



Conclusions

1st meeting of the informal ad hoc Working Group for Carriers

On 4 June 2019, the European Commission together with the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) hosted the first informal ad hoc meeting of the Working Group (WG) for carriers, with representatives of their associations. A total of forty (40) participants attended the meeting; Further to carriers' associations, four (4) Member States (Belgium, the Czech Republic, France and Germany) as well as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA/Frontex) were also present at the meeting.

Carriers' associations, representing the air, sea and land passenger transport industries, were provided with an overview of the key elements in the recently adopted EU Regulations establishing the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS).

Carriers' obligations stemming from the new legal framework as well as on expected technical and operational preparations were also explained. Special attention was given to the transitional and grace periods and measures related to those periods provided for in the ETIAS Regulation. It was highlighted that the main purpose of the new border management legislation was to facilitate border control and that within the applicable legal framework the most suitable and "convenient" solutions for all types of carriers would be identified.

Participants also took note of the approach for the future Implementing Regulations for carriers that are to be adopted by the European Commission soon. Carrier associations were provided with generic information on the technical implementation, while key milestones and the necessary connectivity and compliance testing phases were emphasised.

Once ETIAS will be operational, individual carriers can rely on technical and business support to be provided by eu-LISA and EBCGA/Frontex respectively. However, said support and the entry into operation of the EES and ETIAS will not change the carriers' current obligations to make the final decision on whether a passenger is allowed to board or not. It was highlighted that carriers should notify and provide their passengers with the necessary information about new boarding procedures in advance.

The meeting was concluded with the identification of the following next steps:

- eu-LISA will regularly report on the activities of the WG for carriers to its governance bodies (the EES-ETIAS Advisory Group/AG, EES and ETIAS Programme Management Boards/PMBs in particular);
- eu-LISA and the European Commission will publish the results of this meeting;
- eu-LISA and the European Commission will assess the document sharing method amongst the participants of the Working Group;
- eu-LISA will prepare Action and Risk Logs to facilitate proper monitoring and follow-up of future activities;
- Carriers are invited to come back with particular concerns, questions or any feedback by 25 June sending an email to management-board@eulisa.europa.eu or HOME-SMART-BORDERS@ec.europa.eu (on policy and legal matters);
- Next meeting is still to be planned with the possible proposal to divide the policy/political meetings from the technical ones.