

**Outline Presentation on
„Possible Scenarios after the Schengen Crisis: A new Schengen à la carte?”
GLOBSEC roundtable on Schengen zone and EU Migration Policy
2-3 March 2020, Bratislava**

The border-free Schengen area is one of the EU's most tangible achievements in the history of European integration. Yet, ever since the migration crisis of 2015-2016 its functioning is increasingly at risk as some Member States have reintroduced, and continue to uphold, internal border controls. In the shadow of the 2015-2016 Schengen crisis, the initial temporary reintroduction of internal border controls seems to have produced a permanent differentiation among Schengen area countries, raising important questions with regard to the area's future and the possibility of a rather undesirable Schengen à la carte.

Against this backdrop, the presentation links to the second topic of the roundtable and discusses three conceivable scenarios for the future of Schengen: *worse*; *different but better*; and *more of the same but better*.¹ First, the negative effects displayed by the Schengen crisis might lead to a slow disintegration of the Schengen area as such (*worse*). Second, differentiation within the Schengen area leads to new negotiations in the related policies, determining the development of a Schengen à la carte (*different but better?*). Third, differentiated dynamics and partial internal border controls will be maintained while mutual reform solutions are negotiated in view to restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen area (*more of the same but better*). Each of these scenarios is constructed by looking at three possible groups of factors respectively, namely potential renationalisation of migration policies and supranational political impasse for the first scenario; critical uncertainties (possible Dublin reform) and a new 'division in unity' principle as potential drivers of a Schengen à la carte; and finally, falling number of migrants entering the EU and decreasing security threats for the third scenario. By drawing these three possible scenarios, the presentation aims at understanding current and future dynamics defining the Schengen area of free movement as well as (differentiated) integration in the migration and asylum policy in general.

¹ These three scenarios are drawn based on Schwartz's (1996) approach (see Peter Schwartz (1996) 'The Art of the Long View: Paths to Strategic Insight for Yourself and Your Company', Currency Doubleday).