

Carriers Working Group of 29 September 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 83 participants).

1. Introduction a. Agenda b. Carriers meeting calendar	eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 46th Carriers Working Group (CWG) to the participants. The CWG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with the dates of upcoming meetings until December 2025. The next CWG meeting is scheduled for the 24 of October 2025. Ad hoc meetings can be organised upon request, however, eu-LISA kindly requested to share the discussion topics in advance.
2. Legal updates (European Commission)	The Carrier community was informed anew about the upcoming EES Entry into Operations (EiO) on 12 October 2025, the practical aspects concerning the carriers and related milestones, and the carriers' obligations until October 2026. The carriers were reminded that they may start using the Carrier Interface as of 9 January 2026 on a voluntary basis. Carriers can choose in the voluntary period how and for which MS bound itineraries they will use the Carrier Interface. The obligation to query the Carrier Interface (CI) will start as of 10 April 2026. From 12 October 2025 until 6 October 2026 (included) the carriers shall keep verifying the stamps affixed in the travel documents. As of October 7, 2026, checking the stamps will no longer be mandatory. Member States (MS) will continue stamping the passports during the progressive start of operations of EES. The EES information campaign materials have been made available to carriers on 8 September and the information campaign started on 15 September 2025.

	The Commission has encouraged the carrier industry to establish communication with the MS to be aware of how national authorities will roll-out the EES.
3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)	eu-LISA updated the CWG on the latest Carrier Implementation Figures and on the status of the different implementation areas. An overview of the S2S CT for carriers and Service Providers was presented. For the web portal and the mobile application, eu-LISA informed that the progress regarding the staff training is not adequately advanced and reminded the community of 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. As next steps, the carrier community was informed about the one-to-one meetings to be scheduled for Systems with delays in the implementation process. Furthermore, one of the Agency's targets is to complete the connectivity activities with PRD environments (CU and BCU) in the upcoming period. eu-LISA recommended to start using the production system as of the 9 of January 2026 and gradually prepare for full-scale operations. Finally, the Agency presented a demo of the Carriers Onboarding and Support Tool (COBST) and informed about the possibility for participation of the carriers in a COBST trial period as of 6 October until 20 October 2025.
4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates and sea scenarios (Frontex)	Frontex recalled the community that as of the 9 of January 2026, carriers may use the Carrier Interface voluntarily. The Assistance Centre Unit (ACU) of Frontex will be ready to assist carriers from this day, 24/7 in COBST (Carrier Onboarding and Support Tool). Furthermore, the ACU will also start as of October 12, 2025, offering support to travellers who are using the Travel to Europe app. Finally, it was underlined that ad hoc meetings can be organised upon request for carriers in different time zones as of October 12, 2025. Carriers were directed to contact Frontex at etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu
5. Q&A	During the Q&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 national roll-out plans and a central coordination mechanism for informing the community, the Commission's information campaign and the COBST.

Carriers Working Group of 29 September 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 172 participants).

1. Introduction a. Agenda b. Carriers meeting calendar	eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 46th Carriers Working Group (CWG) to the participants. The CWG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with the dates of upcoming meetings until December 2025. The next CWG meeting is scheduled for the 24th of October 2025. Ad-hoc meetings can be organised upon request, however, eu-LISA kindly requested to share the discussion topics in advance.
2. Legal updates (European Commission)	The Carrier community was informed anew about the upcoming EES Entry into Operations (EiO) on 12 October 2025, and about the practical aspects concerning the carriers and related milestones, and the carriers' obligations until October 2026. The carriers were reminded that they may start using the Carrier Interface as of 9 January 2026 on a voluntary basis. Carriers can choose in the voluntary period how and for which MS bound itineraries they will use the Carrier Interface. The obligation to query the Carrier Interface (CI) will start as of 10 April 2026. From 12 October 2025 until 6 October 2026 (included) the carriers shall verify the stamps affixed in the travel documents. As of October 7, 2026, checking the stamps will no longer be mandatory. Member States (MS) will continue stamping the passports during the progressive start of operations of EES. The EES information campaign materials for carriers have been made available as of 8 September 2025 and the information campaign was launched on 15 September.

	Regarding the implications of EES for the air crew members, it was reiterated that airlines will need to verify in the carrier interface the status of their crew members not holding a CMC when these are subject to visa obligations and are travelling in the performance of their duty with a single or a double entry visa. It was reiterated that air crew members without a Crew Member Certificate (CMC) shall be registered in EES by the border authorities when crossing the border. The Commission reminded that the duration of a short stay is limited to 90 days within a 180-day period for visa-exempt third country nationals and for holders of short-stay visa.
3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)	eu-LISA updated the CWG on the latest Carrier Implementation Figures and on the status of the different implementation areas. An overview of the S2S CT for carriers and Service Providers was presented. For the web portal and the mobile application, eu-LISA informed that the progress regarding the staff training is not adequately advanced and reminded the community of 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. As next steps, the carrier community was informed about the one-to-one meetings to be scheduled for Systems with delays in the implementation process. Furthermore, one of the Agency's targets is to complete the connectivity activities with PRD environments (CU and BCU) in the upcoming period. eu-LISA recommended to start using the production system as of the 9th of January 2026 and gradually prepare for full-scale operations. Finally, the Agency presented a demo of the Carriers Onboarding and Support Tool (COBST) and informed about the possibility for participation of the carriers in a COBST trial period as of 6 October until 20 October 2025.
4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates (Frontex)	Frontex recalled the community that as of the 9 of January 2026, carriers may use the CI voluntarily. The Assistance Centre Unit (ACU) of Frontex will be ready to assist carriers from this day, 24/7 in COBST (Carrier Onboarding and Support Tool). Furthermore, the ACU will also start on October 12, 2025, offering support to travellers who are using the Travel to Europe app. The journey creation flow using the app was presented to the community. Finally, it was underlined that ad hoc meetings can be organised upon request for carriers in different time zones as of October 12, 2025. Carriers were directed to contact Frontex at etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu.

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 such as the CMC topic and carriers' obligations for querying their crew members in the CI, the precise departure timeline for the obligation to query the CI, the Commission's official information campaign, the voluntary period, COBST.
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