Carriers Working Group of 8 August 2024

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 94 participants).

1. Introduction **a. Agenda** **b. Carriers meeting calendar**	eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 34th Carriers Working Group (CWG) and the calendar of the upcoming meetings to the participants. The CWG reviewed the schedule for upcoming meetings, noting the dates through December 2024. The next scheduled session is set for September 3rd.
2. Legal updates (European Commission)	The European Commission updated the CWG regarding the dissemination of the EES information campaign materials. These materials, which had been discussed during the CWG in June, are finalised and being prepared for distribution. Necessary adjustments were made to ensure all links are functional and that the materials are available in multiple languages. Carriers are requested to provide the contact details of the relevant contact points within their organisations to the functional mailbox: HOME-EES-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu in order to receive the material. An informative email, including guidance on how to use the materials and access the online repository, will be distributed to the specified email addresses. It was highlighted that these materials should not be disclosed before the official launch of the EES campaign to prevent any confusion among travellers. Regarding the EES EiO, the Commission continues to monitor the preparedness of all stakeholders and plans to reassess the situation at the end of the summer, before a final decision can be made. Additionally, the Commission underscored the various forums used for communication with

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	Carriers. In addition to this CWG, a high-level meeting format had been implemented to interact with the (air, sea and land) industry associations. This format allows for more in-depth discussions. The next high-level meeting was scheduled for 9 August, and Carriers were encouraged to direct any questions through their respective associations in this forum.
3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)	eu-LISA updated the CWG on Carrier Implementations Figures as of August 2024. There are 596 Carriers registered for System to System and 494 for the Mobile App and Web Portal. System Connectivity and testing have increased, with 41 systems connected in 6 months. Sea Carrier S2S CT Overview shows 8 systems missing required forms, 3 undergoing connectivity testing, 3 ready for CT and 6 compliant systems. For Carriers, 9 have not completed forms, 8 are ready for tests but not yet compliant, and 6 are certified or exempted. Sea Carriers Web Portal access was granted to SPOCs, requiring the Security Convention (Form F07) signed. Low authentication numbers in training highlight the need for staff training completion. Land Carrier S2S CT Overview indicates 1 system missing forms, 0 undergoing or ready for CT, and 1 compliant system. For Carriers, 11 have not completed forms, 0 are ready for tests but not compliant, and 1 is certified or exempted. Land Carriers Web Portal access was similarly granted to SPOCs with the Security Convention signed, and low authentication numbers are observed, requiring staff training completion. Regarding fallback procedures in case of technical impossibility, for REST connections, Carriers switch sites automatically and retry for 20 minutes before creating a request. ETIAS Central Unit and eu-LISA will follow up until resolution. The project updates for the Carrier Mobile Application and Carrier Onboarding and Support Tool (COBST) were presented to the community. COBST v1 implementation is complete and tested, with Frontex training in September and a demo for Carriers planned. COBST v2 is in progress for EES EiO readiness. Finally, the use of FIDO2 for multifactor authentication without a mobile phone if such a need arises, , was also presented. The requirements for Carrier SPOC Admin passwords included a minimum of 20 characters, with at least one uppercase letter, one special character, and one numerical digit. Only the Carrier SPOC Admin required multifactor authentication (MFA), which could be achieved through 2 options: OTP with the ForgeRock Authenticator App or a FIDO2 device. A demonstration was shown on how to use a FIDO2 device, tested with Yubikey and Trustkey.

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4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates and sea scenarios (Frontex)	Frontex updated the CWG regarding the development and testing of the mobile APP4EES for travelers to pre-register their data. The app is designed to facilitate the EES and has been tested in the Netherlands and Sweden. A pilot project developed the APP4EES for iOS and Android, tested with real travelers at Arlanda Airport in Stockholm. The app collects passport data, facial biometrics, and answers to entry questionnaires, aiming to speed up border processing by providing information to MS in advance. The development began in October 2023, with the first release ready by December. Initial tests at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport identified areas for improvement. Full user acceptance tests were conducted at Arlanda, and feedback is being collected for a final evaluation report due by the end of this month. Guidelines for MS integration were also created. The app will be operational when EES is launched but there is no legal mandate for the use of this app by MS.
	Frontex also updated the CWG regarding the Queries of the Carrier Interface. In case of delays prior to departure causing a change in the date of arrival and/or the MS of entry, it is not obligatory to submit new queries for passengers that have already been queried anytime between 48 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure and the time of departure. However, it is beneficial for Carriers to perform new queries with the updated date of arrival and/or MS of entry to ensure that visas/ETIAS are valid for the new date of arrival and/or for the new MS of entry.
	Regarding the last updates of FAQ on the UK Withdrawal Agreement, it was clarified that beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement and their family members are exempt from EES and ETIAS as long as they meet the conditions of the Withdrawal Agreement. Beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement, when holding a residence document, should have 'Article 50 TEU' or 'Art. 50 TEU - Frontier worker' written in the field "Type of permit". Queries regarding the Carrier Interface were explained as follows: For travels originating from a third country or territory and destined for Vatican, Monaco, Faroe, Greenland, Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland, queries are required except for Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland. For travels originating from Vatican, Monaco, Faroe, Greenland, Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland, destined to EU countries that use EES or require ETIAS, no queries are required except for Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland. For travellers originating from EU countries that use EES or require ETIAS and destined for Vatican, Monaco, Faroe, Greenland, Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland, no query is required.
	Frontex then updated the CWG regarding support to Carriers related to different Land Scenarios. The Land Scenarios document, available in the Q/A section and on the Frontex website, includes guidelines for Carriers transporting groups overland by coach on round trips involving third countries or territories.

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	Finally, it was communicated that the SOP document is to be finalised during this summer. For operational queries, Carriers were invited to contact Frontex at etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu.
6. 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 operational issues.

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Carriers Working Group of 8 August 2024

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 170 participants).

1. Introduction a. Agenda b. Carriers meeting calendar	eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 34th Carriers Working Group (CWG) and the calendar of the upcoming meetings to the participants. The CWG reviewed the schedule for upcoming meetings, noting the dates through December 2024. The next scheduled session is set for September 3rd.
2. Legal updates (European Commission)	The European Commission updated the CWG regarding the dissemination of the EES information campaign materials. These materials, which were discussed during the CWG in June, are finalised and being prepared for distribution. Necessary adjustments were made to ensure all links were functional and the materials are available in multiple languages. Carriers are requested to provide the contact details of the relevant contact points within their organisations to the functional mailbox HOME-EES-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu in order to receive the materials. An informative email, including guidance on how to use the materials and access the online repository, will be distributed to the specified email addresses. It was highlighted that these materials should not be disclosed before the official launch of the EES campaign to prevent any confusion among travellers. Regarding the EES EiO, the Commission continues to monitor the preparedness of all stakeholders and plans to reassess the situation at the

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	end of the summer, before a final decision can be made. Additionally, the Commission underscored the various forums used for communication with Carriers. In addition to this CWG, a high-level meeting format had been used to engage with the (air, sea and land) industry associations. This format allowed for more in-depth discussions. The next high-level meeting was scheduled for 9 August, and Carriers were encouraged to direct any questions through their respective associations in this forum.
3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)	eu-LISA updated the CWG on Carrier Implementations Figures as of August 2024. Carrier Registration by channel includes 596 Carriers for System to System and 494 for the Mobile App and Web Portal. System Connectivity and testing have increased, with almost 41 systems connected in less than 6 months. Air Carrier S2S CT Overview shows 37 systems missing required forms, 12 undergoing connectivity testing, 9 ready for CT and 10 compliant systems. For Carriers, 114 have not completed forms, 7 are ready for tests but not compliant, and 241 are to be certified, with 186 Carriers certified or exempted. Air Carriers Web Portal access was granted to all concerned Carriers SPOCs, allowing 10 authorised users and 2 Carrier SPOCs per Carrier. Access is granted only to Carriers with the Security Convention (Form F07) signed. Very low numbers of authentications were identified in the training environment, indicating the need for Carriers to complete staff training and inform the Carrier Onboarding Team accordingly.
	Regarding ground handlers and System declaration (F03), the purpose of the Form F03 'System declaration' is for Carriers to declare the system to connect with the Carrier Interface (CI). The Carrier completes F01 for registration, F03 for system declaration, and the System SPOC completes the F04 for system connectivity details. eu-LISA will connect the system declared by the Carrier in the F03 according to the technical details provided in the F04c or F04d forms. The system declared in the Form F03 should be the system to connect with the Carrier Interface, not the ground handlers using the system. If airlines do not know the system used, ground handlers need to support the concerned airlines and eu-LISA in providing the technical system used. eu-LISA will provide visibility to concerned Carriers and ground handlers regarding the implementation status of the system.
	Regarding fallback procedures in case of technical impossibility, for VPN/MQ connections, Carriers retry for 20 minutes before declaring the system unavailable and creating a 'Technical Impossibility' request. For REST connections, Carriers switch sites automatically and retry for 20 minutes before creating a request. ETIAS Central Unit and eu-LISA will follow up until resolution.
	The project updates for the Carrier Mobile Application and Carrier Onboarding and Support Tool (COBST) were presented to the community.. COBST v1 implementation is complete and tested, with Frontex training in

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	September and a demo for Carriers planned. COBST v2 is in progress for EES EiO readiness.
	Finally, the use of FIDO2 for multifactor authentication without a mobile phone, if such a need arises, was also presented. The requirements for Carrier SPOC Admin passwords included a minimum of 20 characters, with at least one uppercase letter, one special character, and one numerical digit. Only the Carrier SPOC Admin required multifactor authentication (MFA), which could be achieved through 2 options: OTP with the ForgeRock Authenticator App or a FIDO2 device. A demonstration was shown on how to use a FIDO2 device, tested with Yubikey and Trustkey.
4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates (Frontex)	Frontex updated the CWG regarding the development and testing of the mobile APP4EES for travelers to pre-register their data. The app is designed to facilitate the EES and has been tested in simulations in the Netherlands and Sweden. A pilot project developed the APP4EES for iOS and Android, tested with real travelers at Arlanda Airport in Stockholm. The app collects passport data, facial biometrics, and answers to entry questionnaires, aiming to speed up border processing by providing information to MS in advance. The development began in October 2023, with the first release ready by December. Initial tests at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport identified areas for improvement. Full user acceptance tests were conducted at Arlanda, and feedback is being collected for a final evaluation report due by the end of this month. Guidelines for MS integration were also created. The app will be operational when EES is launched but there is no legal mandate for the use of this app by MS.
	Frontex also updated the CWG regarding the Queries of the Carrier Interface. In case of delays prior to departure causing a change in the date of arrival and/or the MS of entry, it is not obligatory to submit new queries for passengers that have already been queried anytime between 48 hours prior to the scheduled time of departure and the time of departure. However, it is beneficial for Carriers to perform new queries with the updated date of arrival and/or MS of entry to ensure that visas/ETIAS are valid for the new date of arrival and/or for the new MS of entry. Regarding the last updates of FAQ on the UK Withdrawal Agreement, it was clarified that beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement and their family members are exempt from EES and ETIAS as long as they meet the conditions of the Withdrawal Agreement. Beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement, when holding a residence document, should have 'Article 50 TEU' or 'Art. 50 TEU - Frontier worker' written in the field "Type of permit". Queries regarding the Carrier Interface were explained as follows: For travels originating from a third country or territory and destined for Vatican, Monaco, Faroe, Greenland, Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland, queries are required except for Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland. For travels originating from Vatican, Monaco, Faroe, Greenland, Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland, destined to EU countries that use EES or require ETIAS, no queries are required. except for Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland,

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	Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland. For travels originating from EU countries that use EES or require ETIAS and destined for Vatican, Monaco, Faroe, Greenland, Ceuta & Melilla, Ireland, Gibraltar, Svalbard, and Aland, no query is required. Finally, it was communicated that the SOP document is to be finalised during this summer. For operational queries, Carriers were invited 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 answered Carriers' questions.

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