

'The Community method of border management'.

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Under international law, states only need to justify their immigration policy towards their own citizens. EU member states however find themselves in a different position. They share control over access to their territory with each other and with the community institutions. Cooperation that started out as a byproduct of the free market project quickly turned into a security project, and should now be converted into a genuine area of freedom, security and justice. This paper will describe the immigration related instruments that have been and will be adopted in this area. These instruments will be analyzed in search of the constitutional architecture and legitimization of European immigration control. The three main trends that will be discussed are: a strong focus on operational cooperation and coordination, cautious steps towards centralization and harmonization and the search for a non-nationalistic immigration rationale.