

The Schengen Treaty

Commission Affaires Etrangères et Européennes

The Schengen Treaty is an agreement between most of the member states of the EU plus Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. It allows people and goods to travel between its member states freely. The Schengen member states also have a common visa policy and have eliminated internal borders. Despite the fact that the Schengen treaty has many advantages, there are people who question its efficiency. Is there really a problem or is it just that they do not value it and are not conscious of its advantages?

Recently many people have expressed that they are discontent with this treaty, since it allegedly takes away their control of their borders, and therefore their sovereignty. Also, some believe that it allows criminals and terrorists to travel freely.

IC's and OC's

-Believing that people may feel insecure due to possible increases in threats such as terrorism when their internal borders are open;

- Taking into account that member states of Schengen have over fortified their external borders, resulting in difficult access to the Schengen area;

-Considering that the reasons for which Schengen is or isn't efficient and useful may have changed since it's creation;

-Drawing attention to the recent rise of protectionism and populism, both of which threaten Schengen;

-Encouraging the finding of a clear definition of "a threat", since the Treaty states that a country may set up borders in case of a threat, but does not define what constitutes a threat;

-Acknowledging that the recent refugee crises may be putting a strain on the pro-Schengen mentality since many refugees are heading for the countries that are richer, thus overcharging said countries

The Youth Parliament:

-Reaffirms that countries have the possibility of closing their borders in situations of danger (see France in November 2015);

- Insists on the necessity of all information being published through media to stay true to facts, avoiding possible misinformation and fear mongering;
- Invites politicians to inform the population about the Schengen treaty;
- Suggests that students be informed about the Schengen treaty and its ramifications;
- Puts forward the benefits for trade and development due to the Schengen agreement;
- Suggests the clarification of what defines a threat, and the making of said information more accessible and understandable;
- Proposes that Schengen Member states work together with the EU to help control the influx of refugees, without blocking the entry of those who just seek asylum from war etc...
- Hopes that a closer partnership between countries may lead to better control, efficiency and fluidity

Conclusion:

All in all, the Youth Parliament supports the idea behind the Schengen treaty, the idea of free movement. The Youth Parliament wishes that the world and especially the member states of the Schengen area become more conscious of the benefits of Schengen and the serious economic repercussions/implications that its abolishment or that exit from it would entail.