

PRESS RELEASE

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Over 100 academics and former EU Commissioners file a formal complaint against the European Commission over its inaction on Italy–Spain border checks, renewed again today

Signatories include former Commissioners Josep Borrell, Laszlo Andor, Joaquín Almunia, Nicolas Schmit and former MEP Sophie in 't Veld

Brussels, 1 October 2026 - The Good Lobby lodged a formal complaint with the European Commission alleging its failure to protect the Schengen free-travel zone, by tolerating the reintroduction of border controls by the Italian and Spanish governments in the absence of any real threat. Since 1 August, hundreds of thousands of travellers between Italy and Spain have faced internal border checks, and they still do. Workers, students, families and patients are paying for a dispute between two governments over the fallout from Ceuta. Neither government has shown the serious threat to public policy or internal security that EU law requires. No one who entered Ceuta reached mainland Spain or any other member state, and departures from Ceuta are already subject to identity and document checks.

The complaint, written by Professor **Alberto Alemanno**, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law at HEC Paris, is co-signed by over 100 academics - from Jan-Werner Mueller and Kim Lane Scheppele (Princeton) to Paul Craig (Oxford), as well as former EU Commissioners including **Josep Borrell, Laszlo Andor, Joaquín Almunia, Nicolas Schmit**, as well as **Sophie 'in t Veld**, former MEP. The complaint asks the Commission to meet the supervisory obligations it holds under the Schengen Border Code, and open an infringement proceeding against Italy, Spain and Austria, which has also justified its border checks with reference to the Ceuta situation.

“That failure is part of a wider pattern: there are more EU governments that have reintroduced internal border checks and kept them, with no real justification, than those that have not; and the Commission has let them”, stated Professor Alemanno.

As former Commissioner Schmit declared: “This is not only about Schengen, as the Commission has a precise obligation to ensure the application of European law. This is not a choice but one of its most important obligations. Renouncing to fully implement this role would not only harm European citizens' rights it would weaken dangerously the European legal order”.

[Read the complaint here.](#)

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