



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

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

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

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

9 JEF Europe,

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

13 ● Reiterating that the free movement of EU workers is a fundamental principle of
14 European law enshrined in Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the
15 European Union (TFEU) and developed by EU secondary legislation, such as
16 Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 which requires equal treatment with regard to social
17 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;
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- 21 ● Noting with concern the growing number of member states that are reintroducing
22 border controls;
- 23 ● Further concerned by the reasons EU Member States use to justify the
24 reintroduction or prolongation of temporary internal border controls still
25 reflecting crisis-mode policy-making on migration, asylum and borders often
26 explicitly and erroneously linking the (secondary) movements of migrants to
27 terrorism or other security threats;
- 28 ● Reiterates that the Schengen Area is to be protected and guaranteed and thus
29 should be separated from negotiations related to external policies and Member
30 States' home affairs which lay beyond the scope of articles 25-29 of the
31 Schengen Border Code;
- 32 ● Emphasising the crucial necessity for democratic accountability in border
33 control and Frontex operations, which must be rooted in fundamental EU values,
34 because protecting the Schengen Area must never serve as a pretext for policies
35 or practices that do not uphold human rights;
- 36 ● Stressing the fact that despite the understandable desire to feel secure,
37 reintroducing border controls does not solve the problem of terrorism, rather,
38 is detrimental to EU citizens, who cannot take advantage of the free movement
39 within the Schengen area;
- 40 ● Noting that, in many cases, the temporary reintroduction of border controls is
41 transforming into permanent restrictions to the free movement of citizens within
42 the EU;
- 43 ● Noticing that the future of Schengen and non-restricted free movement in the
44 EU has been strongly affected by the inability of EU member states to commonly
45 manage the external borders and the lack of a united approach to immigration of
46 non-EU citizens;
- 47 ● Emphasising the fact that the presence of migration flows is not a crisis, but
48 a structural fact, that needs longer term, structural solutions;
- 49 ● Considering that in the European Federation internal borders should only have
50 administrative value, and internal border controls would have no place in the
51 Federation;

52 ● Deeply concerned about the construction of border fences which challenges the
53 very fundamentals of the Schengen Agreement and the European Project as a whole;

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55 ● Rejecting the negative and destructive discourse driven by some political
56 forces and

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

59 ● Regretting the instrumentalisation of problems arising from poor
60 implementation of the freedom of movement by governments and parties in
61 different member states;

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63 ● Deploring that the freedom of movement and establishment in another Member
64 State for European citizens is limited by fragmented rules and missing
65 simplification of procedures, preventing them from properly asserting their
66 rights;

67 ● Recognising that the Schengen area has enabled the free movement of persons
68 across internal borders, while law enforcement and judicial authorities remain
69 largely constrained by national jurisdictions, creating enforcement gaps that
70 can be exploited by criminal networks and terrorist actors;

71 ● Recalling JEF resolution "For a common migration and asylum policy",
72 "Promoting Youth Labour Mobility and Tackling Youth Unemployment in Europe",
73 "Calling for a fully fledged Health Union for the European Union", "Advancing
74 the European Union's Social Dimension", "On the creation of a Fiscal Union in
75 the Eurozone", "Strengthening European Citizenship Education", "Patching the
76 holes in the EU fabric: a federal Switzerland in a federal Europe", "A European
77 Federal Police -A Federal Response to Organised Crime".

78 JEF Europe therefore:

79 1. Demands the immediate and full re-establishment of the freedom of movement
80 within the Schengen area without restrictions;

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

85 3. Calls for comprehensive and coherent policies on welfare, asylum, and border

86 management, and stresses the importance of a holistic, well-coordinated and
87 human rights-based approach to ensure the security, welfare, and prosperity of
88 both EU citizens and those seeking refuge within its borders;

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

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

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

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

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

106 9. Calls for the introduction of strong non-monetary instruments that the
107 European Commission should use to strictly limit and when necessary formally
108 oppose unjustified suspensions of internal border controls by Member States
109 under the Schengen Framework, including improved monitoring and transparent
110 assessment of their necessity, proportionality, and impact;

111 10. Demands all EU Institutions to continue to support measures aimed at
112 improving the access to free movement of people, such as the free movement of
113 workers and students, and to ensure that cross-border workers and mobile
114 citizens are not disproportionately burdened by remaining controls;

115 11. Demands that Member States respect the social rights of all citizens moving
116 within the Union and thus helping to concretely implement and guarantee the
117 European Pillar of Social Rights;

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

121
122 **13. Calls for stronger democratic accountability in the governance of the**
123 **Schengen Area, and competence of the European Parliament in overseeing the**
124 **reintroduction and prolongation of internal border controls.**

125
126 **14. Calls on the European Commission to adopt clear guidelines clarifying the**
127 **notion of “serious threat” under the Schengen Borders Code in order to prevent**
128 **its overly broad or abusive interpretation by Member States;**