



**European  
Movement**  
International

# Free Movement and Schengen A No Borders Europe

Free movement – the right to live, study, work and retire anywhere in the EU – is the most tangible success of European integration. Removing internal border controls through the Schengen Agreement has played a significant role in breaking down barriers, bringing people closer together and boosting the European economy. According to a Eurobarometer survey, the free movement of people, goods and services within the EU is regarded by Europeans as the EU's most positive achievement after peace creation. These benefits should also not be withheld from Bulgaria and Romania, that should become full Schengen members as soon as possible.

Free movement and the Schengen Agreement are not the causes of the challenges facing Europe. The unravelling of Schengen will neither make Europe stronger nor more able to solve its problems. On the contrary, the re-establishment of national borders would thwart the European idea, take away citizens' rights, and negatively impact our economic recovery.

**The Schengen system can be improved, however, by addressing concerns and gaps in the current system, and eliminating the need to re-establish national borders.**

### Joint management of Europe's outer border

Under the current system the Schengen Area is only as strong as its weakest link. Protecting the EU's borders should be a common exercise, with all Member States sharing the responsibility. To this end, the EU should swiftly adopt and implement the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard by expanding Frontex' mandate. In parallel to this, a debate should be held about the desirability and possibility of the development of a true European Border and Coast Guard – one that is not dependent on Member States for resources. The European Border and Coast Guard should be accountable to the European Parliament and its mandate should be to protect the collective interests of the EU, while respecting the sovereign rights of the Member State it operates in. In the meantime, all



Member States should make efforts to help alleviate the pressure on the main countries of arrival.

### Effectively monitor the movement of those who want to cause harm

Open internal borders can potentially pose a security risk if information is not sufficiently shared. Existing tools such as the Schengen Information System should be more intensively used and improved, and this should be an integral part of the plans to restore Schengen, alongside those proposed in the Commission's Roadmap. Investment in intelligence gathering is needed and Member States must improve the sharing of intelligence and put in place co-operation channels based on mutual trust. One

## Schengen border controls: list of locations where borders controls are currently reinstalled Source: European Commission

- **Germany:** at all internal borders with a special focus at the German-Austrian land border
- **Austria:** at all internal borders with a special focus on the Austrian-Slovenian and Austrian-Hungarian land borders
- **Sweden:** at all internal borders with a special focus on selected harbours in the Police Region South and West and the Öresund Bridge
- **Norway:** at all internal borders with a special focus on all ports with ferry connections to Sweden, Germany and Denmark
- **Denmark:** at all internal borders with a special focus on ferries arriving from Germany and on the Danish-German land border
- **France:** in relation to the COP21, the state of emergency after the Paris attacks, Euro 2016 and Tour de France, at all its internal land borders and air borders

## Schengen statistics: direct effects of re-introduction of border controls

### Movement of people: commuters and tourists

1.7 million people in the Schengen border-free area cross daily what used to be a national border on their way to work. Estimates on the costs of re-imposing border controls for commuters and other travellers range from €1.3 to €5.2 billion. [Bruegel, European Commission]

Estimates on the associated loss in footfall for the tourism sector range between 5 and 25 percent, or alternatively a loss of 13 million tourist nights at a cost of €1.2 billion. The cost for the tourism industry could even increase by up to €10 - €20 billion if Schengen was abandoned altogether. [Jacques Delors Institute, European Commission]

### Movement of goods: trade

Each year, 1.700 million tonnes of goods, worth €2.800 billion in value, cross internal Schengen borders. The reintroduction of border controls would, first of all, impact the transport sector to the tune of an estimated additional €1.7 to €7.5 billion a year. In the long run, border controls could decrease trade between Schengen countries by 10 to 20%. The total impact of border controls on the Schengen Area economy could impact total GDP by estimates ranging from 0.8 percent to 2.7 percent. [France Stratégie, European Commission]

### Border Controls

The re-establishment of borders will also bring administrative and infrastructural costs. Estimates run from €0.6 to €5.8 billion a year, generally tending towards the higher estimate. The infrastructure costs would add several billion euros on to this. [Jacques Delors Institute, European Commission]

way of achieving that is through the creation of an EU intelligence sharing agency. Furthermore, existing agencies should receive a strong mandate as well as the means and resources to act effectively. However, citizens' (privacy) rights must be safeguarded in all measures taken.



### Balanced approach towards internal border controls

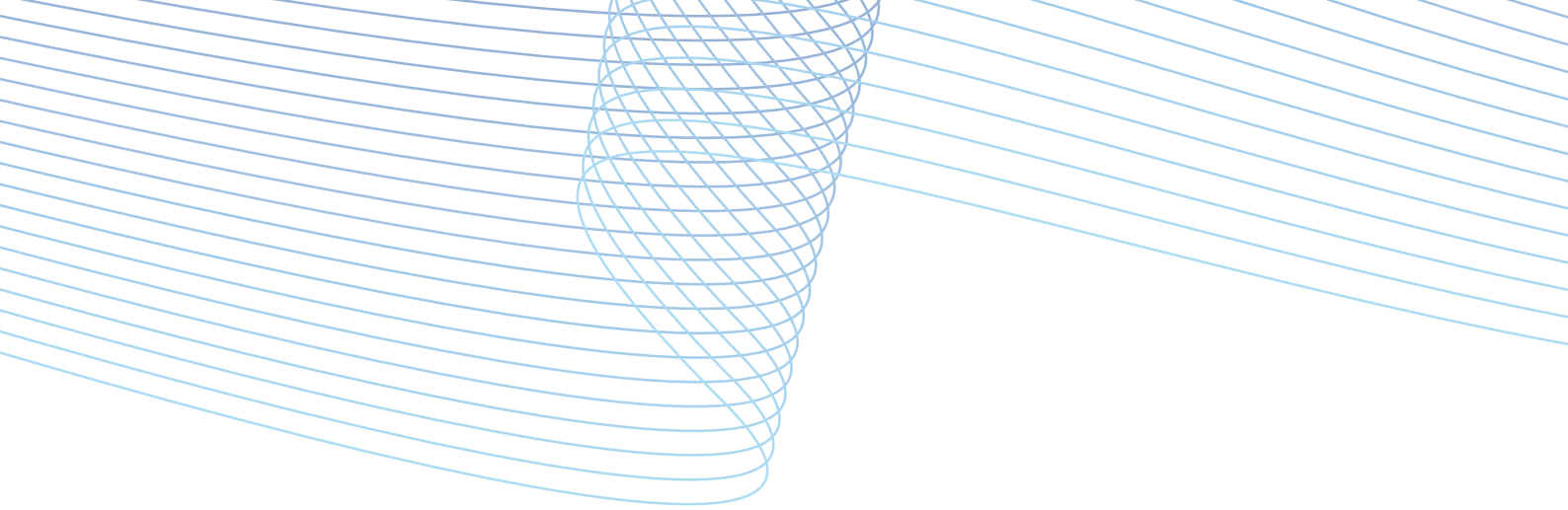
Under the Schengen Borders Code, Member States can temporarily introduce border controls under specific conditions, and, in exceptional circumstances, the European Commission can recommend a coherent approach to border controls. However, the (threat of the) closure of Schengen borders should be more carefully managed given the political consequences this can have. Furthermore, in case of a breach of the Schengen Borders Code, immediate action should be taken on the part of the Commission.

### Common European Immigration and Asylum System

A sound Common European Immigration and Asylum System will remove unequal pressure on specific states and offers a structural solution to the fluctuating level of refugee arrivals, thus pre-empting the need to close borders. This includes replacing the Dublin system with a permanent and binding mechanism that will ensure the fair sharing of responsibility in hosting asylum seekers and refugees, as well as offering a structural solution at times of extreme strain.

To see this and other European Movement International policies, please take a look at our website: [www.europeanmovement.eu/policies](http://www.europeanmovement.eu/policies)





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It also includes a concrete and determined outward European response that focusses on resolving the roots of the crisis. Furthermore, it should ensure safe access for asylum seekers through humanitarian visas and other forms of legal migration.

### Responsible leaders and citizens’ rights

The preservation of Schengen depends, to a large extent, on the implementation of previously agreed rules and on national leaders acting responsibly and avoiding nationalistic and anti-migration rhetoric and action, rather than on the creation of new measures and roadmaps. National leaders also need to refrain

from using the closure of borders for political gain. In all existing and new measures, citizens’ rights and those of refugees and asylum seekers should be fully respected. To help benchmark this, the European Parliament should be involved as much as possible in the development and scrutiny of the above mentioned proposals.

**Free movement is the core of the European project. We should protect our borderless Union, allowing European citizens to travel, work, exchange ideas, goods and services freely and in pursuit of both their own prosperity and that of our continent.**

### The European Movement

seeks to provide a platform to encourage and facilitate the active participation of citizens and stakeholders in the development of European solutions to our common challenges. We offer thought leadership on the issues that affect Europe and we give the opportunity to representatives from European associations, political parties, enterprises, trade unions, NGOs and other stakeholders, through our 39 National Councils and 34 International Associations, to work together, towards improving the way that Europe works.

### European Movement International

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