



European Migration Network (EMN)

EMN Conference 2015

30 years of the Schengen Agreement The future of Schengen: challenges and opportunities

7th October 2015

Esch-Belval, Luxembourg

1. Introduction

Thirty years ago, in 1985, cooperation between individual national governments of Member States in the EU resulted in the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at common borders, signed near the village of Schengen in Luxembourg. Five years later, the Convention implementing that Agreement was signed, and the first Schengen Agreements were implemented in 1995 with seven Member States. Today, the Schengen Area encompasses 26 countries, including almost all EU Member States¹, as well as non-EU States Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The border-free Schengen Area makes a reality of free movement for more than 400 million EU citizens, as well as to many non-EU nationals, businessmen, tourists or other persons legally present on the EU territory.

Freedom of movement brings both benefits and risks, and Member States of the Schengen Area have to manage both. Membership in the Schengen Area requires the fulfilment of a list of pre-conditions. These involve, for example, demonstrating capability to take responsibility for controlling the EU external borders on behalf of the other Schengen States, issuing uniform Schengen visas, and cooperating with law enforcement agencies in other Schengen States in order to maintain a high level of security once controls at internal borders are removed.

The current migratory developments and the large arrivals of asylum seekers, represent a serious challenge for the EU: in response to the pressure exerted on the common external borders, a few Member States have already decided or are planning to reintroduce border controls. This is an exceptional possibility regulated by the Schengen Borders Code only cases of a crisis situation, though deemed temporary.

The severity of the refugee crisis signals the pressing need to agree on and implement a common and comprehensive response (as presented by the measures proposed by the European Commission on 9th September 2015) as the Schengen Area cannot function efficiently without ensuring an effective management of the common external borders and promoting solidarity among Member States. The latest events should not neutralise (undermine) the benefits of a single border-free zone which represents one of the most valued achievements of EU integration process.

Within this framework, the EMN Conference in Luxembourg will take stock of where we are today taking into account the growth of the Schengen area and the rapid and evolving changes in challenges facing the institutions and the Member States in managing it. It will also open for a reflection on aspects connected to Schengen such as irregular migration in relation to our external borders.

¹ Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom are not currently included in the Schengen Area, although Bulgaria, Cyprus and Romania are in the process of joining.

2. Aims and Objectives of the EMN Conference

Migration is a cross-cutting issue, involving different policy areas and different actors, both inside and outside the EU. The new structure and working methods of the European Commission outlined in the European Agenda on Migration are a first step at rebuilding trust and addressing the challenges and opportunities of migration in a comprehensive way. Better and more coherent use of existing tools in combination with common priorities and pooling of resources at EU and national levels will achieve real solidarity and a better sharing of responsibility between Member States. Improved governance to strengthen our asylum system, setting a sound course on legal migration, acting more vigorously against irregular migration and ensure more secure borders are key elements in this approach.

The aims and objectives of this Conference will be to discuss the developments and the perspectives of "Schengen" regarding topics like border management and irregular migration. The Conference aims to answer the question on what the key challenges are in preserving and further extending the Schengen area and also how to more efficiently address irregular migration concerns.

The Conference also seeks to raise the awareness about the Schengen Acquis. Finally, the conference aims to deliver ideas which could be fed into future policy debates at international, EU and national levels.

3. Programme

7th October 2015	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.45	<p>Welcome speeches</p> <p>Rainer Klump, President of the University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg</p> <p>Corinne Cahen, Minister for Family Affairs and Integration, Luxembourg</p>
09.45 - 11.00	<p>Plenary Theme. 30 Years of the Schengen Agreement: taking stock of achievements and looking to the future</p> <p>Chair: Francesco Maiani, Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration, University of Lausanne, Switzerland</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Charles Elsen, Hon. Director General at the Council of the EU, former Director General of Justice and Home Affairs at the Council of the EU, Luxembourg ★ Matthias Ruete, Director General, DG Migration & Home Affairs, European Commission ★ Fabrice Leggeri, Executive Director, FRONTEX ★ Elspeth Guild, School of Law, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom <p>Questions/discussion</p>
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.45	<p>Panel I. Schengen in the 21st century: <u>Borders or No Borders</u></p> <p>Chair: Jörg Gerkrath, Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg</p> <p>Main questions/issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What to do and not to do within the Schengen area ▪ Costs and benefits: can Schengen be measured? ▪ New threats: Foreign fighters (militant fundamentalists) ▪ Fundamental rights ▪ Smart borders

	<p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Laurent Muschel, Director, Migration and Protection, European Commission ★ Bernard Siffert, Deputy Director of International Affairs, Cross border and Security, Central Directorate of the Border Police, France ★ Harke Heida, Deputy Director-General on Migration, Ministry of Security and Justice, The Netherlands ★ Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, Senior Research Fellow, CNRS, Sciences Po, France <p>Questions/discussion</p>
12.45- 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.45	<p>Panel II. Schengen in the 21st century: <u>Rebuilding Trust</u></p> <p>Chairperson: Yves Pascouau, Director of Migration and Mobility Policies, European Policy Centre</p> <p>Main questions/issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human smuggling ▪ How to tackle the abuse of the visa and legal migration system? ▪ An effective return policy. Enforcement of return decisions, EU wide entry bans, and preventing irregular migration <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Dana Spinant, Head of Unit, Irregular Migration and Return Policy, European Commission ★ Emilio De Capitani, Former Head of Unit of the Secretariat of the European Parliament ★ Marc Crochet, Deputy Secretary General, Red Cross, Luxembourg ★ Eugenio Ambrosi, Director of the Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO in Brussels, International Organization for Migration <p>Questions/discussions</p>
15.45-16.15	Coffee break
16.15 – 16.30	<p>Panel conclusions</p> <p>Francesco Maiani, Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration, University of Lausanne, Switzerland</p>
16.30 – 17.30	<p>Concluding Panel</p> <p>Moderator: Rainer Klump, President of the University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Minister for Immigration and Asylum, Luxembourg ★ (TBC) Ranko Ostojić, Minister of Interior, Croatia ★ (TBC) Thomas de Maizière, Federal Minister of the Interior, Germany ★ (TBC) Angelino Alfano, Minister of Interior, Italy ★ Bogdan Tohaneanu, State Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania ★ Vesna Györköös Žnidar, Minister of Interior, Slovenia ★ Dimitris Avramopoulos, EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship
17:30	Press conference with the EU Member States Ministers and the EU Commissioner

4. Further Information

Translation will be offered in English and French.

The conference will take place at the Campus Belval of the University of Luxembourg.

Address: Université du Luxembourg, Maison du Savoir, 2, avenue de l'Université L-4365 Esch-Belval Luxembourg

Two exhibitions can be visited during the conference. The project "100% Luxembourg" was realised by the CEFIS – Centre d'Etude et de Formation Interculturelles et Sociales – and will be a visual support to the Conference. It is a work dedicated to the diversity of Luxembourg, presenting data for a better understanding of the Luxembourgish society in 21 key facts.

In the same way, the photographs of the exhibition "Nowhere People" taken by Greg Constantine will be the moving landscape of the Conference. His work is the result of five years in which he travelled around the world in order to portray the different faces of stateless persons.