



Motion

Proposer: PC2 (decided on: 03/29/2026)

Title: **Strengthening and Safeguarding Free Movement within the European Union and the Future of Schengen**

Motion text

Resolution submitted by: JEF Political Commission 2 – Internal European Policy

Adopted by the Federal Committee in Turku on 21 October 2018. Re-adopted by the online Federal Committee on 26 June 2021. Re-adopted and amended by the Federal Committee on 11 November 2023 in Madrid Spain. Re-adopted and amended by the Federal Committee on 19 April 2026 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Free movement of citizens and the Schengen Agreements are two of the proudest achievements of the European Union. However, limits still exist and challenges are mounting.

JEF Europe,

- Recognising free movement of persons in the EU as one of the four important pillars of the Single European Market that constitutes one of the core achievements of European integration so far;

- Reiterating that the free movement of EU workers is a fundamental principle of European law enshrined in Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and developed by EU secondary legislation, such as Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 which requires equal treatment with regard to social advantages, and the Case law of the Court of Justice;

18 ● Noting with appreciation that the Schengen Agreement has led to positive
19 intercultural exchange, cooperation and contributes to economic development; ●
20 Noting with concern the growing number of member states that are reintroducing
21 border controls;

22 ● Further concerned by the reasons EU Member States use to justify the
23 reintroduction or prolongation of temporary internal border controls still
24 reflecting crisis-mode policy-making on migration, asylum and borders often
25 explicitly and erroneously linking the (secondary) movements of migrants to
26 terrorism;

27 ● Reiterates that the Schengen Area is to be protected and guaranteed and thus
28 should be separated from negotiations related to external policies and Member
29 States' home affairs which lay beyond the scope of articles 25-29 of the
30 Schengen Border Code;

31 ● Emphasising the crucial necessity for democratic accountability in border
32 control and Frontex operations, which must be rooted in fundamental EU values,
33 because protecting the Schengen Area must never serve as a pretext for policies
34 or practices that do not uphold human rights;

35 ● Stressing the fact that despite the understandable desire to feel secure,
36 reintroducing border controls does not solve the problem of terrorism, rather,
37 is detrimental to EU citizens, who cannot take advantage of the free movement
38 within the Schengen area;

39 ● Noting that, in many cases, the temporary reintroduction of border controls is
40 transforming into permanent restrictions to the free movement of citizens within
41 the EU;

42 ● Noticing that the future of Schengen and non-restricted free movement in the
43 EU has been strongly affected by the inability of EU member states to commonly
44 manage the external borders and the lack of a united approach to immigration of
45 non-EU citizens;

46 ● Emphasising the fact that the presence of migration flows is not a crisis, but
47 a structural fact, that needs longer term, structural solutions;

48 ● Considering that in the European Federation internal borders should only have
49 administrative value, and internal border controls would have no place in the
50 Federation;

● Deeply concerned about the construction of border fences which challenges the very fundamentals of the Schengen Agreement and the European Project as a whole;
● Rejecting the negative and destructive discourse driven by some political forces and

leaders about the arrival of refugees, and the labelling of free movement as 'welfare tourism';

● Regretting the instrumentalisation of problems arising from poor implementation of the freedom of movement by governments and parties in different member states; ● Deploping that the freedom of movement and establishment in another Member State for European citizens is limited by fragmented rules and missing simplification of procedures, preventing them from properly asserting their rights;

● Recalling JEF resolution "For a common migration and asylum policy", "Promoting Youth Labour Mobility and Tackling Youth Unemployment in Europe", "Calling for a fully fledged Health Union for the European Union", "Advancing the European Union's Social Dimension", "On the creation of a Fiscal Union in the Eurozone", "Strengthening European Citizenship Education", "Patching the holes in the EU fabric: a federal Switzerland in a federal Europe".

JEF Europe therefore:

1. Demands the immediate and full re-establishment of the freedom to travel within the Schengen area without restrictions;

2. Calls upon the Member States to implement a coherent and effective federal border policy including cooperation in security and information exchange with adequate financial capacities to achieve their mandate of fully respecting EU borders and the asylum acquis, as well as the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;

3. Calls for comprehensive and coherent policies on welfare, asylum, and border management, and stresses the importance of a holistic, well-coordinated and human rights-based approach to ensure the security, welfare, and prosperity of both EU citizens and those seeking refuge within its borders;

4. Asks the Commission, the European Parliament as well as the Member States to clearly refute common misconceptions about free movement by fully pointing out already existing possibilities within European law that allow for nuanced approaches to cross-border migration;

84 5. Calls for the completion of a fully European Citizenship that allows for
85 truly free movement within the Union through the seamless portability of social
86 rights, effectively establishing a single status for all residents instead of a
87 sum of national citizenships;

88 6. Demands that all physical walls, fences, and barriers of any sort established
89 between EU Member States be torn down, noting the negative messages such
90 obstructions send and the dark connotations of their historical predecessors;

91 7. Urges European institutions to enforce EU law by opening infringement
92 procedures against those Member States that abuse the notion of emergency
93 situation to establish border controls within the Union;

94 8. Calls for compensatory payments that Member States establishing border
95 controls should be required to pay to compensate the Union of any economic
96 losses related to the border controls;

97 9. Calls for the introduction of strong non-monetary instruments that the
98 European Commission should use to strictly limit and when necessary formally
99 oppose unjustified suspensions of internal border controls by Member States
100 under the Schengen Framework;

101 10. Demands all EU Institutions to continue to support measures aimed at
102 improving the access to free movement of people, such as the free movement of
103 workers and students;

104 11. Demands that Member States respect the social rights of all citizens who
105 have the right to freely move within the Union and thus help to concretely
106 implement and guarantee the European Pillar of Social Rights;

107 12. Demands that public authorities guarantee that mobile and cross-border
108 citizens benefit from their welfare and social rights when dealing with lower
109 local authorities according to the principle of subsidiarity.