Carriers Working Group of 29 of June 2022

Summary

Subject: Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting

1st Session - Sea Carriers at 09:00– 10:30 CET

Participants: Carriers for the sea industry, Carrier associations, European Commission (DG HOME), Member State (MS) experts, Frontex and eu-LISA

1. Introduction **a. Agenda** **b. Carriers meeting calendar**	The agenda of the 13th Carriers Working Group (WG) was presented to the participants by eu-LISA. The WG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with highlights of the dates of previous and upcoming meetings. The next Carriers Working Group will take place on 26 July. eu-LISA informed the WG of the decision of the eu-LISA Management Board of 22-23 June 2022 to adopt the revised timeline to finalise the implementation of the Entry/Exit System and its entry into operation by spring 2023. The JHA Council will discuss and take a decision on the matter at its meeting in Prague on 11-12 July.
2. Legal Updates (European Commission)	The status of amending the EES and ETIAS implementing regulations, resulting from the revised VIS regulation and the ETIAS consequential amendments, was shared by the European Commission. Member States had voted positively and the procedure of adoption of the acts has been launched and should be completed by the end of July.
3. Information campaign (European Commission)	The WG took note of the European Commission's summary regarding the ongoing and planned communication activities for the EES information campaign. The contractor providing the services for the campaign presented the objectives, target group, key messages and visual identity of the campaign, as well as several draft communication materials, including the "carriers information package". The WG was informed that final deliverables would be made available in 24 EU languages and 5 non-EU languages. Once the final communication materials (posters, leaflets, carriers information pack, social media copies, infographics and animated videos)

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	will be made available in an online repository created for this purpose, carriers will be informed, by email.
	Carriers were encouraged to support the campaign by using the dedicated branding.
	It was emphasised that any awareness raising activities will also help to enhance the registration process.
4. Technical Updates (eu-LISA)	Technical updates on the registration process, connectivity and compliance testing (CT) were provided to the Carriers WG by eu-LISA. Regarding the support to carriers and the implementation process, eu-LISA is working to improve the current process and the global support to carriers.
	The process of "certificate sharing" has been updated. The technical guidelines for system-to-system and web/mobile connection as well as documents for pre-defined carrier test cases for pre-Compliance and Compliance phase, have been revised by eu-LISA and will be shared soon.
5. Operational Updates (Frontex)	Frontex informed the WG about the current state of play of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The first version of the FAQs is now available on eu-LISA's website and a new updated version with more than 35 additional questions will be available soon. Frontex continues to collect new questions from carriers and add them in the FAQ compilation.
	Frontex also noted that the first version of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is currently being reviewed. Frontex will share more detailed information on the SOP at the next meeting.
6. Q&A	A presentation regarding a set of specific questions from the sea industry was provided to the WG. Multiple specific scenarios of itineraries containing ports outside the Schengen area, and non-EU passengers, were discussed.
	The specific case of Greenland was also discussed, on whether it is to be considered part of the Schengen area, and COM will come back in the next session with the rules that apply.
	A proposal to join the Carrier WG sessions for sea and land carriers was presented by the agency. The agency plans to hold already the next session as a joint one. The WG was invited to provide their opinion.

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2nd Session - Land Carriers at 11:00–12:30 CET

Participants: Carriers for the coach industry, Carrier associations, European Commission (COM - DG HOME), Member State (MS) experts, Frontex and eu-LISA

1. Introduction **a. Agenda** **b. Carriers meeting calendar**	The agenda of the 13th Carriers Working Group (WG) was presented to the participants by eu-LISA. The WG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with highlights of the dates of previous and upcoming meetings. The next Carriers Working Group will take place on 26 July. eu-LISA informed the WG of the decision of the eu-LISA Management Board of 22-23 June 2022 to adopt the revised timeline to finalise the implementation of the Entry/Exit System and its entry into operation by spring 2023. The JHA Council will discuss and take a decision on the matter at its meeting in Prague on 11-12 July.
2. Legal Updates (European Commission)	The status of amending the EES and ETIAS implementing regulations, resulting from the revised VIS regulation and the ETIAS consequential amendments, was shared by the European Commission. Member States had voted positively and the procedure of adoption of the acts has been launched and should be completed by the end of July.
3. Information campaign (European Commission)	The WG took note of the European Commission's summary regarding the ongoing and planned communication activities for the EES information campaign. The contractor providing the services for the campaign presented the objectives, target group, key messages and visual identity of the campaign, as well as several draft communication materials, including the "carriers information package". The WG was informed that final deliverables would be made available in 24 EU languages and 5 non-EU languages. Once the final communication materials (posters, leaflets, carriers information pack, social media copies, infographics and animated videos) will be made available in an online repository created for this purpose, carriers will be informed, by email. Carriers were encouraged to support the campaign by using the dedicated branding. It was emphasised that any awareness raising activities will also help to enhance the registration process.
4. Technical Updates (eu-LISA)	Technical updates on the registration process, connectivity and compliance testing (CT) were provided to the Carriers WG by eu-LISA. Regarding the support to carriers and the implementation process, eu-

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	LISA is working to improve the current process and the global support to carriers.
	The process of "certificate sharing" has been updated. The technical guidelines for system-to-system and web/mobile connection as well as documents for pre-defined carrier test cases for pre-Compliance and Compliance phase, have been revised by eu-LISA and will be shared soon.
5. Operational Updates (Frontex)	Frontex informed the WG about the current state of play of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The first version of the FAQs is now available on eu-LISA's website and a new updated version with more than 35 additional questions will be available soon. Frontex continues to collect new questions from carriers and add them in the FAQ compilation.
	Frontex also noted that the first version of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is currently being reviewed. Frontex will share more detailed information on the SOP at the next meeting.
6. Q&A	A proposal to join the Carrier WG sessions for sea and land carriers was presented by eu-LISA. The agency plans to hold already the next session as a joint one. The WG was invited to provide their opinion.

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3rd Session – Air Carriers at 14:00–16:00 CET

Participants: Carriers for the air, Carrier associations, European Commission (COM - DG HOME), Member State (MS) experts, Frontex and eu-LISA

1. Introduction **a. Agenda** **b. Carriers meeting calendar**	The agenda of the 13th Carriers Working Group (WG) was presented to the participants by eu-LISA. The WG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with highlights of the dates of previous and upcoming meetings. The next Carriers Working Group will take place on 26 July. eu-LISA informed the WG of the decision of the eu-LISA Management Board of 22-23 June 2022 to adopt the revised timeline to finalise the implementation of the Entry/Exit System and its entry into operation by spring 2023. The JHA Council will discuss and take a decision on the matter at its meeting in Prague on 11-12 July.
2. Legal Updates (European Commission)	The status of amending the EES and ETIAS implementing regulations, resulting from the revised VIS regulation and the ETIAS consequential amendments, was shared by the European Commission. Member States had voted positively and the procedure of adoption of the acts has been launched and should be completed by the end of July.
3. Information campaign (European Commission)	The WG took note of the European Commission's summary regarding the ongoing and planned communication activities for the EES information campaign. The contractor providing the services for the campaign presented the objectives, target group, key messages and visual identity of the campaign, as well as several draft communication materials, including the "carriers information package". The WG was informed that final deliverables would be made available in 24 EU languages and 5 non-EU languages. Once the final communication materials (posters, leaflets, carriers information pack, social media copies, infographics and animated videos) will be made available in an online repository created for this purpose, carriers will be informed, by email. Carriers were encouraged to support the campaign by using the dedicated branding. It was emphasised that any awareness raising activities will also help to enhance the registration process. The WG expressed its concerns regarding the choice of the words "easier" and "safer" in the posters messages *"EES: new, faster and safer procedures for non-EU nationals travelling to Europe* or " [].*.travelling is about to become easier..[]"* which could imply that it was not easy nor safe to travel to the EU before. The Commission explained that the wording was assessed by communication experts and reflects the improvements brought by new

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	technology to the border check processes, the reliability of biometrics, etc. The message is to be considered in a broader context; it is also connected to the efficiency of border management in land, sea and air environments. COM will evaluate the suggestions received.
4. Technical Updates (eu-LISA)	Technical updates on the registration process, connectivity and compliance testing (CT) were provided to the Carriers WG by eu-LISA. Regarding the support to carriers and the implementation process, eu-LISA is working to improve the current process and the global support to carriers.
	The process of "certificate sharing" has been updated. The technical guidelines for system-to-system and web/mobile connection as well as documents for pre-defined carrier test cases for pre-Compliance and Compliance phase, have been revised by eu-LISA and will be shared soon.
	An overview of the content of the technical guidelines for the VPN making use of standard Secure Internet Protocol and Digital Certificates for secure system-to-system connection was provided. eu-LISA is assessing the impact for the integration of the PSK option proposed by the air carriers, with additional measures as a security requirement. Certain pros and cons for both options were explained during the meeting. eu-LISA strengthened the advantages of certificates vis-à-vis the pre-shared keys, stressing that the needed certificates for production were delivered at 0 cost by eu-LISA (free), the fact that maintenance is easier (renewal period longer than for keys) and, clearly, the higher security. No questions were asked by the participants. The final outcome of the assessment is expected to be provided in the next carrier WG in July.
	A set of PAXSLT samples were explained. Three scenarios for passengers in transit, intra-Schengen flights, transit flights in Schengen and domestic flights with a Schengen country, were also presented to the WG. The use cases and the application with the Carrier Interface were explained for each scenario.
	Technical questions from the WG were addressed. During the discussion, reference was made to the duration of the certificates as well as the ICAO and IATA codes.
5. Operational Updates (Frontex)	Frontex informed the WG about the current state of play of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The first version of the FAQs is now available on eu-LISA's website and a new updated version with more than 35 additional questions will be made available soon. Frontex continues to collect new questions from carriers and add them in the FAQ compilation.
	Frontex also noted that the first version of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is currently being reviewed. Frontex will share more detailed information on the SOP at the next meeting.

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6. Q&A	The case of Germany and their obligation to collect visa data from passengers was raised. As this is an obligation that derives from national and not EU legal base, COM invited DE to clarify/answer the question.
	The scenarios presented during the technical updates agenda point were discussed in detail, and use cases involving transit were explained to the WG.

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