

Subject: Important information to carriers (air, sea and coach carriers) transporting passengers into the Schengen area

Dear Colleagues,

In the near future, the EU will introduce new border systems. The new Entry-Exit system (EES) will apply to all third-country nationals travelling to the Schengen area. The European Travel Information and Authorisation system (ETIAS) will apply to all visa-free travellers travelling to the Schengen area.

The EES is an automated IT system for registering travellers from third-countries, both short-stay visa holders and visa exempt travellers, each time they cross an EU external border. The EES will replace the current system of manual stamping of passports. The EES will most likely enter into operation after summer 2022. ETIAS is a largely automated IT system created to identify security, irregular migration or high epidemic risks posed by visa-exempt visitors travelling to the Schengen States. Non-EU nationals who do not need a short-stay visa to travel to the Schengen area will have to apply for a travel authorisation through the ETIAS system prior to their trip. ETIAS will most likely enter into operation in Spring 2023. Further information about the two systems can be found [here](#)¹ (EES) and [here](#)² (ETIAS).

I am writing to bring to your attention that the EES and ETIAS systems will also bring changes and new requirements for airlines and other carriers transporting passengers to the Schengen area. In order to fulfil your obligations under Article 26 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement, as of the entry into operation of the EES and ETIAS, carriers (air carriers, sea carriers and international carriers transporting groups overland by coach) should use a carrier interface to verify before boarding whether visa-required non-EU nationals holding a short-stay visa have already used the number of entries authorised by their visa. They should also verify whether visa-exempt non-EU nationals are in possession of a valid ETIAS travel authorisation. Carriers need to register with the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) and follow specified procedures in order to connect to and be able to use the carrier interface.

Detailed instruction and further information is available on the eu-LISA website: [Carriers website](#)

To start the registration procedure, please download and fill in the Registration Form and send it to: carriers_onboarding@eulisa.europa.eu

In case of questions please do not hesitate to contact eu-LISA by e-mail at: carriers_onboarding@eulisa.europa.eu (kindly please also CC management-board@eulisa.europa.eu).

¹ [Entry-Exit System \(europa.eu\)](#)

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/smart-borders/entry-exit-system_en

² [European Travel Information Authorisation System \(europa.eu\)](#)

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/smart-borders/european-travel-information-authorisation-system_en