

Global Immigration alert

January 2026

Schengen Area

Schengen border controls (January 2026)

Executive summary

This document provides details of the internal border controls in the Schengen Area as of 9 January 2026.

Background

- The Schengen Borders Code ([SBC](#)) enables Member States to temporarily reinstate controls at internal borders of the Schengen Area in exceptional circumstances, such as situations of significant threat to public order or internal security.
- Reintroduction of such controls must be limited in scope and taken as a measure of last resort in accordance with commonly agreed criteria.
- For predictable events, internal border controls are limited to six months. In these cases, border controls can be extended for up to six months per extension, for a maximum period of two years.
- Member States must notify the European Commission and other Member States at least four weeks before a planned reintroduction of border controls. In emergency situations, Member States may reintroduce border controls for up to one month without prior notification and inform the Commission and other Member States immediately. In these cases, controls may be extended for up to one month per extension, for a maximum period of three months.

Key developments

As of 9 January 2026, 10 Schengen countries have ongoing border controls. Of these, Austria extended its existing border control. Please see the following page for additional information. Some controls might have been in place since before the dates mentioned in the table below, and the end dates may be extended. See [this link](#) for the latest updates.

Impact on employers

The reintroduction of internal border controls leads to additional administrative requirements and delays in travel for individuals crossing internal borders. Employers may stay updated and keep employees informed regarding the latest developments.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



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Country	Start date	End date	Impacted borders	Rationale
Austria	16 December 2025	15 June 2026	Land borders with Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia	Irregular migration (e.g., via the Balkan routes), migratory pressure in the pre-frontier area, strain on the asylum reception system, Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, the security situation in the Middle East
Denmark	12 November 2025	11 May 2026	Land and sea borders with Germany	Threats to public policy and internal security posed by continuous terrorism-related events and organized crime, tied to the Israeli-Hamas conflict and driven by radicalization from groups such as Islamic State and Al-Qaida
France	1 November 2025	30 April 2026	All internal borders with Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland	Serious threats posed by terrorism, criminal networks facilitating irregular migration and smuggling, risk infiltration by radicalized individuals, irregular crossings on the Channel and North Sea borders, rising violence among migrants
Germany	16 September 2025	15 March 2026	Land borders with Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland	Threats to public security and order posed by continuous high levels of irregular migration and smuggling, the strain on the asylum reception system, and the impact of the global security situation (including Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine) on security and migration
Italy	19 December 2025	18 June 2026	Land borders with Slovenia	Irregular migration via the Western Balkan route, ongoing crises in the Middle East and Ukraine, and increased security risks related to the Universal Jubilee of the Catholic Church and Paralympic Winter Games
Netherlands	9 December 2025	8 June 2026	Land and air borders with Belgium, Germany and the intra-Schengen air borders	Threats to public policy caused by high levels of asylum applications, irregular migration, migrant smuggling, and secondary movements, leading to an overburdening of the migration system and the asylum system, particularly the reception capacity
Norway	12 November 2025	11 May 2026	Ports with ferry connections to the Schengen Area	Threats aimed at the energy sector, threats of sabotage posed by the Russian intelligence service, as well as to increase infrastructure protection
Poland	5 October 2025	4 April 2026	Land borders with Germany and Lithuania	Persistent irregular migration and migrant smuggling from Belarus at the Lithuanian-Polish border. A significant increase in illegal migrants at the German-Polish border resulting in a disproportionate burden on Poland and serious threats to public policy and internal security
Slovenia	22 December 2025	21 June 2026	Land borders with Croatia and Hungary	Threats to public policy and internal security posed by terrorism-related events, the risk of terrorist infiltrations into migratory flows via the Western Balkans, and hybrid threats from Russia and Belarus
Sweden	12 November 2025	11 May 2026	All internal borders and land borders with Denmark	Threats to public policy and internal security arise from organized cross-border crime and terrorism, highlighted by military-grade explosive attacks on foreign institutions and the public, involving foreign state actors and criminal gangs, alongside ongoing threats from violent Islamist groups and individuals

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