Entry Exit System

CARRIER INFORMATION PACK

SECTION 1: Introducing the EES

What is the Entry/Exit System?

The Entry/Exit System (EES) is an automated information technology (IT) system used to register non-EU nationals travelling for a short stay, each time they cross an external border of a European country using the EES*. This is done whether they need a short-stay visa or not, unless exceptions apply. Refusals of entry are also recorded in the system.

The EES generally replaces time-consuming passport stamps and automates border control procedures, making travel to European countries using the EES more efficient.

*European countries using the EES are:
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.*

In Cyprus and Ireland, passports will continue to be stamped manually.

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Why has the Entry/Exit System been introduced?

The system is being put in place to modernise borders, make border checks easy, secure, and more efficient for travellers, and to improve European-wide security.

The fully automated EES will:

» Make travel to the territory of European countries using the EES easier and border checks more efficient;

» Make it easier to identify travellers who have no right to enter or who have stayed in the European countries using the EES for too long;

» Detect travellers using fake identities or passports;

» Help prevent, detect and investigate terrorist offences or other serious crimes.

When will the Entry/Exit System be activated?

It is estimated that the EES will enter into operation in   . Updates and precise timings will be officially communicated to you closer to the date.

SECTION 2:
Implications for carriers

What are the implications and obligations for carriers in regard to the implementation of the Entry/Exit System?

With the implementation of the EES, and to fulfil obligations under Article 26 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement, in addition to checking that a passenger has the required visa, carriers will 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)

» **Use a carrier interface** to verify whether non-EU nationals requiring visas have already used the number of entries authorised by their visa before boarding.

Why do carriers need to register?

Carriers must register with eu-LISA to be able to access the required carrier interface and fulfil their legal obligations (stipulated in Article 26 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement and Article 13(3) of the Regulation (EU) 2017/2226).

How can carriers register?

Carriers must register by filling in the registration form and sending it to: carriers_onboarding@eulisa.europa.eu

The registration form and more information on how to register can be found **here** on eu-LISA's Working Group for Carriers page.

For any specific queries or issues faced during registration, please use the email address mentioned above.

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Where can carriers find more information?

More information specifically for carriers is available in the carriers section of the eu-LISA website or by consulting the [Frequently Asked Questions Carriers (europa.eu)](europa.eu). For direct questions, you can also contact: EULISA-CARRIERS@eulisa.europa.eu

Section 3: Communication activities for carriers

How should carriers communicate about the Entry/Exit System to passengers?

As carriers, we recommend that you inform your passengers about the EES in your existing communications such as flight information emails or reminders to check-in. Your successful communications on COVID-19 travel restrictions and obligations can be used as an example of how to communicate about the EES.

To help reach as many travellers as possible, you will also have the option to print relevant communication materials on the EES if you wish or display them at your information desks and hubs.

What do passengers need to know?

To help passengers understand how the system uses their data upon entry into European countries using the EES, they should be made aware that:

» The EES is an automated IT system for border management;

» The EES will register border crossings of non-EU nationals admitted for a short stay (maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period) in the European countries using the system, as well as refusals of entry;

» There will be a one-time registration of four fingerprints and a facial image;

» There will be an online tool enabling travellers to check the remaining duration of their authorised stay;

» They have rights and obligations.

You can direct your passengers to visit the EES website - https://travel-europe.europa.eu which contains all of the information they need, as well as contact details for further questions.

What data is collected from passengers?

The system registers the person's name, travel document data, biometric data (fingerprints and facial images) and the date and place of entry and exit, in full respect of fundamental rights and data protection.

This data will be recorded and protected to make the border crossing experience more secure and efficient.

For any questions on passengers' rights or data protection, the EES website can be consulted https://travel-europe.europa.eu

Section 4: Materials & timelines

How will this be communicated?

Posters and leaflets for passengers that contain key information on the EES will be available in different languages online and for download.

Digital versions can be attached to information sent to passengers related to their travel. All digital versions of materials are printable so that you can choose to distribute them directly to your passengers or to display at boarding gates and check-in desks.

Where can you find these materials?

All communication materials will be easily accessible through a dedicated online communication material repository created specifically for carriers: https://gopacom.owncloud.online/index.php/s/cGYu9Kf4m1GTw58

All materials, including translated versions, will be uploaded to the online repository to help raise awareness of the EES among as many travellers as possible.

When should you inform passengers?

Widespread information about the Entry/Exit System should be available before it is in operation so that passengers are warned of their upcoming obligations and rights.