

THE SCHENGEN AREA, MYTH OR REALITY

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Abstract: *The Schengen Area was initiated following extensive discussions between France, Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. It was officially established through an agreement signed in Schengen, Luxembourg, on 14th of June 1985.*

The signing of the Schengen agreement followed on the 19th of June 1990 and its enforcement started in 1995, removing the internal frontier controls among signing states, creating a single external frontier, with clear and common rules with respect to visas, migration, asylum, police cooperation, judicial or customs etc.

Keywords: *the Schengen Area; European Union; migrants; migration routes; extradition; Frontex; Europol.*

As we have shown in the summary above, Schengen Area was initiated after extensive talks among several states in Western Europe. Thus, 24 European states adhered to this structure, determining a certain freedom of movement of the people in the member states without internal controls, from Portugal to Poland, from Greece to Finland, etc.

Crossing the borders of a country can be assimilated to a sort of journey within a country.

Still, border control within the internal borders comprised in the Schengen Area can be introduced for limited periods in time, due to public order of national secularization, decision that is made at the level of each Schengen member state.

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Once border controls were eliminated at internal borders, the hazards for the internal security of the countries involved grew due to the fact that thus criminals were harder to follow and all the more so in the case of Jihadist returning to Europe.

All these and especially the latest terrorist events in the area seriously affecting public order and safety in most countries of Western Europe show the weakness of public order and intelligence institutions, largely due to the current situation of European political leaders, including the 17 European institutions acting in the field (Frontex, Cefpol, Europol, Eurojust, Olaf etc.).

The Schengen Acquis was completely accepted by Romania and Bulgaria, after adhering to the European Union as both states submitted the Preliminary Declaration for Schengen Evaluation, started in 2008 for several well established domains.

There were a lot of stages to go through, namely: questionnaires with questions; filling them up; evaluation visits; making and editing a report; recommendations; the Decision of EU Council of eliminating internal border controls in case of unanimous vote in JAI Council and the last stage, publishing the decision made in EU Official Journal.

Unfortunately, at the consultations from Budapest in 2012, Germany, Finland and Austria opposed the favorable decision.

Although in 2011, on January 28th, Romania submitted the final technical report, the decision was postponed even if the EU Parliament endorsed it; the reason invoked was the un-accomplishment of justice reform.

In March 2013, JAI Council did not clarify the situation even if Mark Gray, spokesperson of European Commission stated that the two countries complied with the established requirements.

The Slovakian Minister of Foreign Affairs stated in 2016 that „Romania fulfilled the conditions imposed”.

The same was true about the director of the Division of Strategic Analysis in Poland, etc.

European Commission supported in 2014 Romania's joining Schengen Area.

After 2015, most EU countries reintroduced internal borders controls because of the intensification of terrorist attacks in Europe.

Thus, Schengen Area remained only an empty name:

- controls were reinstated;
- barbed wire fences were reintroduced (Hungary);
- other measures were taken preventing a real union.

Thus, several questions were born, among which:

- Why making the decision is postponed indefinitely?
- Why this is the case for Romania and Bulgaria only?

- Why did Romania have to come, according to Romanian Prime Minister statement, to the last term, that in 2019, when other European states adhered in a few months?

The question that remained unanswered is the following „is Schengen Area still a present issue when it is constantly penetrated by migrants and terrorists but it cannot comprise Romania too?”

All these while Romania’s external border is second in length following that of Finland.

The current situation in Europe, characterized by a continuous wave of unprecedented terrorist attacks and serious disturbance of public order is only due to the policies embraced by European leaders.

Annihilating the tyrants in Northern Africa and the Middle East was a serious strategic error committed by the USA and the EU. Actually, they did not follow a coherent strategy up to the end and neither do they do it at present, thus managing to remove two tyrants but creating a chaos of epic dimensions, unseen before, determining the return of some states to the tribal conditions, provoking total disorder and unprecedented migrating flows towards Europe.

The EU demonstrated that it is unable to take care of its own citizens unlike the USA that allows migrants within its borders only after rigorous selection (see also the Visa Lottery in 2018).

Chancellor Merkel’s invitation at free migration to Germany was completely uninspired, determining serious allegations from the analysts in the field.

The EU was humiliated by Erdogan’s demands of „closing the tap” and contain the refugees’ flow in exchange of several millions of euros, plus speeding up the process of Turkish adhering to the EU.

European leaders make speeches on commemorative occasions while terrorists keep on committing bloody unprecedented terrorist acts in places such as Nice, Paris, Brussels, London etc.

After Romania and other states refused to accept their quota of refugees, Romania and Eastern Europe were labeled as racist bastions and were threatened to be cut off their share of funds for development.

We may remind them that unfortunately Romania did not collect any taxes on the profit that rose to over 50 billion euros made by foreign companies in Romania and that out of all natural resources we only still hold 3.5%, theoretically, the rest of them being taken by European states in exchange for practically nothing.

There are several works on the topic of the current situation in Northern Africa and the Middle East that demonstrate the chaos created and its consequences in the long run that are disastrous to the old European continent:

- Peter Mansfield, *A History of the Middle East*, regarded as being the best documented synthesis in the field;
- Michael Weiss, Hassan Hassan, *ISIS Ascension*;
- Loretta Napoleoni, *ISIS. Caliphate of Terror*;
- Robert Leiken, *Islamists of Europe*, the most thorough study in the field, presenting the serious situation in 8 states and 30 cities in Europe during several years.

There are a few revealing examples that do not allow room for uncertainties.

Thus, in France, 8% of the Muslims coming from Northern Africa represent 8% of the country's population with two important cities: Rotterdam and Marseille reaching up to 30% Muslims with over 1,600 mosques, rapidly rising and, according to DST information, 40,000 French people converted to Islam in a few years, plus the return of almost 1,000 ISIS Jihadists to France.

Great Britain has 6% Muslims and over 2,000 Christian churches demolished and over 2,000 mosques under construction.

Germany has 6% Muslim population, 32,000 extremists and 18,000 people converted to Islam in latest years.

Bulgaria is the European state with almost 14% Muslims and 1,300 mosques.

Romania has 63,000 Muslims (according to population census in 2012), concentrated in Dobrogea, quite well integrated.

Saudi Arabia built most mosques in Europe and world-wide and, over 1,500, and continuously sponsored terrorists, including „White Al Qaida” in the Balkans, together with bin Laden, terrorist acts in Spain and some in the Middle East.

Migration through Romania was also a fact, but the migration routes also had to be taken into consideration, respectively:

- Morocco, Spain, France;
- Tunisia, Libya, Italy, Greece;
- Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Occident and a secondary route towards Romania;
- Turkey, Black Sea, Romania (secondary route);
- Ukraine – Romania and Moldova – Romania, secondary routes.

Thus, according to data obtained from Romanian Border Police in the last three years, we could say that without doubt we are situated on secondary routes and the data about migrants are transmitted to the European institutions in the field: Frontex, Europol etc.

Analyzing the operative situation at Romanian borders (according to the appendix) we could notice that the Romanian Border Police did their duty, denying those hypotheses of Romanian borders being crossed indiscriminately.

The route of drugs towards Europe, from Afghanistan, passes through the North of Turkey, Balkan Peninsula, namely through: Kosovo, Albania towards the West, ensuring over 80% of the necessary for consumption amounting to over 700 billion euros every year.

An investigation of USA Congress made in 2001 with respect to the interval 1990 – 2000 established that „banks from the USA and Europe laundered yearly between 500 billion and 1,000 billion dollars coming from international criminal activities.”¹

Throughout the '90s, in the USA, between 2.5 and 5 trillion dollars coming from criminal activities and corruption were laundered in American banks and launched into circulation through the financial circuits in the USA.²

¹ Daniel Estulin, *Stăpânii din umbră*, Editura Meteor Press, București, 2001, p. 93

² Idem pct. 1, p. 94

Another author³ states that every year, organized crime represents over 20% of world commerce.

In conclusion, we might say that we need a true consensus in the domain of internal and external policy, we need to consolidate external borders, and we need to efficiently manage the migrants' flow, including a policy of stability from the economic and social points of view in the states where migrants are coming from.

Romania has proven to have safe borders, despite EU reproaches, as well as a stable public order, without terrorist attacks or other serious issues related to population security.

We could not state the same thing about the situation in Europe. Actually, the following lines are more valid than ever: „To reap what you have sown is called agriculture.”/ „To be surprised at the crops because you do not understand what you have sown is called imposture.”

Anexă

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|-----|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 015 | 50.3 million people | 13.5 million transportation means | 8,437 discovered crimes | 5,000 denied access cases | 2,611 illegal crossing cases |
| 016 | 56.3 million people | 16.6 million transportation means | 8,084 discovered crimes | 5,500 denied access cases | 2,922 illegal crossing cases |
| 017 | 59.7 million people | 16.1 million transportation means | 8,436 discovered crimes | 5,462 denied access cases | 14,788 illegal crossing cases |

³ Miguel Pedrero, *Corupția marilor puteri*, Editura Litera Internațional, București, 2008, p. 130.



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