

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR OF 16 MARCH 2020, REINTRODUCING CONTROLS AT THE INTERNAL BORDERS DUE TO HEALTH CRISIS CAUSED BY COVID-19.

The measures adopted by Spain with the aim of fighting against COVID-19, most especially Royal Decree 463/2020, of 14 March, declaring the state of alarm for the management of the health crisis situation caused by COVID-19, as well as measures adopted for the same purpose by other European Union Member States and by third countries, entail directly or indirectly serious restrictions on mobility within the territory itself, upon entry or exit.

Therefore, it is necessary to enable the possibility of restricting movements of persons who will not be able to continue travel to their programmed destination, either for being incompatible with the measures adopted within the Spanish territory, or because its continuation is not possible in or to other territories, or because of the need to give preference to more urgent movements of people or goods. The purpose is to avoid possible disturbances of public order as a consequence of the interruption of the journey of individuals or groups.

For this reason, and in a spirit of coordination with the other EU Member States and neighbouring third countries, the resolution is taken to temporarily reintroduce border controls at the internal borders in application of article 28 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). These controls will be adapted to the situation and evolution of the measures against COVID-19 adopted by Spain and by neighbouring countries, both in its location and in the applicable restrictions, of which the public will be informed at all times.

By virtue of this, acting as delegated competent authority, in accordance with article 7 of Organic Law 4/1981, of 1 June, on the states of alarm, emergency and siege, in relation with article 4, paragraph 2 and 3 of Royal Decree 463/2020, of 14 March, the Minister of the Interior hereby order as follows:

Sole article. Temporary reintroduction of controls at the internal borders.

1. The temporary reintroduction of controls at the internal borders will apply from 00:00, 17 March 2020, to 24:00, 26 March 2020 and shall affect the internal land borders.

2. The entry into national territory through the land borders shall only be allowed to the following individuals:

- a) Spanish nationals;
- b) Residents in Spain;
- c) Cross-border workers;
- d) In case of force majeure, duly accredited with documentary evidence.

3. Foreign personal accredited as a member of diplomatic missions, consular offices and international organizations located in Spain, are exempted from these measures in their displacements, provided these are displacements linked to the performance of official duties.

4. With the aim to ensure continuity of the economic activity and to preserve the supply chain, these measures shall not apply to the carriage of goods.

First Final Provision. Notification.

This ministerial order will be notified, via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, to the Member States of the European Union and to the European Commission, in the terms set forth in article 28.2 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).

Second Provision Two. Legislative development.

In accordance with article 4.3 of Royal Decree 463/2020, of 14 March, declaring the state of alarm declaring the state of alarm for the management of the health crisis situation caused by COVID-19, the Ministry of the Interior may issue the orders, resolutions, provisions and instructions that are deemed necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this ministerial order.

Third Final Provision Three. Entry into force.

Without prejudice to the provisions of its single article, this ministerial order shall enter into force at the time of its publication in the "Official State Gazette", in accordance with article 2 of Organic Law 4/1981, of 1 June.

The Ministry of the Interior,

Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez