

Bulgaria's Monthly News Update!

Deemed to be a significant development

Bulgaria became a full member of the Schengen Area on January 1, 2025. This decision, confirmed by the European Union's interior ministers, marks the culmination of over a decade-long integration process. **The move will eliminate land border controls between Bulgaria and the rest of the Schengen zone, facilitating seamless travel and trade.** European Commission President hailed the decision, emphasizing that it strengthens and unifies Europe.

The accession of Bulgaria to the Schengen Area is expected to have significant economic and social benefits. For Bulgaria, economists from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences estimate a positive financial impact of approximately €800 million annually.

The removal of border checks is anticipated to reduce wait times, lower logistical costs for businesses, and attract foreign investment. Bulgarian Interior Minister highlighted the country's efforts in securing its borders and combating illegal migration as pivotal in achieving this milestone.

This expansion brings the Schengen Area to a total of *29 countries*, encompassing over 4.3 million square kilometers and benefiting more than 400 million people. The inclusion of Bulgaria is seen as a step toward a more secure and competitive Europe, enhancing the principles of free movement and cooperation among member states.

“This is a historic step for Bulgaria, opening doors to seamless travel and stronger economic ties within Europe.”

—William Shakespeare

“William... we died 400 years ago, what are we doing in Bulgarian News?”

—Ben Jonson

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