

The Schengen Agreement Member States

Presently, 15 European states are full right members of the Schengen Agreement. The Member States are the following ones: Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Island, Norway, Sweden.

The adhesion chronology to the Schengen Agreement

1985 – Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany and France

1990 – Italy

1991 – Spain and Portugal

1992 – Greece

1995 – Austria

1996 – Denmark, Sweden and Finland

2001 – Island and Norway

The participation of the Danish Kingdom

Even though Denmark signed the Schengen Agreement, it may choose to apply or not any new decisions adopted within Title IV, even those ones that represent a development of the Schengen acquis.

The participation of Ireland and the UK

In accordance with the Protocol attached to the Amsterdam Treaty, the United Kingdom and Ireland may totally or partially participate in certain aspects of the Schengen acquis, if the other 13 Schengen Member States unanimously decide so, in the Council. Great Britain requested, in March 1999, to participate in certain aspects of the Schengen Convention, such as: judiciary and police cooperation, drug combat and Schengen Informatic System. Ireland requested to participate in certain provisions of the Schengen Convention, quite similar to the ones chosen by the United Kingdom.

The participation of Island and the Kingdom of Norway

Along with Sweden, Finland and Denmark, Norway and Island take part in the Passport Northern Union, within which border checking at internal borders was eliminated. Island and Norway signed an Agreement with the European Union in May 1999 that allowed the two states to participate in the elaboration of new legislative instruments of the Schengen acquis. The documents are adopted only by the EU Member States but they also apply to Island and Norway. Practically speaking, this association takes the shape of a joint Committee, outside EU, consisting of representatives of Island, Norway, EU Council and European Commission.

The participation of Switzerland

In 2002, the European Commission started negotiating with Switzerland. These negotiations were finalized by signing an agreement, between the European Union and Switzerland, regarding Switzerland's association to the implementing, applying and developing the Schengen acquis.