



# Europe considers suspending the Schengen Agreement

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European leaders are [debating whether to suspend the Schengen Agreement](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/12115654/EU-leaders-consider-two-year-suspension-of-Schengen-rules.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/12115654/EU-leaders-consider-two-year-suspension-of-Schengen-rules.html>) that allows citizens of European Union members to travel without border controls across Europe. The Schengen Agreement permits a two-year suspension under “[exceptional circumstances](http://news.yahoo.com/eu-mulls-partial-schengen-suspension-over-migrant-crisis-204151126.html)” (<http://news.yahoo.com/eu-mulls-partial-schengen-suspension-over-migrant-crisis-204151126.html>). The influx of refugees from the Middle East and North Africa is the exceptional circumstance cited by proponents of suspending the agreement.



([http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/RTX2495Q\\_schengen-e1453995089269.jpg](http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/RTX2495Q_schengen-e1453995089269.jpg))

A street sign marks the beginning of Schengen, Luxembourg  
January 27, 2016. REUTERS/Wolfgang Rattay.

As the graphic below indicates, several countries already have instituted border controls aimed at stopping refugees from entering their countries. Many Europeans and their leaders [believe their sovereignty and future strength](https://www.aei.org/publication/sovereignty-fights-in-europe-and-america/) (<https://www.aei.org/publication/sovereignty-fights-in-europe-and-america/>) are at risk, especially as the [intolerant immigrants exploit the tolerance of](https://www.aei.org/publication/on-immigration-intolerance-and-the-west-fundamental-dilemma/) (<https://www.aei.org/publication/on-immigration-intolerance-and-the-west-fundamental-dilemma/>) citizens. This is pressing, as the expectation is the flow of refugees will increase once the winter ends.

As I've [written previously](https://www.aei.org/publication/the-importance-of-fingerprints-) (<https://www.aei.org/publication/the-importance-of-fingerprints->

[to-americas-security/](#)), the triple combination of (1) weak to non-existent border controls between Europe and the Middle East, (2) the free movement of people under the Schengen Agreement, and (3) security vulnerabilities in America's visa programs heighten the likelihood that terrorists will make it to America to carry out deadly attacks, especially when Daesh is known to possess passport production equipment. With the enormous problems faced in securing their borders and monitoring who is coming and going as [Daesh explicitly targets](#) (<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/26/world/isis-attacks-europe/>) Europe, temporarily suspending Schengen seems a wise move. It would give European countries and the US time to strengthen security measures while slowing the influx of refugees.

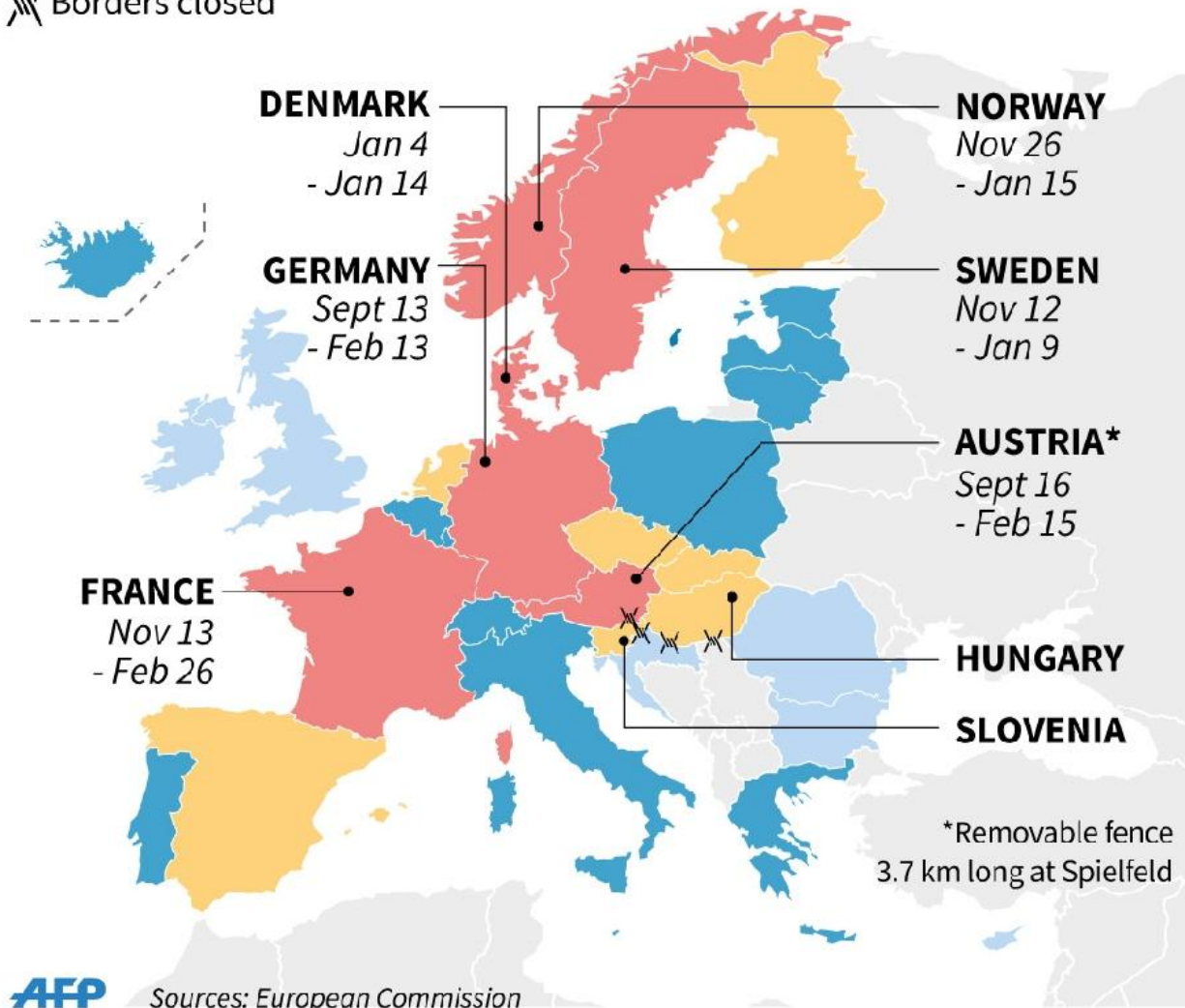
We frankly need all the time we can get.

## The Schengen Area

### Measures taken by countries in response to the influx of migrants

■ Controls re-introduced   
 ■ Selective controls boosted   
 ■ Other members   
 ■ EU non-members

✂ Borders closed



([http://l.yimg.com/bt/api/res/1.2/snSMk7AeCd7VPy9kAP3Ekg--/YXBwaWQ9eW5ld3NfbGVnbztmaT1maWxsO2g9MTAyNDtpbD1wbGFuZTtweW9mZj0wO3E9NzU7dz05NDY-/http://media.zenfs.com/en\\_us/News/afp.com/b2143d9f1baafdede9f22234362b71381d6d464d.jpg](http://l.yimg.com/bt/api/res/1.2/snSMk7AeCd7VPy9kAP3Ekg--/YXBwaWQ9eW5ld3NfbGVnbztmaT1maWxsO2g9MTAyNDtpbD1wbGFuZTtweW9mZj0wO3E9NzU7dz05NDY-/http://media.zenfs.com/en_us/News/afp.com/b2143d9f1baafdede9f22234362b71381d6d464d.jpg))

This article was found online at:

<http://www.aei.org/publication/europe-considers-suspending-the-schengen-agreement/>