

SCHENGEN

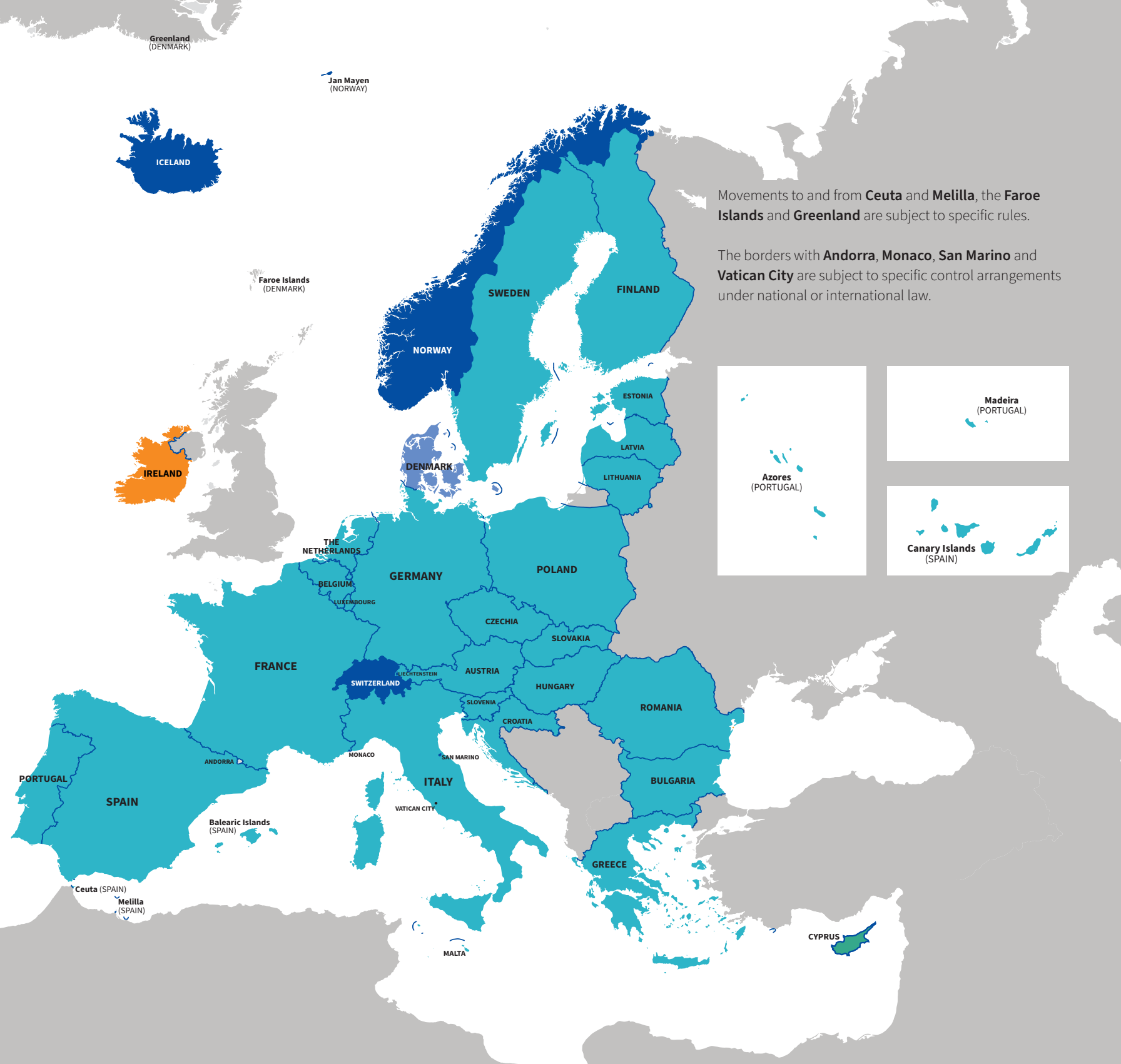
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The Schengen area

- The Schengen *acquis* applies in its entirety to the European territories of the following EU Member States: **Belgium, Bulgaria***, **Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain** (including the **Balearic Islands** and the **Canary Islands**), **France, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal** (including **Madeira** and the **Azores**), **Romania***, **Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland** and **Sweden**.
- **Denmark** has a special position with regard to the application of the Schengen *acquis*. It has to implement the entire Schengen *acquis*, not as EU law but as an obligation under international law. As a consequence, Denmark does not vote when Schengen measures are adopted by the EU.
- **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway** (except Svalbard) and **Switzerland**, which are not Member States, are associated with the implementation of the Schengen *acquis* through association agreements. They have the right to be present and make suggestions during the preparation of Schengen *acquis* acts that are subsequently adopted by the EU institutions. They have to implement all Schengen acts after their adoption by the EU institutions and notify the Council of the European Union accordingly.
- **Cyprus** is bound by the entire Schengen *acquis*. However, it does not yet apply the parts of the *acquis* that concern the absence of controls at internal borders, including visas. The controls at the internal borders with this Member State can be lifted further to a unanimous Council decision.
- **Ireland** does not participate in the Schengen cooperation. However, it may request and be authorised to take part in some parts of the Schengen *acquis* concerning police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Today, Ireland provisionally applies the areas of the Schengen *acquis* in which it has asked to participate, including the Schengen information system related to police cooperation.

* **Bulgaria** and **Romania** have fully applied the Schengen *acquis* since 31 March 2024. Controls at internal air and sea borders with these two Member States were lifted on 31 March 2024. From 1 January 2025, controls at internal land borders with these Member States have been lifted following a unanimous Council decision.



Movements to and from **Ceuta** and **Melilla**, the **Faroe Islands** and **Greenland** are subject to specific rules.

The borders with **Andorra, Monaco, San Marino** and **Vatican City** are subject to specific control arrangements under national or international law.

THE SCHENGEN AREA

Schengen, a small village in Luxembourg close to the border with Germany and France, has become synonymous with the free movement of people in Europe.

The abolition of internal border controls has gone hand in hand with common rules for controlling external borders and reinforced judicial and police cooperation for combating crime.

Each state in the Schengen area is regularly assessed by the EU competent bodies to check that it applies the agreed rules correctly.

The Schengen area without internal border controls currently covers 29* countries, with 25 EU Member States and 4 associated countries that apply the entire Schengen *acquis*.

The external borders of the Schengen area extend over 50 000 km (80 % sea and 20 % land) and include hundreds of airports, maritime ports and land border crossing points.

* Controls at internal air and sea borders with Bulgaria and Romania were lifted on 31 March 2024. From 1 January 2025, controls at internal land borders with these Member States have been lifted following a unanimous Council decision to that effect.





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