



## **Parlamentul României Senat**

*Bucharest, September 28, 2021*

*Courtesy translation*

### **OPINION of the SENATE of ROMANIA**

#### **regarding the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "A strategy towards a fully functioning and resilient Schengen area" – COM(2021) 277 final**

The Romanian Senate examined the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "A strategy towards a fully functioning and resilient Schengen area" – COM(2021) 277 final – according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon, Protocol (no. 1).

Based on the report of the Committee for European Affairs, the Plenary of the Senate, during its session of September 14, 2021,

- 1) Emphasise
  - a) the Commission's request for the completion of the Schengen accession process in the case of Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia, considering that their accession is ultimately crucial for strengthening mutual trust between Member States, which is a justified expectation and a legal obligation of these state;
  - b) that Romania contributes constantly and actively to the general efforts to strengthen the security of the Union, without the related benefits, and the legitimate expectations of the citizens and the legal obligations established by the treaties must have a correspondent in finalizing the accession process;
  - c) that Romania, through its institutions, is involved in the Schengen evaluation process with trained experts in all the fields concerned, being on the first place in terms of the number of experts participating in the Schengen evaluation visits;
  - d) that recognising the essential role that Romania has in the EU security architecture is imperative.
- 2) Points out that
  - a) the non-elimination of controls at its borders with other Member States profoundly affects at least 2 of the fundamental freedoms on which the European Union is built: of persons and of goods;
  - b) in many aspects of the proposal - with regard to the legislative proposal accompanying the Strategy – only a rearrangement of the text has been operated, which would not have necessitated the repeal of the current Regulation 1053/2013, but rather specific changes to certain articles.