected, which allows for the correct application of the Dublin Regulation's rules ([6]) on the allocation of responsibility for examining an asylum application. However, the notifications contain only limited information on the number of apprehensions and readmissions at the different parts of the internal border that would justify the prolongation of a reintroduction of internal border control.

(37) The reintroduction of internal border control may contribute to the apprehension of human smugglers as well as terrorists. The Austrian authorities have submitted a legitimate concern as regards the presence of (the leaders) of terrorist networks in Austrian territory and the added value of a reintroduction of internal border control in response to the travel of the members of such networks across internal borders. However, the notifications contain insufficient information on the apprehension of human smugglers and terrorists at the different sections of the reintroduced internal border. The Austrian authorities also do not explain how the reintroduction of internal border control is complemented by other forms of security cooperation, such as targeted criminal investigations or police controls aimed at dismantling networks of human smugglers or terrorists.

(38) The Commission notes that the notifications or reports do not state specific reasons for the choice of the geographical and temporal scope of the decision to reintroduce internal border control. There is no explanation as to how the serious threat affects different parts of the internal border at which internal border controls have been reintroduced. No explanation was provided as to why a six-month duration, rather than a shorter period, was deemed most appropriate in relation to the first prolongations or why in case of the second prolongations, a prolongation of two months was deemed most appropriate.

## III. ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

**Position of the Austrian Authorities**

(39) The Austrian authorities notify that they have adopted several alternative measures. They have intensified police controls and bilateral police cooperation in all border areas. This includes the exchange of operational information as well as joint patrolling at the internal land borders with Czechia and Slovenia several times a month.

([6]) Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast) (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 31).

(40) Austria has police cooperation agreements in place with all its neighbouring Member States. It participates in eight police cooperation centres, of which six are located at the reintroduced internal borders. Austria has stationed permanent police liaison officers in Prague and Bratislava.

(41) Austria has readmission agreements in place with all its neighbouring countries and works closely together on the readmission of irregular migrants apprehended at the internal borders and in Austrian territory. The Austrian authorities have taken the first steps towards the conclusion of practical arrangements for the application of the transfer procedure under Article 23a of the Schengen Borders Code.

(42) Austria is proactively addressing migration challenges in countries of origin and transit through a variety of bilateral measures, such as the deployment of document advisers, bilateral border police operations, and participation in Frontex operations.

(43) In 2018, the Border Police Unit (PUMA) within the Austrian Federal Police was established. It is a specialised police task force responsible for supporting migration and border control operations, both within the territory and at the internal borders where control is reintroduced. PUMA officers have been deployed together with the Hungarian border police on Hungarian territory at the Hungarian-Serbian border.

**Commission Observations**

(44) The Commission takes note of Austria's active application of alternative measures accompanying and limiting the impact of the reintroduction of internal border control.

(45) The Commission notes the existence of readmission agreements with all neighbouring Schengen countries but does not have sufficient information to assess the effectiveness of these agreements in practice. It notes that Austria acts in accordance with the relevant rules of EU law and in line with the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union on the application of the Schengen Borders Code and the Return Directive ([7]) at internal borders where control has been reintroduced.

(46) Austria has actively participated in Europol activities tackling illegal migration and human smuggling, including within the European Migrant Smuggling Centre in Vienna, the EMPACT Task Force Western Balkan, and the Operational Task Force (OTF) 'Pathfinder'.

(47) Austria is proactively addressing migration challenges in countries of origin and transit. Austria's participation in Operation FOX ([8]) and the establishment of a dedicated migration and border unit within the police (PUMA) that can act both within the national territory and outside Austria serve as examples of successful alternative measures aimed to address migration and security concerns. However, the Commission finds that the Austrian authorities have provided insufficient information to explain why the activities of the PUMA unit within Austrian territory cannot provide a sufficient alternative to the reintroduction of internal border control.

(48) The Commission notes that the right to cross the internal border at any point may only be limited to designated border crossings points based on a reintroduction of internal border control. However, even in the absence of a reintroduction of internal border control, Austrian authorities can continue to exercise public powers, including those aimed at reducing illegal migration in internal border areas.

([7]) Judgment of the Court of 21 September 2023, Association Avocats pour la défense des droits des étrangers (ADDE) and Others v Ministre de l'Intérieur, Case C-143/22, ECLI:EU:C:2023:689.

([8]) 'Operation Fox' is the name given to the cross-border cooperation between Austria and Hungary aimed to combat smuggling activities, particularly those related to illegal migration. The operation involves joint efforts to prevent the movement of migrants and smugglers across their shared border, as well as to address asylum abuse.

IV. MITIGATING MEASURES

**Position of the Austrian Authorities**

(49) The Austrian authorities submit that they have adopted several mitigating measures. First, they remain in constant contact with Austria's neighbouring Schengen countries to keep control to a minimum, taking into account the social and economic links between border regions. Consultations take place before, during, and after their implementation of the reintroduction of internal border control, involving liaison officers, the responsible specialist department within the Federal Ministry, the state police directorates, neighbouring regional units, and the police cooperation centres.

(50) Internal border control takes place in the form of risk-based spot checks and surveillance mitigating the impact of the reintroduction of internal border control on cross-border traffic.

(51) The Austrian authorities monitor traffic flows on a continued basis and provide travellers with information on the traffic situation at the internal borders.

(52) According to the Austrian authorities delays at the internal border have remained limited to peak times and the holiday season.

(53) The Austrian authorities report only limited number of complaints based on increased waiting times at the internal border at the crossing points and no official complaints against the reintroduction of internal border control.

**Commission Observations**

(54) The notifications demonstrate that the Austrian authorities are committed to ensure that the impact of internal border control remains limited as required by Article 26(3) of the Schengen Borders Code.

(55) Austria has taken steps, under the guidance of the Commission and in close cooperation with its neighbouring Member States, to ensure the fluidity of traffic at the internal land crossing points where the control has been reintroduced.

(56) The border control takes place in a targeted and risk-based manner, in order to limit the impact on cross-border travel. Such measures help mitigate the impact of controls but have no impact on the additional requirements to limit controls in time and scope.

(57) Austria has notified its cross-border regions under Article 42b of the Schengen Borders Code.

(58) The notifications submitted by the Austrian authorities do not pay specific attention to the cross-border regions that are concerned by a reintroduction of internal border control and do not explain to what extent technological or tailor-made solutions could be proposed per border region or category of essential travellers to ensure the fluidity of cross-border travel. The reports that were submitted by the Austrian authorities do provide more detail in this regard.

(59) The Commission shares the concerns expressed by neighbouring Member States within the framework of the consultation process, that the possible construction of a more permanent infrastructure for carrying out internal border control would be at odds with the temporary nature thereof and points out that article 24 of the Schengen Borders Code requires Member States to remove obstacles at road crossing-points.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

(60) A well-functioning Schengen area relies on the full and effective implementation of the migration and asylum acquis. The start of application of the Pact on Migration and Asylum in June 2026 will be an important driver to address concerns about unauthorised movements or migratory and security concerns related to illegal migration – concerns put forward by Austria as justifying the reintroduction of internal border control.

(61) The Commission points out that pursuant to the Screening Regulation ([9]), which forms part of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, a security check of all relevant databases will form part of both screening at the external borders, as well as within the territory.

(62) Security concerns are one of the reasons cited by Austria justifying the reintroduction of internal border control. EU law already provides a wide range of tools to help address the concerns raised by the Austrian authorities. Member States should make full use of the existing mechanisms to enhance security and law enforcement cooperation. These include the Prüm II Regulation, the new Schengen Information System and the new Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record legislation ([10]). The entry into operation of the EES and ETIAS will further secure the external borders ([11]).

(63) The Commission encourages the Austrian authorities to further develop their cooperation and information exchange with Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia, including through the appropriate revision of existing bilateral readmission agreements or arrangements and/or the conclusion of practical arrangements for the application of the transfer procedure under Article 23a of the Schengen Borders Code.

(64) Austria should continue to build upon its successful cooperation with Member States and third countries in the region under the so-called 'whole of route approach'. It encourages the Austrian authorities to further develop their joint operational cooperation between border guard authorities and other law enforcement authorities, including through joint and mixed patrols. As a matter of priority, it should update existing bilateral police cooperation treaties with its neighbouring Member States.

(65) The Commission recommends that Austria address any legal or operational obstacles that stand in the way of the effective use of alternative measures, such as limitations under national law to request identification and verify compliance with the conditions for legal stay within the territory, or the use of technological means, such as number plate recognition, at its internal borders for migration management purposes.

(66) The Commission emphasises that the use of alternative measures, including technological solutions, may constitute a more efficient and effective means to ensure a high level of security and migration control, without the need to reintroduce internal border control.

(67) The Austrian authorities should work towards the gradual lifting of internal border control, based on a tailor-made approach per section of the internal border and per threat and make full use of the available alternative measures laid out in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 ([12]) and the possibilities under the Schengen Borders Code. These measures should reinforce and complement existing measures.

([9]) Regulation (EU) 2024/1356 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 introducing the screening of third-country nationals at the external borders (OJ L, 2024/1356, 22.5.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1356/oj).

([10]) Regulation (EU) 2024/982 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the automated search and exchange of data for police cooperation (Prüm II Regulation) (OJ L, 2024/982, 5.4.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/982/oj); Regulation (EU) 2018/1862 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 November 2018 on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (OJ L 312, 7.12.2018, p. 56, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1862/oj); Regulation (EU) 2025/13 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 on the collection and transfer of advance passenger information for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime (OJ L, 2025/13, 8.1.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/13/oj); Directive (EU) 2016/681 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 132–149; ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/681/oj).

([11]) Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data and refusal of entry data of third-country nationals crossing the external borders of the Member States and determining the conditions for access to the EES for law enforcement purposes (OJ L 327, 9.12.2017, p. 20–82, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/2226/oj); Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) (OJ L 236, 19.9.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1240/oj).

([12]) Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 of 23 November 2023 on cooperation between the Member States with regard to serious threats to internal security and public policy in the area without internal border controls (OJ L, 2024/268, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/268/oj).

(68) The Commission considers that the successful cooperation with neighbouring Member States and third countries, as well as the application of alternative measures, provide a solid basis upon which Austria can work now towards the gradual lifting of internal border control, without having to compromise on its security or migration control. It will remain in close contact with all Member States concerned to achieve this goal.

Done at Brussels, 2 June 2026.

*For the Commission*
Magnus BRUNNER
*Member of the Commission*