European Commission

Schengen Borders Code & Local Border Traffic

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Unit C2 – border management and Schengen
DG HOME – Migration and Home Affairs

Disclaimer: ***These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union'***

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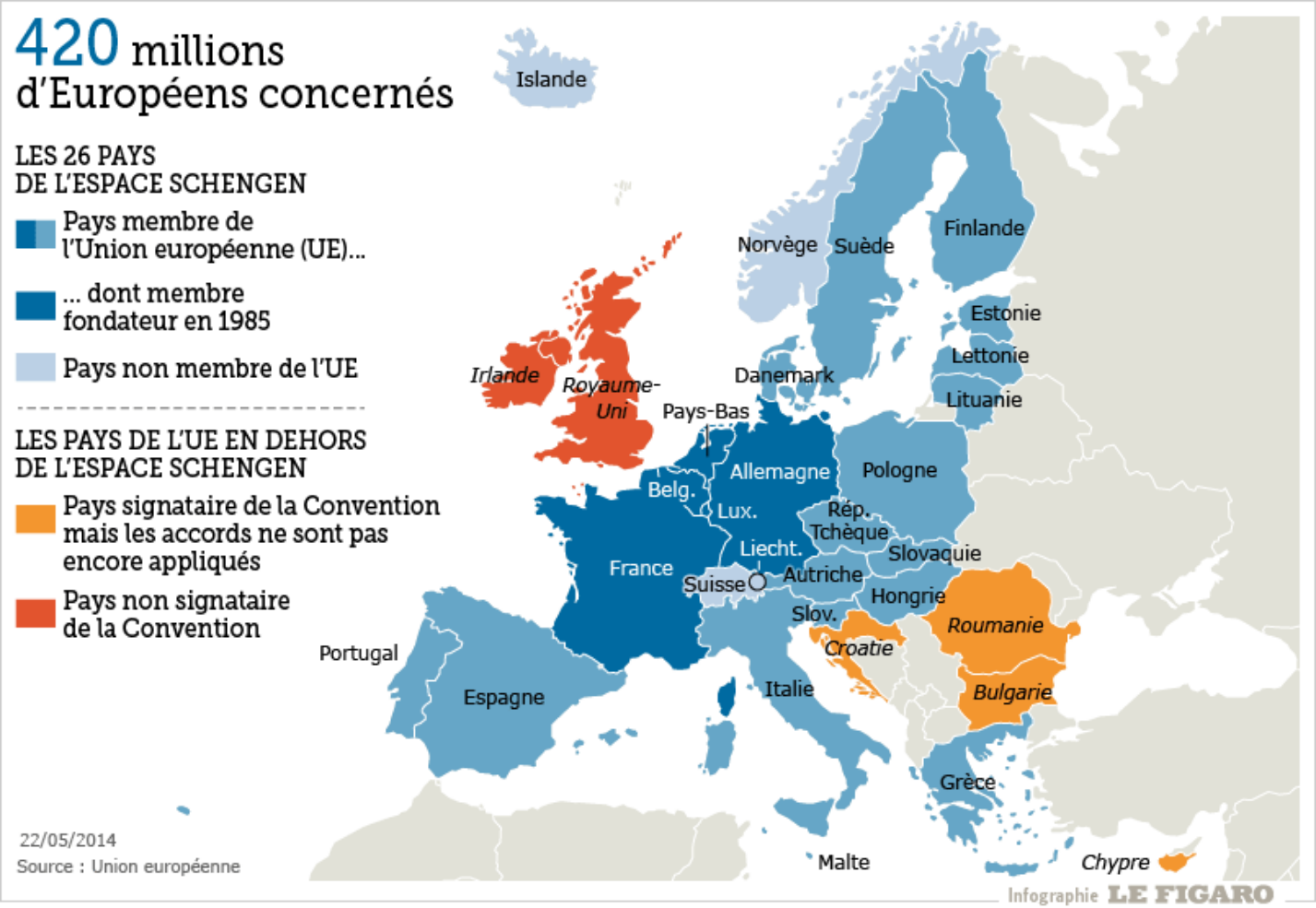
The Schengen area



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The Schengen Borders Code: Regulation (EU) 2016/399

Rules governing the movement of persons across borders

Schengen Borders Code

External borders

1. Crossing of external borders and conditions for entry
2. Control of external borders and refusal of entry
3. Staff and resources for border control and cooperation between Member States
4. Specific rules for border checks

Internal borders

1. Absence of border control at internal borders
2. Temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders

External borders: main elements

Article 6: Entry conditions for third-country nationals

Article 8: Border checks on persons (systematic checks)

Article 14: refusals of entry

Articles 19, 20 and Annexes VI and VII: specific rules for certain type of borders and categories of persons

Internal borders: main elements

Article 22: Absence of border control at internal borders

Article 25-29: temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders

Related acts

Schengen Evaluation Mechanism

Local Border Traffic (see after)

Local Border Traffic:
Council Regulation (EC) No 1931/2006

A derogation from the general rules governing the border control of persons crossing the external borders of Schengen States to facilitate border crossing for **border residents**.

Local Border Traffic: main elements

Allows Member States to conclude **bilateral Agreements with neighbouring third countries** to implement a local border traffic regime.

- LBT permit (validity up to 5 years), with security features
- no visa or stamping needed for permit holder
- border zone= 30 km
- regular crossing needed for example for social, cultural or substantiated economic reasons, or for family reasons
- special BCPs or lanes for LBT permit holders

Local border traffic: examples of agreements in place

- Specific case of **Kaliningrad**: more than 30 km but included in LBT Regulation (suspended unilaterally by Poland on the Polish side)
- Hungary/Ukraine
- Slovakia/Ukraine
- Poland/Ukraine
- Romania/Moldova
- Latvia/Belarus
- Norway-Russian Federation

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Thank you for your attention