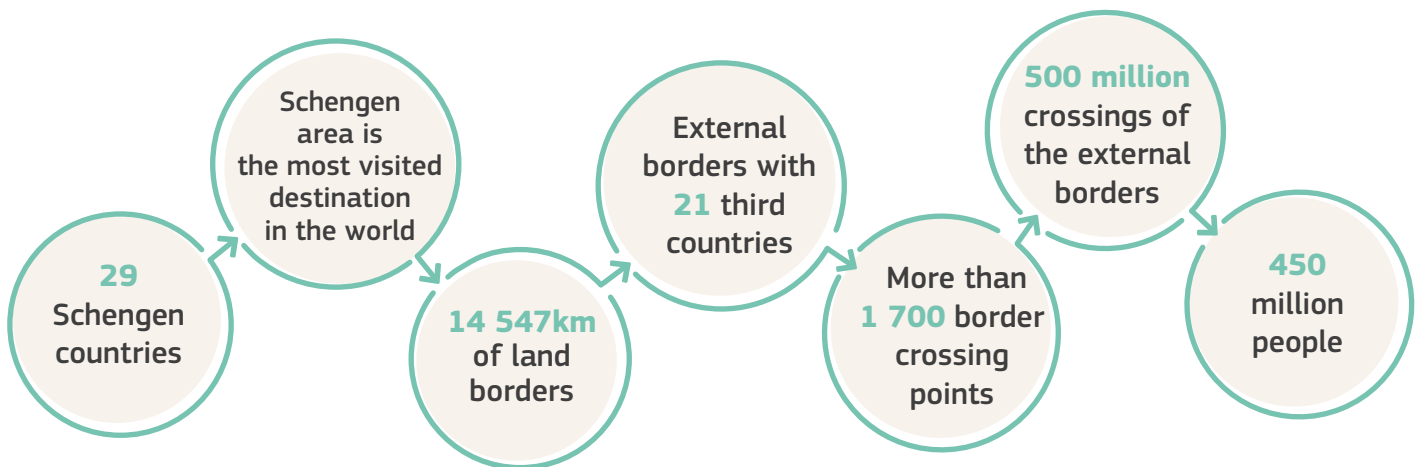


STATE OF SCHENGEN

#SchengenEU | #SecurityEU | April 2024

The Schengen area is one of the key achievements of European integration. Since 1985 when the Schengen Agreement was signed, cooperation across borders between countries remains fundamental to guarantee smooth and secure travel.



STATE OF SCHENGEN REPORT 2023-2024

Main achievements over the last year:

- A reinforced legislative framework starting with the new rules on the Schengen Borders Code, Advance Passenger Information, Directive on Information Exchange
- An integrated Schengen governance framework, with a strengthened role of the Schengen Council
- Historic steps to grow the Schengen area with Bulgaria and Romania, starting with lifting controls at air and sea borders as of 31 March 2024.
- Progress made in the use of alternative measures to controls at the internal borders in line with Commission Recommendation of November 2023

Schengen evaluation

Identified that an improved application of the Schengen rules is needed, notably by:

- Enhancing the quality of border control,
- Maximising the use of the Schengen Information System,
- Stepping up capacities for return,
- Removing obstacles to the cross-border exchange of information.

Proposal for Council Recommendation

For the first time, the Commission has put forward a proposal for a **Council Recommendation for the Schengen area** to further strengthen it:

- Using the Schengen governance framework to foster a higher level of implementation of common priorities;
- Boosting the preparedness, security, and resilience at the external borders, including through improved cooperation with third countries;
- Consolidating the digitalisation of procedures and systems to increase security
- Stepping up the fight against cross-border crime and preventing unauthorised movements;
- Contributing to establishing an effective EU system for return.

HOW DOES THE SCHENGEN CYCLE WORK?



Launched in 2022, the annual Schengen cycle establishes a structured governance framework for the Schengen area. The Schengen cycle enhances the timely identification of risks and foster effective implementation of the agreed rules.

Building blocks of the Schengen cycle ensuring common ownership and promoting stronger joint response:

- **Schengen Council**
- **State of Schengen report**
- **Council Recommendation for the Schengen area**
- **Schengen Barometer+**
- **Schengen Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanism**
- **Schengen Scoreboard**

