

Carriers Working Group of 24 October 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 64 participants).

1. Introduction a. Agenda b. Carriers meeting calendar	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 47th Carriers Working Group (CWG) and informed the participants about the successful launching of the EES on 12 October 2025.</p> <p>The CWG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with the dates of the upcoming meetings until December 2025. The next CWG meeting is scheduled for the 24 of November 2025.</p> <p>eu-LISA informed the community that one-on-one meetings with the service providers experiencing delays in the EES implementation process, were conducted successfully. The Agency encouraged the carriers and/or service providers to contact eu-LISA for support to address implementation challenges.</p>
2. Legal updates (European Commission)	<p>The Commission informed about the successful launching of EES on 12 October 2025, marking a major milestone and a significant step forward in modernising the EU border management and enhancing the internal security and efficiency of travel into the Schengen area.</p> <p>The Commission underlined that the active engagement of Member States (MS) and the transport industry has been instrumental in the successful EES implementation and expressed its gratitude to the transport industry for its vital role in disseminating campaign messages to raise awareness.</p> <p>It encourages continued sharing of official campaign materials to ensure passengers are well-informed. The public awareness campaign, launched on 15 September 2025, remains a critical tool for addressing misinformation.</p> <p>In the early weeks of the EES start of operations, the Commission observed a surge in media reports incorrectly attributing border delays to the EES rollout, even at border crossing points where EES was not yet deployed. The Commission emphasised that these claims are unfounded and urged the</p>

	<p>stakeholders to rely on verified information from national authorities for the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) status.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Carrier community was informed anew about the carriers' obligations until October 2026. Throughout the entire period of the EES progressive start of operations, the carriers' obligations remain unchanged. The carriers were reminded that they may start using the Carrier Interface (CI) as of 9 January 2026 on a voluntary basis. The obligation to query the 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 required. MS will continue stamping the passports during the progressive start of operations of EES.</p> <p>Finally, the Commission invited the participants to share their experiences and feedback regarding the recent EES progressive start of operations. Several sea carriers took the floor and provided concrete feedback from different BCPs.</p>
3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)	<p>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.</p> <p>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 to perform checks 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> <p>Furthermore, the community was informed about the COBST trial exercise and its outcome. Participation in the COBST trial period was strong , with 85 carriers from air, sea, and land transport requesting the access to use the tool. Feedback was collected and addressed, with no major issues reported. The final version will be deployed in the production environment in the coming weeks, and until the January 2026 go-live, both the PRD and PGD environments will remain operational to ensure a smooth transition. As of 9 January 2026, COBST will be the sole channel for all carriers' requests.</p> <p>As next steps, the carrier community was informed about the deployment of the final release of the Carrier Interface with the eligible list of all travel document codes and the completion of the connectivity activities with production environments (CU and BCU).</p> <p>Finally, eu-LISA recommended that the community start using the production system as of the 9 of January 2026 and gradually prepare for full-scale operations.</p>

4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates and sea scenarios (Frontex)	<p>Frontex reminded the community about the FAQ, sea and land scenario documents and informed that a new version of the sea scenario document will be shared in the upcoming weeks.</p> <p>Carriers were directed to contact Frontex at etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu</p>
5. Q&A	<p>During the Q&A session, eu-LISA, the Commission and Frontex addressed several topics and responded to questions and feedback received from the Carriers on the travellers' experience following the launch of the EES.</p>

Carriers Working Group of 24 October 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 107 participants).

1. Introduction a. Agenda b. Carriers meeting calendar	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 47th Carriers Working Group (CWG) and informed the participants about the successful launching of the EES on 12 October 2025.</p> <p>The CWG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with the dates of the upcoming meetings until December 2025.</p> <p>The next CWG meeting is scheduled for the 24th of November 2025.</p> <p>eu-LISA informed the community that one-on-one meetings with the service providers experiencing delays in the EES implementation process were conducted successfully . The Agency encouraged the carriers and/or service providers to contact eu-LISA for support to address implementation challenges.</p>
2. Legal updates (European Commission)	<p>The Commission informed about the successful launching of EES on 12 October 2025, marking a major milestone and a significant step forward in modernising EU border management and enhancing the internal security and efficiency of travel into the Schengen area.</p> <p>The Commission underlined that the active engagement of Member States (MS) and the transport industry has been instrumental in the successful EES implementation and expressed its gratitude to the transport industry for its vital role in disseminating campaign messages to raise awareness. It encourages continued sharing of official campaign materials to ensure passengers are well-informed. The public awareness campaign, launched on 15 September 2025, remains a critical tool for addressing misinformation.</p> <p>In the early weeks of the EES start of operations, the Commission observed a surge in media reports incorrectly attributing border delays to the EES rollout, even at border crossing points where EES was not yet deployed.</p>

	<p>The Commission emphasised that these claims are unfounded and urged the stakeholders to rely on verified information from national authorities the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) status.</p> <p>The Carrier community was informed anew about the carriers' obligations until October 2026. Throughout the entire period of the EES progressive start of operations, the carriers' obligations remain unchanged.</p> <p>The carriers were reminded that they may start using the Carrier Interface (CI) as of 9 January 2026 on a voluntary basis. The obligation to query the 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 required. MS will continue stamping the passports during the progressive start of operations of EES.</p> <p>Finally, the Commission invited the participants to share their experiences and feedback regarding the recent EES progressive start of operations. The air community provided overall positive remarks and confirmed the border process is expedited.</p>
3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)	<p>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.</p> <p>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 to perform checks 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> <p>Furthermore, the community was informed about the COBST trial exercise and its outcome. Participation in the COBST trial period was strong , with 85 carriers from air, sea, and land transport requesting the access to use the tool. Feedback was collected and addressed, with no major issues reported. The final version will be deployed in the production environment in the coming weeks, and until the January 2026 go-live, both the PRD and PGD environments will remain operational to ensure a smooth transition. As of 9 January 2026, COBST will be the sole channel for all carriers' requests.</p> <p>As next steps, the carrier community was informed about the deployment of the final release of the Carrier Interface with the eligible list of all travel document codes. and the completion of the connectivity activities with production environments (CU and BCU).</p> <p>Finally, eu-LISA recommended that the community start using the production system as of the 9th of January 2026 and gradually prepare for full-scale operations.</p>

4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates (Frontex)	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 query process during the voluntary period, the CMC topic and carriers' obligations for querying their crew members in the CI, carriers' liability, COBST.