

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Philippe Goffin, announces that as of Friday 25 September the travel ban to the red zones will be replaced by a negative travel advice, which strongly discourages travel to these zones. This is a return to the principle of formulating travel advice as was already the case before the corona crisis.**

- "This decision by the government responds to the will to establish stronger European cooperation. We were the only country in the EU to date that banned travel to red zones instead of advising against it. At the European level, and under the impetus of Belgium among others, work has been underway for several weeks now to develop a coordinated system of travel advice".
- "After an analysis carried out at the European level, a system of color codes was welcomed by the Member States. There is still a lot of work to be done, but replacing a travel ban to the red zones with a negative travel advice that strongly discourages travelling to a red zone is an important step towards real coordination that Belgium wants to establish as soon as possible and to which it is actively contributing".
- This Monday, in the margins of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, I was already able to communicate this development to a number of colleagues.

**The Minister recalls that:**

- "The decision taken in March to introduce a travel ban on red zones was in line with the logic of the strict lockdown imposed on all Belgians and almost all of Europe. This decision was also the result, among other things, of requests from the education sector. It was an exceptional decision, but one that was necessary in the context of an unprecedented health situation.
- As soon as it was possible, we reopened our borders. This was the case from 15 June for the neighboring countries and for the European countries of the Schengen area++".