



C/2026/4078

24.7.2026

COMMISSION OPINION

of 2 June 2026

on the necessity and proportionality of the reintroduction of border control by Italy at its land border with Slovenia in accordance with Article 27a(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code)

(only the Italian text is authentic)

(C/2026/4078)

- (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 State may, when confronted with a serious threat to public policy or internal security, exceptionally and temporarily reintroduce 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 serious 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) 2024/1717 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾, which entered into force on 10 July 2024. 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 18 November 2024, the Italian authorities notified a reintroduction of border control on the basis of Article 25a of the Schengen Borders Code, at the internal border with Slovenia for a period of six months, from 19 December 2024 until 18 June 2025.
- (7) By letter dated 16 May 2025, the Italian authorities notified the prolongation of this reintroduction for an additional period of six months, from 19 June 2025 until 18 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>).

- (8) By letter dated 18 November 2025, the Italian authorities notified the prolongation of this reintroduction for a period of six months, from 19 December 2025 until 18 June 2026.
- (9) On 6 March 2026 and in accordance with Article 33(2) of the Schengen Borders Code, Italy submitted a report on the reintroduction and prolongation of internal border control, covering the period between 21 October 2023 and 18 December 2025.
- (10) Italy was included in the Commission's structured dialogue on the reintroduction of internal border control. Following the receipt of Italy'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) 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.
- (12) 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 Borders Code. This obligation arose with the receipt of the notification of a prolongation of border control at all internal land borders on 16 May 2025.
- (13) Following an assessment of all the abovementioned notifications, supplemented by the information provided by Italy in the framework of the consultation process and other official documents, publicly available, the Commission adopts the following Opinion.

ASSESSMENT OF THE NOTIFICATIONS AND THE REPORT

I. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

- (14) In the framework of notifications, the Schengen Borders Code imposes several formal obligations on the Member States.
- (15) The Commission confirms that the reintroduction of internal border control as well as the prolongations thereof were notified by Italy in accordance with the time limits set out by Article 25a(4) of the Schengen Borders Code, that is at the latest four weeks prior to the entry into effect of the reintroduction or prolongation of internal border control.
- (16) The Commission observes that the latest notifications were made in accordance with the template established for that purpose by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/315 ⁽⁴⁾.
- (17) Following the notifications, the Commission received additional detailed operational data from the Italian authorities in the context of the consultation process concerning the prolonged internal border control.
- (18) 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 on 19 December 2025 (at the expiry of 12 months) and was submitted on 6 March 2026.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 185 final.

⁽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).

II. NECESSITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

Position of the Italian Authorities

- (19) The Italian authorities invoke a serious threat to public policy and internal security. The reintroduction of internal border control serves to decrease unauthorised movements of third country nationals and address the risk of terrorist infiltration within migratory flows along the Balkan route.
- (20) As regards the security situation, the Italian authorities refer to global security developments, including Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East, which may have direct repercussions on the security inside the Schengen area, and in particular, on the Italian territory.
- (21) This security risk is further exacerbated by the Universal Jubilee of the Catholic Church, attracting large numbers of pilgrims and tourists from across the world to Rome, which commenced on 24 December 2024, as well as by the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games which Italy has hosted in February and March 2026 and during which different locations and attending athletes and public figures from across the world may become a target for extremist violence.
- (22) The Italian authorities point at:
- the risk of ongoing conflicts fuelling illegal migration flows which may be infiltrated by radicalised persons;
 - the permeability of the Balkan route via which foreign fighters returning from conflict scenes may enter the Schengen area, based on the assessment of the Strategic Counter-Terrorism Analysis Committee;
 - the strong presence of criminal networks engaged in human smuggling at the Italian-Slovenian border and the need to enhance preventive measures and strengthen control over entries.
- (23) The Italian authorities report significant results in the apprehension of persons for whom an alert has been issued in the Schengen Information System (SIS) as well as important outcomes of investigations into human smuggling resulting from the reintroduction of internal border control. At the Italian-Slovenian border, in the period of 21 October 2023 until 1 March 2026, 401 persons were identified based on an SIS-alert under Article 36(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁹⁾, while a total of 594 persons were arrested, of whom 260 for facilitation of illegal migration and 334 persons for other crimes. In addition, in the same period, the Italian authorities detected 10 100 persons crossing the border irregularly, of whom 3 791 applied for international protection and 5 468 were refused entry.
- (24) The Italian authorities point at the increased flexibility, monitoring capacity and information availability which reintroduced internal border control, allowing border check activities, offers to law enforcement authorities.
- (25) The Italian authorities submit that the reintroduced internal border control has a deterrent effect on human smugglers and unauthorised movements.
- (26) The Italian authorities note that readmission cooperation between Italy and Slovenia does not render sufficient results alone, citing a low number of effective readmissions.

⁽⁹⁾ 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, amending and repealing Council Decision 2007/533/JHA, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1986/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Decision 2010/261/EU (OJ L 312, 7.12.2018, p. 56, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1862/oj>).

- (27) The Italian authorities submit that internal border control is based on risk analysis and takes place in a targeted manner in order to minimise its impact on the cross-border movement of goods and persons.
- (28) The Italian authorities note that in the context of border checks, refusals of entry are only issued for reasons connected to the identified threat.

Commission Observations

- (29) The Italian authorities have provided information on the various aspects of the identified serious threats to internal security and public policy, as well as arguments to substantiate the necessity and proportionality of the reintroduced border control.
- (30) Whilst the difficult global security situation may give rise to serious concerns for Member States' national security, the notifications do not provide sufficient information explaining how the global security environment affects Italy specifically, in particular at its border with Slovenia, notwithstanding the high number of persons identified based on an SIS-alert under Article 36(3) or (4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862 for the purpose of countering criminal offences and preventing threats to public security, as well as serious threats to internal or external national security.
- (31) Although the Italian-Slovenian land border is part of the Balkan route, along which many illegal migrants travel, it remains unclear how the risks associated with the year of the Universal Jubilee of the Catholic Church or the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games materialise specifically at the Italian-Slovenian border, as compared to other internal borders of Italy.
- (32) Italy is facing a complex migration situation. It also notes that the Italian authorities have raised legitimate concerns as regards the risk of members of terrorist groups infiltrating migratory flows and the link with organised crime engaging in the trafficking of drugs and human beings, as well as human smuggling.
- (33) The reintroduction of internal border control may contribute to the apprehension of terrorists, human smugglers or persons suspected of other forms of organised crime, as would any other form of police checks within the territory and specifically in border areas. However, the Italian authorities have not provided information as to how often this threat has materialised or has been detected in the framework of the reintroduction of internal border control.
- (34) The notifications provide only limited analysis as to why alternative measures, including police checks in border areas and cross-border police cooperation, are insufficient to replace the reintroduction of internal border control and what legal and/or practical obstacles need to be cleared in order for internal border control to be replaced by alternative measures.
- (35) The notifications 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 why a six-month duration, rather than a shorter period, seems most appropriate. Although the Commission notes the arguments put forward by the Italian authorities relate specifically to the location of the Slovenian-Italian border at the end of the Western Balkan route, no explanation was provided that distinguishes the migration and security threats at that border from similar threats at Italy's other internal borders, where a reintroduction has not been deemed necessary.
- (36) Although the emphasis of the checks may be on the entry conditions relating to public security and internal security, the number of irregular third-country nationals who have been refused entry seems to indicate that other conditions of entry are nevertheless taken into account during internal border control. This is also confirmed by the fact that Italy invokes illegal migration and unauthorised secondary movements as an additional ground for reintroducing internal border control.

- (37) Unauthorised secondary movements of third country nationals can constitute a ground for a reintroduction of internal border control if these unauthorised movements pose a serious threat to public policy or internal security. In this regard, Article 25(1)(c) of the 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.
- (38) 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 unauthorised border crossings in 2024, including along the Western Balkan Route. This downward trend continued in 2025, 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 Italy. In 2025, according to the EU's Integrated Situation Awareness and Analysis, the total number of unauthorised border crossings along the Western Balkan route decreased for the third year in a row, with 41 percent (12 687 in 2025 as compared to 21 637 in 2024). This would indicate that the pressure at the Slovenian-Italian border is not likely to remain the same.
- (39) The reintroduction of internal border control does not alter Italy'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 promptly detected, which allows for the correct application of the Dublin Regulation's rules ⁽⁶⁾ on the allocation of responsibility for examining an asylum application.
- (40) At 13 out of 57 border crossing points along the Slovenian border, border control takes place in a static, rather than dynamic way.
- (41) The Commission observes that the human resources which are mobilized at the internal borders cannot, for that reason, be deployed at Italy's external borders or made available for the operationalisation of alternative measures.

III. ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

Position of the Italian Authorities

- (42) The Italian authorities report close police cooperation with all neighbouring Member States. This includes the exchange of operational information at monthly technical meetings, which have included Slovenia, Croatia and Austria. Joint patrolling at the internal borders with Slovenia takes place several times a month, totalling a number of 226 joint patrols in 2025 (until 2 November) which prevented the illegal entry of 414 third country nationals.
- (43) Since November 2023, new initiatives by Italy to strengthen operational cooperation at regional level have been developed and swiftly advanced. On 20 January 2025, a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Slovenia, Croatia and Italy in which those countries agreed on deploying joint patrols, with the stated goal of removing the need for reintroduced internal border control. Joint patrolling at the internal borders with Slovenia takes place several times a month, totalling a number of 255 joint patrols in 2025 and 27 in 2026 (until 22 February), which prevented the unauthorised entry of 486 third country nationals in 2025 and 46 in 2026 (until 22 February).

⁽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 (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 31).

- (44) Swift advances have been made on the establishment of trilateral patrols at the Croatian external border with Bosnia and Herzegovina under the 2025 trilateral Memorandum of Understanding. The first pilot patrols commenced in June 2025, with mixed patrols performing border checks and border surveillance, while working together to tackle cross-border crime and effectively exchange information. The trilateral patrols were scheduled to last until 12 December 2025, with a resumption in spring 2026, currently under discussion. Monthly technical meetings are held in this trilateral format to facilitate information exchange to combat illegal migration along the Balkan route.
- (45) Italy has a readmission agreement in place with Slovenia but notes that it is not effectively implemented since the number of readmitted third-country nationals is low as compared to the number of persons eligible for readmission. Italy submits that, if cooperation on readmission were improved, this may serve as an effective deterrent to unauthorised movements of third country nationals. To this end, Italy has adopted the necessary changes in national law to allow for the conclusion of practical arrangements for the application of the transfer procedure under Article 23a of the Schengen Borders Code, giving to the regional administrative court the jurisdiction over the appeal against the transfer measure ⁽⁷⁾. The Italian authorities intend to work closely together with the Slovenian authorities to make progress on the operationalisation of the transfer procedure.

Commission Observations

- (46) The Commission takes note of Italy's active application of alternative measures accompanying and limiting the impact of the reintroduction of internal border control. In particular, it notes the results of the joint patrolling at the Italian-Slovenian border.
- (47) Italy has actively participated in Europol activities tackling illegal migration and human smuggling, including within the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, the EMPACT Task Force Western Balkan and the Operational Task Force (OTF) ZEBRA.
- (48) Italy participates actively in regional cooperation on migration and security. It proactively addresses migration challenges in countries of origin and transit through a variety of bilateral measures as well as active participation in operations of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, including under the 'whole of route' approach covering the Western Balkan route.
- (49) Italy has made significant advances on strengthening regional cooperation between border and police authorities, including with the establishment of trilateral patrols at the external Schengen border under the trilateral Memorandum of Understanding between Slovenia, Croatia and Italy of 20 January 2025. These initiatives serve as examples of successful alternative measures aimed at addressing migration and security concerns.
- (50) The status agreement between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina enables the deployments of standing corps in the context of joint operations by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This status agreement applies provisionally. As of 5 November 2025, over 100 border guards have been deployed under a joint operation at seven Bosnia-Herzegovinian border crossing points and Sarajevo Airport. Given the central role of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the Balkan route, the application of this status agreement is an important step in addressing illegal migration and security concerns which underlie Italy's decision to reintroduce internal border control. The Commission notes the low effectiveness of the current application of the readmission agreement between Slovenia and Italy and acknowledges its limited deterrent effect. The Commission acknowledges the active work of the Italian authorities to advance on implementing the transfer procedure under Article 23a of the Schengen Borders Code.
- (51) The Commission underlines that in the absence of a reintroduction of internal border control, Member States' authorities may continue to exercise public powers, including those aimed at reducing illegal migration in internal border areas.

⁽⁷⁾ Article 29 of the Law Decree no. 23 of 24 February 2026 which has amended Article 10 of the Legislative Decree no. 286 of 25 July 1998.

- (52) Based on the information provided by the Italian authorities, it is difficult to establish why intensified cross-border police cooperation, complemented by police checks in border areas, cannot provide a sufficient alternative to the reintroduction of internal border control with a potentially strong deterrent effect.
- (53) The Commission submits that, that the way in which border checks take place, namely in the form of risk-based spot checks, remains possible under Article 23 of the Schengen Borders Code, without having to resort to an official reintroduction of internal border control or having to compromise on security, provided that these checks do not have an equivalent effect to border checks, requiring that their frequency, intensity and duration remain limited ⁽⁸⁾.
- (54) The Commission recalls that should Italy decide to replace internal border control with police checks, Article 25 of the Schengen Borders Code will continue to allow the Italian authorities to immediately reintroduce internal border control to address a serious threat to public policy and national security that arises unexpectedly due to unforeseeable events.

IV. MITIGATING MEASURES

Position of the Italian Authorities

- (55) The Italian authorities submit that border checks are carried out in a targeted and dynamic way on the basis of risk analysis, following Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 ⁽⁹⁾, to mitigate the impact of reintroduced control on bona fide travellers and cross-border populations.
- (56) The intensity of border checks is limited to verifying those entry conditions that are relevant to address the serious threat underlying the reintroduction of internal border control, reducing the impact of those controls on the persons checked and the fluidity of cross-border traffic.
- (57) The impact of the reintroduced control has been low, with traffic remaining overall fluent. No related complaints have been received so far.

Commission Observations

- (58) The notifications submitted by the Italian authorities demonstrate their commitment to ensure that the impact of internal border control remains limited as required by Article 26(3) of the Schengen Borders Code.
- (59) The border control at internal land border with Slovenia takes place in a targeted and risk-based manner, in order to limit the impact on cross-border travel.
- (60) Italy has taken steps, under the guidance of the Commission and in close cooperation with its neighbouring Member States, to ensure the fluidity of traffic across the reintroduced internal border control.
- (61) Italy has notified its cross-border regions under Article 42b of the Schengen Borders Code.
- (62) Specific information on the effect of the reintroduction of internal border control on the cross-border regions that are most concerned by the reintroduction of internal border control, namely the provinces of Gorizia, Udine and Trieste, is lacking, even if this impact may be limited.

⁽⁸⁾ Judgment of the Court of 21 June 2017, criminal proceedings against A, Case C-9/16 (OJ C 277, 21.8.2017, p. 10).

⁽⁹⁾ 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, 17.1.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/268/oj>).

- (63) The Slovenian authorities confirm that the impact of internal border control is limited. As a result of bilateral contacts, measures have been taken to address the heavy congestion at Fernetiči/Fernetti border crossing point, which was the result of a diversion of traffic due to road works at the Razdrto-Vipava expressway.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (64) 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 secondary movements of third country nationals or migratory and security concerns related to illegal migration – concerns put forward by Italy as justifying the reintroduction of internal border control.
- (65) EU law already provides a wide range of tools to help address the concerns raised by Italy and linked to security aspects. 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⁾.
- (66) Moreover, under the Screening Regulation ⁽¹²⁾, which forms part of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, a security check of all relevant databases forms part of both screening at the external borders, as well as within the territory.
- (67) The Italian authorities should further develop their cooperation and information exchange with Croatia, Slovenia and Austria, including through an 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, as well as its bilateral police cooperation agreements with neighbouring Member States.

⁽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, and amending Council Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA and Regulations (EU) 2018/1726, (EU) No 2019/817 and (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council (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, amending and repealing Council Decision 2007/533/JHA, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1986/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Decision 2010/261/EU (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, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/818 (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; 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, and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 767/2008 and (EU) No 1077/2011 (OJ L 327, 9.12.2017, p. 20, 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) and amending Regulations (EU) No 1077/2011, (EU) No 515/2014, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2016/1624 and (EU) 2017/2226 (OJ L 236, 19.9.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1240/oj>).

⁽¹²⁾ 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 and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/817 (OJ L, 2024/1356, 22.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1356/oj>).

- (68) The Commission encourages Italy to build upon its successful cooperation with Member States and third countries in the region, by further reinforcing joint operational cooperation between border guard authorities and other law enforcement authorities, including through joint and mixed patrols.
- (69) The Commission recommends that Italy address any legal or operational obstacles that may stand in the way of the effective use of alternative measures. The Commission welcomes the progress made in relation to the operationalisation of the transfer procedure under Article 23a of the Schengen Borders Code.
- (70) The Italian authorities should ensure the fluidity of cross-border traffic also during planned infrastructure works.
- (71) The Commission emphasises that the use of alternative measures, including cross-border police cooperation, the new transfer procedure and technological solutions, may constitute a more efficient and effective means to ensure a high level of security, without the need to reintroduce internal border control, and therefore they should be used.
- (72) The Italian authorities should work towards the gradual lifting of internal border control, based on a targeted approach tailored to the situation at the Italian-Slovenian land border and adapted per threat, making full use of the available alternative measures laid out in Recommendation (EU) 2024/268 and the possibilities under the Schengen Borders Code reinforcing and complementing existing measures.
- (73) 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 Italy 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
