

Carriers Working Group of 5 November 2024

Summary

Subject: Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting

Sea and Land Carriers at 10:00– 12:00 CET

Participants: Carriers representing sea and land industry, their declared service providers, carrier associations, European Commission (DG HOME), Member State (MS) experts, Frontex and eu-LISA (altogether 91 participants).

<p>1. Introduction</p> <p>a. Agenda</p> <p>b. Carriers meeting calendar</p>	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 37th Carriers Working Group (CWG) and the calendar of the upcoming meetings to the participants.</p> <p>The CWG reviewed the schedule for upcoming meetings, noting the dates through December 2024, with the next session set for December 3rd. Updates on meeting dates for 2025 will be provided when available.</p>
<p>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</p>	<p>The European Commission provided the CWG with an update on the EES EiO. It was announced that the initial target date of November 10th will not be met, as three Member States (MS) have not declared readiness. Consequently, the Commission cannot provide a fixed start date for EES operation, though it is unlikely to commence before Q2 2025. During the JHA Council meeting on October 10th, MS supported the assessment of a progressive approach to the EES implementation. A very targeted proposal for a revision of the legal framework is currently under preparation by the European Commission in order to support a progressive approach for the start for EES. Under this progressive approach, national authorities would continue stamping passports as EES individual files would be incomplete. Carriers will continue to rely on stamping information during this period. The Commission is considering allowing Carriers to query the interface during this phase, but it would not be mandatory due to the incomplete EES data.</p> <p>As to ETIAS, its entry into operation will take place after EES. The Commission is evaluating the impact of the progressive approach towards</p>

	<p>ETIAS implementation and will provide updates on the timeline once the assessment is finalised.</p> <p>The Commission also addressed inquiries from the land transport industry concerning the implementation of the Schengen Border Code. The Code sets entry conditions for Third-Country Nationals (TCNs), including a short-stay visa requirement for those who are visa-exempt and intend to stay for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. The upcoming EES does not alter these entry rules; it simply replaces the manual stamping of passports with electronic records. Notably, there is no exemption in the Schengen Border Code for drivers. This means that Third-Country drivers traveling for more than 90 days within a 180-day period must obtain the appropriate travel authorisation, such as a D visa or residence permit, to work and travel for longer durations.</p> <p>Finally, the European Commission explained that, due to recent developments, the EES information campaign has been put on hold and the campaign materials will be adapted to the new go-live timeframe. Carriers who have not yet expressed interest in receiving these materials are encouraged to do so by contacting the Commission at HOME-EES-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu to ensure they stay informed.</p>
<p>3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</p>	<p>eu-LISA updated the CWG on Carrier Implementation Figures as of November 2024. Currently, there are 676 Carriers registered for System-to-System connectivity and 513 for the Mobile App and Web Portal.</p> <p>Carriers were reminded that maintaining momentum is essential, and all Carriers should continue their preparations. It was noted that, for those Carriers who may not yet feel fully prepared, the time available now should be used to complete all necessary steps to ensure readiness for production. Carriers were reminded that any outstanding documentation should be reviewed, and connectivity and testing processes should be initiated, as repeated reminders have been issued about missing forms. The message reinforced that preparations must not stop so that, once the entry into operation date is announced, all Carriers are prepared.</p>
<p>4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates and sea scenarios (Frontex)</p>	<p>Frontex updated the CWG regarding the latest version of the FAQ and the Sea and Land Scenarios documents. Those documents have been recently updated with enhanced graphic design for improved readability and presentation. The Sea Scenarios and Land Scenarios now feature a refreshed look to better support Carriers in navigating specific procedures related to ETIAS requirements.</p> <p>Please refer to the following links: Frequently Asked Questions in support of all carriers (europa.eu) Sea Scenarios Land Scenarios</p>

	<p>It was also announced that the FAQ will be updated when the progressive approach is clarified and that a dedicated session for sea carriers to discuss relevant scenarios will be organised by Frontex until the end of the year. For operational queries, Carriers were invited to contact Frontex at etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu.</p>
6. Q&A	<p>During the Q&A session, eu-LISA, the Commission and Frontex addressed several topics and responded to questions posed by Carriers on various operational and technical topics, such as the progressive approach (biometric collection, impact on the EiO of ETIAS) and EES EiO.</p>

Carriers Working Group of 5 November 2024

Summary

Subject: Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting

Air Carriers at 13:30– 16:00 CET

Participants: Carriers representing air industry, their declared service providers, Carrier associations, European Commission (DG HOME), Member State (MS) experts, Frontex and eu-LISA (altogether 225 participants).

<p>1. Introduction</p> <p>a. Agenda</p> <p>b. Carriers meeting calendar</p>	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 37th Carriers Working Group (CWG) and the calendar of the upcoming meetings to the participants.</p> <p>The CWG reviewed the schedule for upcoming meetings, noting the dates through December 2024, with the next session set for December 3rd. Updates on meeting dates for 2025 will be provided when available.</p>
<p>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</p>	<p>The European Commission provided the CWG with an update on the EES EiO. It was announced that the initial target date of November 10th will not be met, as three Member States (MS) have not declared readiness. Consequently, the Commission cannot provide a fixed start date for EES operation, though it is unlikely to commence before Q22025.</p> <p>During the JHA Council meeting on October 10th, MS supported the assessment of a progressive approach to EES implementation. A very targeted proposal for a revision of the legal framework is currently under preparation by the European Commission in order to support a progressive approach for the start of EES. Under this progressive approach, national authorities would continue stamping passports as EES individual file would be incomplete. Carriers will continue to rely on stamping information during this period. The Commission is considering giving the possibility to the</p>

	<p>Carriers to query the interface during this phase, but it would not be mandatory due to the incomplete EES data.</p> <p>As to ETIAS, its entry into operation will take place after EES. The Commission is evaluating the impact of the progressive approach towards ETIAS implementation and will be able to provide updates on the timeline once the assessment is finalised.</p> <p>Finally, the European Commission explained that, due to recent developments, the EES information campaign has been put on hold and the campaign materials will be adapted to the new go-live timeframe. Carriers who have not yet expressed interest in receiving these materials are encouraged to do so by contacting the Commission at HOME-EES-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu to ensure they stay informed.</p> <p>Carriers raised concerns regarding the timing of EES implementation, especially as the potential start date in spring or Q2 2025 coincides with the busy summer travel season. The Commission reassured Carriers that they are mindful of the travel peak season and aim to minimize any operational disruptions.</p> <p>Regarding the request to address specific regulatory issues, such as provisions for crew members without a CMC, the Commission clarified that the upcoming revision of the legal framework for the progressive approach will be very targeted and that the CMC issue will be out of the scope of this revision. However, they emphasised that these concerns have been noted, and the issue was brought forward in a recent high-level meeting with the airlines association and the transport industry, ensuring the matter is well understood at higher levels of the Commission.</p>
<p>3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</p>	<p>eu-LISA updated the CWG on Carrier Implementation Figures as of November 2024. Currently, there are 676 Carriers registered for System-to-System connectivity and 513 for the Mobile App and Web Portal.</p> <p>eu-LISA addressed comments about low training engagement on the web portal, noting that the training materials provided include comprehensive carrier technical guidelines and FAQs developed over the years, covering the use of the interface, scope of passengers, and access procedures.</p> <p>eu-LISA emphasised that the web portal interface is straightforward, allowing Carriers to check traveller statuses easily. Carriers were reminded that while eu-LISA supports training with technical resources and presentations, Carriers are responsible for adapting the training to their unique business models and routes. They encouraged Carriers to reach out via email if specific scenarios or content in the provided materials require further clarification to better support staff training.</p>

	<p>Carriers were reminded that maintaining momentum is essential, and all Carriers should continue their preparations.</p>
<p>4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates (Frontex)</p>	<p>Frontex updated the CWG on the latest version of the FAQ, which now feature updated graphic design to enhance clarity and usability. These updates are intended to support Carriers in understanding and applying ETIAS requirements more effectively.</p> <p>Frequently Asked Questions in support of all carriers</p> <p>It was also announced that the FAQ will be updated once the progressive approach is clarified.</p> <p>For operational queries, Carriers were invited to contact Frontex at etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu.</p>
<p>5. Q&A</p>	<p>During the Q&A session, eu-LISA, the Commission and Frontex addressed several topics and responded to further questions posed by Carriers on the crew members without CMC or the interpretation and the implications of the progressive approach.</p>