The Commission is proposing:

- Updates to the Schengen Borders Code for more coordinated management of the EU’s external and internal borders to codify the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic
- To streamline rules on the reintroduction of border control at internal borders ensuring that any prolongation is met with proper safeguards
- To support operational police cooperation and alternative measures to ensure that internal border controls remain a measure of last resort
- To define instrumentalisation and specify the measures that Member States can take to reinforce border surveillance

This will make the Schengen area stronger, safer and fit for evolving challenges

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THE SCHENGEN AREA IS ONE OF THE EU’S BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS:

- It is home to more than 420 million people across 26 countries
- Almost 1.7 million people reside in one Schengen State and work in another
- Every day around 3.5 million people cross internal borders
- Schengen is essential for the functioning of the Single Market
COORDINATED RESPONSE TO SHARED THREATS:

• New mechanism for a common response in situations of threats affecting most Member States
• Binding rules on temporary travel restrictions at external borders in case of public health threat

NEW RULES TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INTERNAL BORDER CHECKS:

• In line with the new EU Police Cooperation code, increased and more operational police checks
• More structured procedure for any reintroduction of internal border controls, with more safeguards in the event of any prolongations
• Limiting the negative impact of internal border checks on border regions
• Addressing unauthorised movements within the Schengen area

SUPPORTING MEMBER STATES IN MANAGING SITUATIONS OF INSTRUMENTALISATION OF MIGRATION:

• More specific measures to strengthen border surveillance
• Emergency asylum and return management procedure
• Operational support by EU agencies (EU Agency for Asylum, Frontex, Europol)