

# Carriers Working Group of 10 January 2025

## Summary

**Subject: Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting**

**Sea and Land Carriers at 10:00– 12:00 CET**

**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 84 participants).

<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p><b>a. Agenda</b></p> <p><b>b. Carriers meeting calendar</b></p>	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 39<sup>th</sup> Carriers Working Group (CWG) The CWG was invited to take note that the next session scheduled is to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.</p>
<p><b>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</b></p>	<p>The European Commission provided the CWG with the latest update on the development of the progressive approach for the EES EiO. It was recalled that during the previous CWG (ad-hoc) meeting held on 17 December the proposal for the Regulation introducing a progressive start of operation of the EES EiO was presented, including the objective, its impact on the transport industry, and its content, which might change depending on the results of negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament.</p> <p>Since many questions were raised in the previous session and some were not addressed because of time constraints, the Commission provided answers and further clarification during this session.</p> <p>In response to a previous question inquiring whether Member States would keep stamping travel documents after the full implementation of the EES, Commission explained that once the progressive start of operation would end and the EES would be fully deployed, Member States' authorities would stop stamping the travel documents.</p> <p>For the question asking why Carriers would keep checking stamps after the full deployment of the EES, the Commission answered that travellers with a</p>

	<p>short stay visa can use their visa for a period of 90 days (three months), within 180 days (six months), so it is possible that a traveller will enter the Schengen area during the progressive phase and that this traveller will travel again after the full deployment of the EES. Therefore, to ensure that the number of entries have not been reached, Carriers are requested to verify both the Carrier Interface and the stamps affixed on the travel document for a period of 180 days (six months) after the full deployment of the EES. It was concluded that this solution is in the interest of Carriers, ensuring that the liability of Carriers is not affected during that time.</p> <p>Finally, regarding the last question received during the previous session inquiring why Carriers should query the interface before the full deployment of the EES, the Commission answered that this will happen on a voluntary basis, as the EES files will not be complete, nevertheless giving the opportunity to Carriers, during that time, to test the interface and to train their staff. Commission reminded that carriers will be given the possibility to voluntarily query the carrier interface three months after the beginning of the progressive start of operations of EES.</p> <p>It was reinforced that the progressive start of operation will end after six months and, as of the start of full deployment of the EES, Carriers will have the obligation to query the interface.</p> <p>The Commission also invited Carriers to check the presentation that was displayed during and made available after the ad-hoc meeting in December 2024.</p>
<p><b>3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>eu-LISA updated the CWG on Carrier Implementation Figures as of January 2025. Currently, there are 702 Carriers registered for System-to-System connectivity and 511 for the Mobile App and Web Portal, including all industries.</p> <p>eu-LISA reminded that to address outstanding issues, the Agency has launched a campaign for bilateral calls with Service Providers or Carriers that have not yet submitted the necessary connectivity forms. These calls aim to clarify the status of these systems and establish the way forward. Carriers and Service Providers were encouraged to accept these invitations to provide greater visibility into their readiness.</p>

<p><b>4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates and sea scenarios (Frontex)</b></p>	<p>Frontex provided the CWG with the Q&amp;A regarding the crew carriers, applicable for the whole sea industry (to be added to the FAQ document). The question inquiring whether a CSV file including two crew members with different ports of disembarkation (if they embarked at the same location and date) can be sent, was addressed. Queries sent via a CSV file can be performed, without the possibility of distinguishing between “passengers” and “crew members”; each CSV file for those queries shall include passengers and/or crew members that will disembark at the same location and date. A relevant example was provided of two crew members embarking in the same country and disembarking in two different countries, requiring two different queries in this case, for each disembarking country of each crew member.</p> <p>The second example of two crew members embarking in the same country and disembarking on different dates in the same country was mentioned with two different queries required again in this case, including the local date at the arrival point and Member State of entry for each member.</p> <p>For operational queries, Carriers were invited to contact Frontex directly at <a href="mailto:etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu">etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu</a>.</p> <p>The CWG was also reminded to refer to the <a href="#">FAQ</a> and encouraged to regularly consult it for updates and guidance.</p>
<p><b>6. Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p>During the Q&amp;A session, eu-LISA, the Commission and Frontex addressed several topics and responded to questions posed by Carriers on various operational and technical topics, such as the progressive approach and EES EIO.</p>

# Carriers Working Group of 10 January 2025

## Summary

**Subject: Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting**

**Air Carriers at 13:30– 16:00 CET**

**Participants:** Carriers representing air industry, their declared service providers, Carrier associations, European Commission (DG HOME), Member State (MS) experts, Frontex and eu-LISA (altogether 152 participants).

<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p><b>a. Agenda</b> <b>b. Carriers meeting calendar</b></p>	<p>eu-LISA presented the agenda of the 39<sup>th</sup> Carriers Working Group (CWG)</p> <p>The CWG was invited to take note that the next session scheduled is to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.</p>
<p><b>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</b></p>	<p>The European Commission provided the CWG with an update on the development of the progressive approach for the EES EiO.</p> <p>It was recalled that during the previous CWG ad-hoc meeting held on 17 December the proposal for the Regulation introducing a progressive start of operation of the EES EiO was presented, including the objective, its impact on the transport industry, and its content, which might change depending on the results of negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament.</p> <p>Since many questions were raised in the previous session and some were not addressed because of time constraints, Commission provided answers and further clarification during this session.</p> <p>In response to a previous question inquiring whether Member States would keep stamping travel documents after the full implementation of the EES Commission explained that once the progressive start of operation would</p>

	<p>end and the EES would be fully deployed, Member States' authorities would stop stamping travel documents.</p> <p>For the question asking why Carriers would keep checking stamps after the full deployment of the EES, the Commission answered that travellers with a short stay visa can use their visa for a period of 90 days (three months), within 180 days (six months), so it is possible that a traveller will enter the Schengen area during the progressive phase and that this traveller will travel again after the full deployment of the EES. Therefore, to ensure that the number of entries have not been reached, Carriers are requested to verify both the Carrier Interface and the stamps affixed on the travel document, for a period of 180 days (six months) after the full deployment of the EES. It was concluded that this solution is in the interest of Carriers, ensuring that the liability of Carriers is not affected during that time.</p> <p>Finally, regarding the last question received during the previous session inquiring why Carriers should query the interface before the full deployment of the EES was answered that this will happen on a voluntary basis, as the EES files will not be complete, nevertheless giving the opportunity to Carriers, during that time, to test the carrier interface and to train their staff.</p> <p>It was reinforced that the progressive start of operation will end after six months and, as of the start of full deployment of the EES, Carriers will have the obligation to query the interface.</p> <p>Commission reminded that carriers will be given the possibility to voluntarily query the carrier interface three months after the beginning of the progressive start of operations of EES.</p> <p>The Commission also invited Carriers to check the presentation that was displayed during and made available after the ad-hoc meeting in December 2024.</p>
<p><b>3. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>eu-LISA updated the CWG on Carrier Implementation Figures as of January 2025. Currently, there are 702 Carriers registered for System-to-System connectivity and 511 for the Web Portal and Mobile Application. In terms of progress on the different implementation at carrier level it was mentioned that 102 air carriers are ready for production. For the Web Portal and Mobile application connection 24 Carriers from the air industry confirmed the access to the system, through the Web Portal or Mobile Application.</p> <p>62 training confirmations were received which is a prerequisite to give the access to the production link for the Web Portal and the Mobile Application.</p> <p>eu-LISA reminded that to address outstanding issues, the Agency has launched a campaign for bilateral calls with Service Providers or Carriers that have not yet submitted the necessary connectivity forms (193 carriers without F07 forms).</p>

	<p>These calls aim to clarify the status of these systems and establish the way forward. Carriers and Service Providers were encouraged to accept these invitations to provide greater visibility into their readiness.</p> <p>It was announced that a notification from the Carriers Onboarding team should be soon received since there was a recent maintenance ongoing.</p>
<p><b>4. Carriers and Travellers Support - Operational updates (Frontex)</b></p>	<p>Frontex provided the CWG with a topic from a cruise carrier but applicable to the entire transport industry (to be added to the FAQ document).</p> <p>The question inquiring whether a CSV file including two crew members with different ports of disembarkation (if they embarked at the same location and date) can be sent was addressed. Queries sent via a CSV file can be performed, without the possibility of distinguishing between “passengers” and “crew members”; each CSV file for those queries shall include passengers and/or crew members that will disembark at the same location and date.</p> <p>A relevant example was provided of two crew members embarking in the same country and disembarking in two different countries, requiring two different queries in this case, for each disembarking country of each crew member.</p> <p>The second example of two crew members embarking in the same country and disembarking on different dates in the same country was mentioned with two different queries required again in this case, including the local date at the arrival point and Member State of entry for each member.</p> <p>For operational queries, Carriers were invited to contact Frontex directly at <a href="mailto:etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu">etias.acu1@frontex.europa.eu</a>.</p> <p>The CWG was also reminded to refer to the <a href="#">FAQ</a>, and encouraged to regularly consult it for updates and guidance.</p>
<p><b>5. Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p>During the Q&amp;A session, eu-LISA, the Commission and Frontex addressed several topics and responded to further questions posed by Carriers on the interpretation and the implications of the progressive approach, as well as on the topic of Crew Member Certificate, for which discussions are still ongoing with the involvement of the relevant COM units.</p> <p>Responding to a question on the progressive start of a particular MS and how many days in advance this will be informed, it was clarified that the progressive approach will start at the same time for all Member States.</p>