**ENLARGEMENT OF THE SCHENGEN AREA**

**INTEGRATION TIMETABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>The Schengen Agreement: Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany and France sign an agreement on the gradual abolition of controls at their common borders. This agreement is signed in the Luxembourg village of Schengen.</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>The Schengen Convention is signed, implementing the Schengen Agreement of 1985.</td>
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<td>1990-1992</td>
<td>Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece sign the Schengen Convention.</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>The Schengen Convention comes into force, abolishing controls at the internal borders of the Signatory States (Benelux, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal) and establishing a single external border where entry controls for the Schengen area are carried out in accordance with a single set of rules. &quot;Compensatory&quot; measures (such as a common visa policy, improved police, judicial cooperation and the Schengen Information System) are put in place. Austria signs the Schengen Convention.</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Denmark, Finland and Sweden sign the Schengen Convention. Although they are not members of European Union, Iceland and Norway sign the Schengen Convention by virtue of prior agreements between the Nordic countries on the abolition of border controls.</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>The Treaty of Amsterdam comes into force. The Schengen acquis is integrated into the European Union by means of a Protocol to the Treaty of Amsterdam. The Protocol also specifies that the United Kingdom and Ireland may take part in all or some of the Schengen arrangements, subject to unanimous approval by the Council.</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Controls are abolished at the internal borders with Greece. The United Kingdom's application for partial participation in Schengen is approved (covering mainly police and judicial cooperation as well as partial participation in the Schengen Information System).</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Ireland's application for partial participation in Schengen is approved (also mainly covering police and judicial cooperation and partial participation in the Schengen Information System).</td>
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<td>MAY.2004</td>
<td>Accession of new Member States – Cyprus, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Hungary,</td>
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Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland and the Czech Republic. The Council of Europe and the Hague Program set the deadline for their integration into the Schengen Area as October 2007.

2004
Switzerland signs an agreement on its association with Schengen.
The United Kingdom starts implementing some of the Schengen provisions (although still not connected to the Schengen Information System).

2006
Liechtenstein initiates a protocol on its accession to the Swiss association agreement.

SEPT.06
The European Commission announces that SIS II is not likely to be become operational by October 2007.

Portugal announces it is developing a transitional technical solution: SISone4ALL.

16.OCT.06
JHA (Justice and Home Affairs) Council gives green light to preliminary technical work to test viability of SISone4ALL.

5.DECEMBER.06
Final approval of SISone4ALL and the deadline to abolish borders is set by the JHA Council: 31st December, 2007.

2007
Bulgaria and Romania accede to the European Union and partially enforce the Schengen provisions. Internal border controls will be lifted once all compensatory measures are in place and a positive assessment report has been adopted by the Council.

02.MAR.07
SISone4ALL tested and validated by C-SIS

27.MAR.07
Protocol signed between Portugal and the nine Member States that are to apply to the SISone4ALL system.

01.MAY.07
PT NSIS tested and validated by C-SIS

26.JUN.07
Validation of SISone4ALL by new Member States

14.AUG.07
Validation of SISone4ALL by Schengen Member States

31.AUG.07
SISone4ALL technically ready.

SEPT./DEC.07
Last evaluation phase of new Member States.
SISone4ALL evaluated positively.

06 DEC.07
Decision of the Council to lift all internal border controls.

21.DECEMBER.07
Abolition of land and sea borders control

29.MAR.08
Abolition of air borders control
Schengen is one of the major European achievements.

This success story began in the early 80's, when at a European level, a discussion was started regarding the significance of "Freedom of Movement". France, Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands decided to set up an area with no internal borders. An agreement was signed between these States on the 14th of June 1985, in Schengen, a village in Luxembourg. The Convention on the Implementation of the Schengen Agreement was also signed in 1990. Upon entering into force in 1995, the Schengen Agreement lifted border controls at the internal borders of the signatory States and established a single external border where controls are carried out in accordance with a specific set of rules. At the same time, common rules have been established regarding visas, migration, asylum, as well as arrangements concerning police, judiciary and customs cooperation. 'Compensatory' arrangements (such as improved police and judicial co-operation, and the Schengen Information System), were implemented.

In the beginning, the Schengen acquis was not part of the Community's body of Laws. The Amsterdam Treaty incorporated the Schengen acquis into the European Union legislative and institutional framework.

The Schengen Information System, or SIS, is crucial to this achievement; it is the most important common search system available to the European police and border police authorities. SIS enables the exchange of information concerning alerts on persons and assets and gives access to entry denial alerts. A 2nd generation SIS began to be planned and developed.

The deadline set by the European Council and the Hague Program for the integration of new EU Member States (that joined in 2004) into the Schengen Area was October 2007. Technical difficulties with the SIS2 Project gave rise to a delicate situation with serious political consequences. Efforts to integrate the new Member States directly into the new Schengen Information System (SIS II) postponed for an unpredictable number of months the abolition of the internal border controls.

Portugal presented a proposal on September 2006 to the Justice and Home Affairs Council, regarding the integration of the new Member States (Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Cyprus) into the current Schengen Information System (SIS 1+).

The European Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA) on 5th December 2006 accepted the Portuguese proposal and set a rigorous timetable for the enlargement of the Schengen area. This speedy decision definitely contributed to solve what had been an extremely important problem.
The Portuguese proposal was to "clone" the Portuguese National-SIS and ensure its installation into the systems of the new Member States and its connection to the current C-SIS. This proposal was dubbed SISone4ALL.

A technical feasibility study was prepared in strict cooperation between the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service (SEF – Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras) and the Portuguese company Critical Software, under the supervision of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs.

After being developed and tested against C.SIS in all Member States, N-SIS was implemented by a network of experts from the Immigration and Borders Service, who made sure that the functionalities that were needed for it to operate in the Schengen area were ready. A huge effort was made and a 24 hour helpdesk was set up, and an early warning system was activated, culminating with the delivery of kits containing the application were delivered to ministers in Lisbon, on the 27th of March.

On the 31st of August, SISone4ALL was considered technically ready as scheduled.

The lifting of the internal borders obtained a favourable opinion of the European Parliament and the final decision to lift all internal border controls on the 21st of December, was made by the last European Justice and Home Affairs Council on the 6th of December 2007.

SISone4ALL is a simple solution. Plus, it is a low-risk and low-cost project that provides experience on Schengen procedures.

The action plan on the development of the SISone4ALL project was carried out by very experienced teams, both from Portugal and from the countries directly engaged in the extension of SIS 1+. The commitment of each and everyone involved enabled the development and delivery of the project on time and in accordance with quality standards. The fact that a new form of dialogue was established between political leaders and technical experts was a key factor to its success.

A huge effort was made by the participating States to comply with all of the Schengen evaluation requirements.

The Schengen area is one of the greatest achievements in the history of European integration. Abolishing internal borders and, at the same time, implementing several compensatory measures, such as reinforcement of external borders controls, setting up police, border and judicial cooperation, and implementation of the Schengen Information System (SIS) are the best instruments in a true European Space of Freedom, Security and Justice to enable freedom of movements - a precious gift to our citizens.