



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

KLASA: 212-02/23-01/76
URBROJ: 511-01-62-23-47
Zagreb, 27. srpnja 2023.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Mr. Matjaž Nemeč
Member of the European Parliament

SUBJECT: Adequate measures at the Croatian Schengen external borders,

Dear Mr. Nemeč,

Thank you for your kind letter with your input and suggestions.

We took this letter with a great attention and consideration and we can assure you that Croatia is taking all available measures and actions, making maximum use of all personnel and technical and infrastructural capacities, in order to enable from one hand safe and smooth flow of traffic across the Croatian border crossing points and on the other hand to guarantee security of the EU/Schengen external border.

In order to implement and act in accordance with EU and national law and best practices, with very valuable suggestions of the experts from other EU Member States, we are continuously improving border checks procedures and conducting trainings of our border guards. Even though, according to the Schengen Borders Code, unlike for air borders, at the land borders there is no obligation to implement EU lines (Article 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 2 only suggests „may provide separate lanes at their sea and land border crossing points“...), we implemented those lines, especially at the land border crossing points, where the infrastructures allows for such lanes to be provided.

As Croatia, in addition to being a tourist country, is also a transit country through which the majority of citizens of Eastern and Southern European countries pass, the traffic at border crossing points is always more intense, especially during weekends, before and after holidays, and during annual vacations. However, as a Member State of the European Union and the Schengen Area, with one of the longest EU/Schengen external land borders, the Croatian Border Police needs to act in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code and, in terms of preventing illegal migration and all types of cross-border crime, is obligated to perform thorough checks, which include a detailed examination of persons and vehicles of third country nationals, for which it is necessary to allocate additional time at the border crossing points, especially on the most frequent ones.

We would like to emphasize that we understand and value your remarks and note that the Croatian Border Police, whenever it is possible, strives to adhere to the best border control practices, and we will continue to do so in the future, recognizing the obligation to take care of the internal security of Croatia and also the security of neighbouring and other EU Member States.

Sincerely,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

Davor Božinović, PhD

