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**COMMUNIQUE OF MAGYAR TURIZMUS ZRT.
ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TOURIST TRAFFIC AFTER THE
SCHENGEN ACCESSION**

On November 15, 2007 the European Parliament approved the accession of the Schengen area of Hungary and eight other European Union member states (Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia). Under this decision, on December 21, 2007 the Schengen achievements will be put in practice in nine additional member states and border controls will cease on land and water borders. The accession of the Schengen area in the respect of air transport will be complete on March 30, 2008 when the airlines will switch to the summer timetable.

In terms of road, water and railway transport, accession of the Schengen area means that you can cross the borders of the member states that have accessed the Schengen area without stopping for border controls. In practice this means that you do not encounter any form of border controls, and may simply drive through when crossing an internal Schengen border. You can cross the internal borders of the Schengen area not only on the existing border crossing points, but just anywhere where it is physically possible to pass to the other country.

Special rules apply to **air transport**. In air transport, the airports of Hungary and the eight other countries that access the Schengen area together with Hungary, will become part of the Schengen Area on March 30, 2008, which means that border controls will be maintained at the airports until that date.

The single biggest change affecting **visa policy** is that, following Hungary's full accession of the Schengen area, in the respect of stays not exceeding 90 days, the visa and residence permits issued by the Schengen member states will be valid for Hungary too, at the same time the uniform Schengen visas issued by Hungary's official representations abroad will also be valid in the entire Schengen area.

More information about the Schengen accession can be found on the Internet sites of the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement (www.irm.gov.hu) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.kulugyminiszterium.hu), as well as on the leaflets available at the border crossing points, police stations and the customer service points of the Immigration and Citizenship Office.

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