



**Declaration of ELEC/LECE - European League for Economic Cooperation/Ligue européenne de la coopération économique - fully supporting the inclusion and application of Schengen to all European Member States**

*ELEC International mid-year Central Council in Lisbon (Oeiras) Portugal, on June 2nd 2023.*

*The Schengen agreement is one of the cornerstones of the EU single market. The enlargement of Schengen is important for the EU as a whole, but especially for the enlargement countries Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania, which have fulfilled all necessary conditions to join the Schengen area. But only Croatia has been allowed to join Schengen. ELEC supports that Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus should be allowed to join Schengen as soon as possible, as this would have positive economic effects, like avoidance of border costs, not only for those countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus) but also for all the Member countries of the Schengen area. Also politically it would give a positive signal that EU cohesion and cooperation functions, which is important, given the war in Europe. ELEC requests the European Council to decide Bulgaria', Romania's and Cyprus' Schengen membership as soon as possible this year.*

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