

The chairperson of the Committee

You are the Chairperson of the Joint Committee. You want to make sure that Europe has a future, and consider it an honour and an obligation to be entrusted to chair this meeting.

You believe in fairness, and during the meeting you want to try and give everyone the opportunity to speak - and want to prevent anyone from speaking for too long.

You are very worried about the bad opinion of many citizens about Europe, and you hope you can convince enough political party representatives to support the motion, even though it was tabled by the Pirates.

You are a good social democrat, and are always concerned about the impression citizens have about your party.

Committee member on behalf of the Conservative Party

You represent the Conservative Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the European Parliament. You do not believe that the extension of the Schengen area is a good idea at all.

You feel that people from other countries are mostly interested in abusing the benefits your parents and grandparents have worked hard to achieve. You are convinced that the social systems of all Schengen states should only be open to those who have paid taxes for some time. You think tough border-controls are necessary.

You are worried that a space as big as the enlarged Schengen area could become a meeting area for fundamentalists who abuse and undermine democracy.

Committee member on behalf of the Conservative Party

You represent the Conservative Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the Parliamentary Assembly. You are not so sure that the extension of the Schengen area is such a great idea.

You are afraid that people from other countries are mostly interested in benefiting from the social security systems, and that borders cannot just be opened like that. At the same time, you think the worries of your colleague from the European Parliament about fundamentalists are a little bit ridiculous.

Committee member on behalf of the Liberal Party

You represent the Liberal Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the European Parliament. You think the hardcore approach to border-control is completely crazy. You believe in the human rights of every individual. You know the idea of the wider Schengen area is great – after all, the Liberals had the idea first!

But you are never going to admit this in public, just because the Pirate Party was faster. You hope their motion will fail, so that you can re-submit it and be the star of Europe.

Committee member on behalf of the Liberal Party

You represent the Liberal Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the Parliamentary Assembly. You think the hardcore approach to border-control is completely crazy. You believe in the human rights of every individual. You know the idea of the wider Schengen area is great, but are annoyed that the Pirate Party understood that quicker than you.

On the other hand, you really like one of the representatives of the Pirate Party: clever, good-looking and witty. You wish you could make an impression...

Committee member on behalf of the Green Party

You represent the Green Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the European Parliament. You believe that the whole idea of a Schengen area and border-control is complete nonsense – the world consists of global citizens, after all.

On the other hand, if Schengen must exist you think it should definitely be much bigger. You want to make sure though that the smarter and better comments come from you, and not from the Pirate Party people.

Committee member on behalf of the Green Party

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On the other hand, if Schengen must exist you think it should definitely be much bigger. You want to make sure though that the smarter and better comments come from you, and not from the Pirate Party people – or the Green party member from the EU.

Committee member on behalf of the Social Democratic Party

You represent the Social Democratic Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the European Parliament. You are afraid that a bigger Schengen area would lead to an overload of the social systems.

At the same time you know that the public wants Schengen to include all of Europe, and you fear that a negative position would lead to a loss of votes. You think that border controls could be softened a little.

You are a little bit at a loss of what to do, and want to observe the meeting to join the side that is winning the argument.

Committee member on behalf of the Social Democratic Party

You represent the Social Democratic Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the Parliamentary Assembly. You are a little afraid that a bigger Schengen area would lead to an overload of the social systems, but your trade union friends have promised it will be ok.

You know very well that the public wants Schengen to include all of Europe, and you fear that a negative position would lead to a loss of votes. You think that border controls must be softened and become more humane and social.

You are a little bit annoyed by your European Parliament colleague, who seems to be a total coward.

Committee member on behalf of the Pirate Party

You represent the Pirate Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the European Parliament. You tabled the motion, and believe that a wider Schengen area is absolutely essential for the future of Europe. You will try everything in your power to make sure the recommendation of the Joint Committee will be positive.

Committee member on behalf of the Pirate Party

You represent the Pirate Party on the Joint Committee. Originally, you are a member of the Parliamentary Assembly. You tabled the motion, and believe that a wider Schengen area is absolutely essential for the future of Europe. You will try everything in your power to make sure the recommendation of the Joint Committee will be positive.

Civil society representative from the Cosmopolitan Youth Movement (CYM)

You represent the Cosmopolitan Youth Movement (CYM) at this hearing. You believe that no one should die at a border, and are convinced a wider Schengen area is a necessity. You believe it is the next step to a truly global citizenship. You would do anything to convince the members of the Joint Committee.

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Civil society representative: Communitarian Youth Network (CYN)

You represent the Communitarian Youth Network (CYN) at this hearing. You are convinced a wider Schengen area is total nonsense. You believe the only important identity is local – your community is what truly counts. You would do anything to convince the members of the Joint Committee.

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Civil society representative: Erasmus for All Association (EFAA)

You represent the Erasmus for All Association (EFAA) at this hearing. You are absolutely disgusted by deaths at the borders of Europe. You are convinced a wider Schengen area is inevitable. You don't understand what can be so complicated about understanding that.

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Civil society representative: European Values Organisation (EVO)

You represent the European Values Organisation (EVO) at this hearing. You are convinced that a wider Schengen area is dangerous, because so many people do not share the same European values. You think border controls are necessary to prevent terrorism. You hope you can prevent the Joint Committee from a silly mistake.

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Civil society representative: European Minority Youth Umbrella Network (EMYUN)

You represent the European Minority Youth Umbrella Network (EMYUN) at this hearing. You are afraid that a wider Schengen area would just let everyone forget about the serious problems of immigrants and minorities in the current Schengen countries. You think it's sad how many people die on their way to Europe. You hope that the Joint Committee won't do anything overly rushed.

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Expert on Global Economy

You are the expert on economic issues invited by the Joint Committee. You know that theories and data support either position on this Schengen area extension, and you are keen on presenting both sides of the medal. It is clear that quicker access to goods, services and people are always useful, economically. At the same time, it's crucial that new jobs can not only be for low-wage workers.

Expert on Migration

You are the expert on migration issues invited by the Joint Committee. You know that migration theories and data support this Schengen area extension, and you are keen on presenting that conclusion. It is clear that today's ageing Europe needs migration to survive. It is equally clear that the people who migrate are often very, very different from those others had hoped would migrate. You are a little bit annoyed that politicians have still not understood that migration and integration go hand in hand.

Expert on Inclusion

You are the expert on inclusion issues invited by the Joint Committee. You know that theories and data support either position on this Schengen area extension, and you are keen on presenting both sides of the medal. It is clear that cultural diversity grows through intercultural travel and contact. At the same time, nothing will really change unless the education system is tackled. You are concerned that without changing education, a wider Schengen area will create more fears than hopes among most people.