

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce

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PRESS RELEASE

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TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES EXTENDED UNTIL JUNE 15, 2020

KINGSTOWN, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, May 18, 2020 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce wishes to inform the general public of extended temporary travel restrictions for non-essential travel of non-citizens and long term residents to the countries of the European Union until June 15, 2020.

On May 8, 2020, the European Commission invited the 'EU+ area', which includes all Schengen Member States (including Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania) and the 4 Schengen Associated States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) to extend the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU for an additional 30 days, until 15 June.

The travel restriction does not apply to EU citizens, citizens of non-EU Schengen countries and their family members, and non-EU nationals who are long-term residents in the EU **for the purpose of returning home**. In addition, the European Commission recommended that Member States should not apply the restrictions to specific categories of travellers with an essential function or need. These include:

- Essential staff - such as doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, researchers and experts helping to cope with the Coronavirus as well as persons carrying goods;
- Frontier workers; and
- Seasonal agricultural workers.

The links below share more information:

1. Communication on the second assessment of the application of the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU, 8 May 2020
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/assessment-application-temporary-restriction-travel_en.pdf
2. Q&A for people travelling to and from the EU during the pandemic
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/faqs-communication-travel-restrictions-08042020_en.pdf
3. Communication on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU, 16 March 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_823

Should there be any further queries please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce at telephone number 456 2060.

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