

## Carriers Working Group of 3 July 2025

### Summary

**Subject: Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting**

**Sea and Land Carriers at 10:00– 12:00 CEST**

**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 68 participants).

<b>1. Introduction</b>  <b>a. Agenda</b> <b>b. Carriers meeting calendar</b>	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 44<sup>th</sup> Carriers Working Group (CWG) to the participants.</p> <p>The CWG reviewed the schedule for the upcoming meeting, noting the date for the next session scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</p>
<b>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</b>	<p>The European Commission informed the community about the high-level meeting with the carriers' associations held on July 1<sup>st</sup> and about the updates provided in that forum including the milestones reached in the last weeks.</p> <p>The Commission explained that the Declaration of Readiness (DoR) from each Member State (MS) is a legal prerequisite for the Commission to set a date for the start of operations of EES. It was confirmed that Commission received in June the remaining DoRs. Moreover, eu-LISA notified the Commission confirming resilience of the system, hence all the legal prerequisites are fulfilled which allows the Commission to adopt the Decision for the start of operations of EES. The latter step will take place during the second half of July.</p> <p>The Commission highlighted that during the last Justice and Home (JHA) Council meeting, it was proposed to start operation of EES on October 12, 2025. Therefore, the MS, eu-LISA and the Commission are working towards this date which will be formally adopted at the end of July. It was outlined that several elements raised by the MS and the carriers were taken into account when considering this date. MS are currently working on the operational, technical and legal aspects of EES at national level to ensure all these elements are in place for the successful start of operations.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, regarding the information campaign, the Commission foresees its launch one month before the start of operations of the EES. The Commission is currently adapting the campaign materials to reflect the progressive start of the EES, and it was confirmed that materials dedicated to carriers will be shared with the community once the update is finalised.</p>
<b>3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</b>	<p>eu-LISA updated the CWG on the latest Carrier Implementation Figures and on the status of the different implementation areas.</p> <p>An overview of the S2S CT for carriers and Service Providers was presented.</p> <p>For the web portal and the mobile application, eu-LISA informed that the progress regarding the staff training is not satisfactory and reminded the community the importance of completing this phase to ensure the carriers receive the necessary credentials once the EES goes live. The carriers who have not completed all the necessary forms, , were urged to provide the necessary documentation so they can advance in their preparations.</p>
<b>4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates and sea scenarios (Frontex)</b>	<p>Frontex informed the CWG that the review cycle of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was completed. It was announced that 45 Carriers provided feedback to the document. Frontex will continue working on the SOP updates and the COBST testing activity.</p> <p>Furthermore, the community received an update on the sea crew members and the Carrier Interface queries topic. The focus of the presentation was on the contracts of employment and Carrier Interface (CI) queries, the Carriers' systems and their relationship to CI queries and the bulk queries to the Carrier Interface.</p> <p>The CWG noted Frontex's guidance on several sea crew members scenarios such as entering Schengen first by air and then by sea; embarking in Schengen and disembarking in non-Schengen territory; embarking and disembarking in non-Schengen territory; embarking in a non-Schengen and disembarking in Schengen territory.</p> <p>For operational queries, Carriers were directed to contact Frontex at <a href="mailto:etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu">etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu</a>.</p>
<b>6. Q&amp;A</b>	<p>During the Q&amp;A session, eu-LISA, the Commission and Frontex addressed several topics and responded to questions posed by Carriers on various legislative, operational and technical topics, such as the timeline of the EES progressive start of operations, the Commission's information campaign, the sea crew member scenarios and the SOP document.</p>

# Carriers Working Group of 3 July 2025

## Summary

**Subject: Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting**

**Air Carriers at 13:30– 16:00 CEST**

**Participants:** Carriers representing air industry, their declared service providers, Carrier associations, European Commission (DG HOME), Member State (MS) experts, Frontex and eu-LISA (altogether 140 participants).

<b>1. Introduction</b>  <b>a. Agenda</b> <b>b. Carriers meeting calendar</b>	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 44<sup>th</sup> Carriers Working Group (CWG) to the participants.</p> <p>The CWG reviewed the schedule for the upcoming meeting, noting the date for the next session scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</p>
<b>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</b>	<p>The European Commission informed the community about the high-level meeting with the carriers' associations held on July 1<sup>st</sup> and about the updates provided in that forum including the milestones reached in the last weeks. The Commission explained that the Declaration of Readiness (DoR) from each Member State (MS) is a legal prerequisite for the Commission to set a date for the start of operations of EES. It was confirmed that Commission received in June the remaining DoRs. Moreover, eu-LISA notified the Commission confirming resilience of the system, hence all the legal prerequisites are fulfilled which allow the Commission to adopt the Decision for the start of operations of EES. The latter step will take place during the second half of July.</p> <p>The Commission highlighted that during the last Justice and Home (JHA) Council meeting, it was proposed to start operation of EES on October 12, 2025. Therefore, the MS, eu-LISA and the Commission are working towards this date which will be formally adopted at the end of July.</p> <p>It was outlined that several elements raised by the MS and the carriers were taken into account when considering this date. MS are currently working on the operational, technical and legal aspects of EES at national level to ensure all these elements are in place for the successful start of operations.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, regarding the information campaign, the Commission foresees its launch one month before the start of operations of the EES. The Commission is currently adapting the campaign materials to reflect the progressive start of the EES, and it was confirmed that materials dedicated to carriers will be shared with the community once the update is finalised.</p> <p>Moreover, the Commission clarified some elements regarding the Crew Member Certificate (CMC) topic and carriers' obligations related to queries of their crew members in the CI. The Commission highlighted that, once the EES is in operation, the carriers need to verify in the carrier interface only crew members who are required to hold a single or double entry visas for the performance of their duty as crew members. The crew members who are exempted from the visa requirement requested by the EU MS of destination do not need to be queried in the CI. The crew members who do not hold a CMC need to be registered in EES by the MS border authorities regardless of their visa-required or visa-exempt status.</p>
<b>3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</b>	<p>eu-LISA updated the CWG on the latest Carrier Implementation Figures and on the status of the different implementation areas.</p> <p>An overview of the S2S CT for carriers and Service Providers was presented. Concerns were raised on some community members who are encountering connectivity challenges. Those carriers who need to plan their CT were advised to make the necessary arrangements for the next month.</p> <p>For the web portal and the mobile application, eu-LISA informed that the progress regarding the staff training is not satisfactory and reminded the community the importance of completing this phase to ensure the carriers receive the necessary credentials once the EES goes live. It was highlighted that several carriers have still not completed the Security Convention form, which is preventing them from receiving access to the environments.</p> <p>The CWG was reminded to provide input on the list of the travel documents to be considered as eligible and accepted by the CI. It was also outlined that the travel documents to be transmitted in the query need to have a visa/ETIAS linked to it. Secondly, eu-LISA requested carriers to send concrete PAXLST messages with LOC 92 for itineraries like JFK-AMS-FCO-LCA so they can be incorporated in the new version of the test scenarios.</p>
<b>4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates (Frontex)</b>	<p>Frontex informed the CWG that the review cycle of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was completed. It was announced that 45 Carriers provided feedback to the document. Frontex will continue working on the SOP updates and the COBST testing activity.</p> <p>For operational queries, Carriers were directed to contact Frontex at <a href="mailto:etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu">etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu</a>.</p>

5. Q&A	During the Q&A session, eu-LISA, the Commission and Frontex addressed several matters and responded to further questions on several aspects of the CMC topic and carriers' obligations related to queries of their crew members in the CI, travel documents to be queried by the CI, the SOP document with its processes/procedures including the roles of the actors involved.
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