

## **The Customs Agency has strengthened border control in fulfillment of the commitments made to Austria for Schengen entry**

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Since the beginning of the year, the "Customs" Agency has been carrying out increased checks at all customs and border points, as well as throughout the country, of goods and freight traveling from and to Austria. The inspections are in fulfillment of the commitment for enhanced control at the land borders, undertaken by Bulgaria and Romania to Austria in the signed Annex to the decision on the accession of the two countries to Schengen.

For the first six days of the year, a total of over 7,200 checks were carried out on various types of vehicles, including those transiting through the country. All methods of customs control are used - physical inspection, scanning with X-ray systems, documentary control. Both the transported goods and the cabins of trucks, cars, light trucks and buses are checked.

During the inspections for the first six days of the year, in violation of the customs and excise legislation, nearly 120,000 cigarette and 5.5 kg tobacco, over 340 liters of alcohol, 800 liters of motor oils, 1,500 kg of washing powder, 5,429 electrical tools, 10,500 children's toys and 110 perfume products were found. All the listed goods were detained when trying to be imported into the country or during transit to Western Europe.

Enhanced checks are also carried out on vehicles leaving the country. A total of over 61,000 items - electronic hookahs, fillers for electronic hookahs, veterinary medicines and glasses - were found during the control actions. The goods traveled from Austria to Turkey but were not properly declared.

During a joint inspection with the "Border Police" in the area of the border crossing Danube ferry Vidin, six persons were found in a minibus with Bulgarian registration - Syrian citizens traveling in a specially built hideout. According to preliminary data, the persons were transported in the direction Austria.

The enhanced control on the country's road network continues, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other competent authorities. Border checks will continue at all border crossings until our country's land accession to Schengen, after which control will remain only at the EU's external borders with Turkey and Serbia.