

Letter for the attention of:  
Dr Davor Božinović, Minister of Interior of the Republic of Croatia

Brussels, 18 July 2023

**Subject: Adequate measures at external Croatian Schengen borders**

Honourable Minister of Interior of the Republic of Croatia, Dr. Davor Božinović,

I am writing to you with a request on behalf of numerous citizens of the European Union and Western Balkans countries who cross the external borders of the Schengen Area in order to enter or pass through the Republic of Croatia due to family ties, business and educational obligations, and especially tourism in the summer months.

Allow me to first emphasize that I strongly supported Croatia's ascension to the Schengen and I have done so throughout my whole political career, including as an MEP and one of the rapporteurs for in the European Parliament for this decision.

Furthermore, I also welcome the efforts undertaken by Croatia as a new and full-fledged member of the Schengen Area, first and foremost in the area of enhancing external border control for the purpose of combating irregular migrations and the related issue of human trafficking.

However, I am certain we can both agree that enhanced controls at the external Schengen borders of Croatia should not lead to excessive border congestions. Passengers are being stuck on a daily basis in several kilometres-long traffic queues in order to cross the Croatian border even in severe summer heat conditions. Furthermore, many citizens of the EU and Western Balkans countries report that at certain border crossings, not all lanes were open even during periods of peak traffic. They also report that no special lane is provided for EU citizens which would allow a more efficient and timely crossings.

Minister Božinović, please do not take my suggestion as a political act, but rather as a sincere proposal and as a voice of many European citizens in addressing their concerns and needs.

In that vein, I call on you to respectfully consider the following measures at Croatian external borders:

- a) to review the programme for border protection, including through appropriately staffing;**
- b) to free up all the available lanes during high volumes of traffic, and**
- c) to introduce exclusive lanes for EU passengers.**

All these activities should not in themselves compromise the thoroughness of controls or reduce compliance with the relevant Schengen rules, but would benefit the well-being of people who for various reasons frequently cross the border.

Thank you in advance for your positive assessment of my proposals.

Sincerely,



**Matjaž NEMEC,**  
Member of the European Parliament