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## ROMANIA, BULGARIA TO FULLY JOIN OPEN-BORDERS SCHENGEN AREA FROM JANUARY - ROMANIAN PM

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Reuters (19 November 2024)

Romania and Bulgaria will fully join Europe's open-borders Schengen area from January 2025 after a crucial meeting in neighbouring Hungary on Friday, Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu said on Monday.

European Union and NATO members Romania and Bulgaria entered the 29-country Schengen area by air and sea in March after reaching a partial agreement with Austria, which had initially opposed their joining saying illegal immigration was still too high and that the two countries needed to do more to prevent it.

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