



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT
Directorate E - Aviation

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION & HOME AFFAIRS
Directorate B – Schengen, borders & visa

Directors

Brussels,
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To EU and ECAC DGCA's

Subject: **Important information to air carriers transporting passengers into the Schengen area**

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you as the EU in the near future will introduce new border systems. The new Entry-Exit system (EES) will apply to all third-country nationals travelling to the Schengen area. The European Travel Information and Authorisation system (ETIAS) will apply to all visa-free travellers travelling to the Schengen area.

The EES is an automated IT system for registering travellers from third countries, both short-stay visa holders and visa exempt travellers, each time they cross an EU external border. The EES will replace the current system of manual stamping of passports. The EES will enter into operation in May 2023. ETIAS is a largely automated IT system created to identify security, irregular migration or high epidemic risks posed by visa-exempt visitors travelling to the Schengen States. Non-EU nationals who do not need a short-stay visa to travel to the Schengen area will have to apply for a travel authorisation through the ETIAS system prior to their trip. ETIAS will enter into operation in November 2023. Further information about the two systems can be found [here](#)¹ (EES) and [here](#)² (ETIAS).

We are writing to bring to your attention that the EES and ETIAS systems will also bring changes and new requirements for airlines transporting passengers to the Schengen area.

In order to fulfil obligations under Article 26 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement, as of the entry into operation of the EES and ETIAS, air carriers should use a carrier interface to verify before boarding whether visa-required non-EU nationals holding a short-stay visa have already used the number of entries authorised by

¹ [Entry-Exit System \(europa.eu\)](#)

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/smart-borders/entry-exit-system_en

² [European Travel Information Authorisation System \(europa.eu\)](#)

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/smart-borders/european-travel-information-authorisation-system_en

their visa. They should also verify whether visa-exempt non-EU nationals are in possession of a valid ETIAS travel authorisation.

Carriers need to register with the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) and follow specified procedures in order to connect to and be able to use the carrier interface. Detailed instruction and further information is available on the eu-LISA website: [Carriers website](#)

Many carriers have yet to register. It is important that all carriers - including small business aviation operators - register in the system. Without this, they will not legally be able to carry passengers into the Schengen area once the system enters into operation.

We would be grateful for your assistance in informing air carriers about this. To start the registration procedure, air carriers can download and fill in the Registration Form and send it to: carriers_onboarding@eulisa.europa.eu

In case of questions, you or the air carriers should not hesitate to contact eu-LISA by e-mail at: carriers_onboarding@eulisa.europa.eu (kindly please also CC management-board@eulisa.europa.eu).

Thank you in advance for your assistance on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

(E-Signed)

Matthias Oel

(E-Signed)

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Copy:

- Patricia Reverdy, Executive Secretary of ECAC
- Krum Garkov, Executive Director eu-LISA