

# THE SCHENGEN AREA UNDER PRESSURE: ORIGINS, CHALLENGES, PROSPECTS



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**THURSDAY  
4 JUNE 2020  
14:00**

WEBINAR ON WEBEX

**Click here to register:**

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The free movement of people is one of the four fundamental freedoms of the European Union, together with that of goods, services and capital. Enshrined in the Treaty of Rome (1957) as part of the single market, the principle of the free movement of people took on a new dimension when, on 14 June 1985, five Member States of the European Community – Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany – concluded the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders. The absence of internal border checks was compensated by more effective surveillance of their external borders. Then on 19 June 1990, the same partners signed the Schengen Convention, which supplemented the agreement and laid down the conditions for its application. The Schengen acquis was incorporated into the “European Community” pillar of the EU by the Treaty of Amsterdam (signed on 2 October 1997), paving the way for a single area of security and justice.

The Schengen Area – a vast zone of free movement, which currently has 26 partners (22 of the 27 EU Member States and 4 associated countries) and covers 4 million square kilometres– is one of the pillars of the European project.



But it has been affected by several difficulties: the serious consequences of the global economic and financial crisis (2008-2018), growing concerns over external migratory pressure and the question of enlargement, fears of social dumping and, since March 2020, the COVID-19 crisis. As well as the fact that the EU has closed its external borders until June, within the bloc several European governments have decided to introduce stricter controls or even close their borders in a bid to reduce the risk of contamination. Identifying these obstacles is vital so that pragmatic solutions can be found without jeopardising the founding principle.

To look back at the origins of the Schengen Area, discuss the current challenges and consider future prospects, the Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC) at the University of Luxembourg, in collaboration with the European Museum Schengen, EDIC Schengen and the Centre National de l'Audiovisuel, is pleased to invite you to the webinar 'The Schengen Area under pressure: origins, challenges, prospects' with Mr Robert Goebbels, Negotiator and signatory of the Schengen Agreement for Luxembourg, Member of the Luxembourg Government (1984-1999), Member of the European Parliament (1999-2014).

The webinar will be in English.

Questions may also be asked in French, German and Luxembourgish.

### **Programme:**

- **Introduction – Dr Elena Danescu**, Coordinator of the EDIC University of Luxembourg
- **"Schengen.... 35 years ago"** – Screening of a documentary film looking at the impact of the Schengen Agreement
- **Address – Mr Robert Goebbels**, negotiator and signatory of the Schengen Agreement for Luxembourg, Member of the Luxembourg Government (1984-1999), Member of the European Parliament (1999-2014)
- **Debate with the audience**
- **Virtual tour of the Schengen Museum and the town of Schengen**, led by **Martine Kneip**, Director of the Museum
- **Conclusions**

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