

## **SCHENGEN Manifesto. It's time!**

**#ROfit4Schengen**  
**#nomoredoublestandards**

Brussels, 31 May 2021

Honourable Members of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council,  
Dear Ministers,

Just before the publication of the Schengen Package and ahead of your debate within the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council on Schengen Strategy, I would like to draw your attention to a particular situation that needs immediate action from the European Institutions, in particular the European Council. Romania must become a Schengen Member State! **It's time!**

- ❖ **We, who have adopted the European Green Agreement,**
- ❖ **We, who have taken on the common ambitions of reducing net emissions by 2030 by at least 55% compared to 1990 and zero emissions by 2050,**
- ❖ **We, who during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic asked citizens to continue trusting the European Institutions with the management of the health and economic crisis,**
- ❖ **We have also been accepting double standards for citizens outside the Schengen Area.**

I would like to share a video that I personally made on the highway to the Nădlac crossing border, where hundreds of trucks, and implicitly their drivers, must wait at least 24 hours to cross the border control... every day! Recently, we also had the case of a Romanian driver killed in his cabin in France and other situations in which the freedom of movement of European citizens has been seriously violated. When we benefit from the right to free movement, we do not appreciate its value, or we consider that it comes automatically, but for Romanians this right does not exist!

Romania's accession to the Schengen Area is, for Romania, both a right and an obligation: a right deriving from the quality of being a Member State of the European Union, but also an obligation arising from the Act of Accession to the European Union itself.

I am also attaching a link to a local news channel. Whilst the recording is in Romanian, you will be able to see how these trucks are stationed on a section that is 27 km long. Do you think that this situation is part of the solution for achieving the Green Deal?

<https://www.facebook.com/TVAradOfficial/videos/480680706572230/>

*Whereas also the results of the assessment of the impact of a provision in the context of Mobility Package I, published on 18 February 2021 by the European Commission show that the provision of regular return of the vehicle to the Member State of establishment every eight weeks will result in up to 2,9 million tonnes of additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2023, representing an increase of 4,6% on the international road freight emissions in 2023.*

Thank you in advance for taking my appeal into consideration. I hope that WE together can guarantee the right to free movement for ALL the citizens of the European Union and that we do not forget those currently left outside the Schengen Area. **It's time!**

Best regards,

**Gheorghe Falcă**

Member of the European Parliament