

**7th meeting of the Working Group for Carriers
12 October 2021, video conference meeting**

Summary

Participants: European Commission (DG HOME), carrier associations and companies (air, land and rail), Frontex and eu-LISA

<p>1. Legal base aspects and travel document issues</p>	<p>The Commission representative led attention to the adoption of the ETIAS implementing acts on 26 July 2021 and subsequent publishing in the Official Journal. Furthermore, a thorough overview was given of the adopted ETIAS consequential amendments and the VIS Regulation with a focus on their impact on the Carrier Interface. The European Commission presented open questions related to the interpretation of the ETIAS legislation and issues with travel documents.</p>
<p>2. Registration Process and project milestones</p>	<p>eu-LISA gave an overview of the registration process for the Carrier Interface which is now open to the carriers, especially those interested in a system to system connection, and highlighted the main milestones of the project. The Agency has prepared a detailed infographic “Carrier Registration: What you need to know” that was shared at the meeting. It contains the step-by-step overview of the action to be taken by carriers and the project timeline as well as contact point at eu-LISA: carriers_onboarding@eulisa.europa.eu. Thereafter the Agency explained in detail the steps how to carry out the onboarding, including which forms to fill. The indicative timeline presented milestones from September 2021 to December 2023.</p> <p>The carriers were invited to submit their registration request at their earliest convenience, to receive the technical documentation needed to integrate their systems.</p> <p>In the discussion, eu-LISA replied to specific questions by the representatives of the carriers related to the registration process, provision of data to eu-LISA, connection modalities etc.</p>
<p>3. Carrier Interface Technical Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation process Overview • Use cases • Workflow and response time 	<p>The Agency first shared information on the carriers’ implementation process to gain access to the Carrier Interface. Both system-to-system connection as well as accessing through the web portal and mobile application are possible. The steps to be taken by the carriers, with the support of eu-LISA, were presented in detail. Attention was drawn to the fact that the air carriers, sea carriers and international carriers transporting groups by coach can register since September with eu-LISA using the respective forms published by the Agency. Aspects of carrier registration (including secure email communication and</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data transmission requirements - Query • Communication Protocol Options and formats 	<p>access to documents), testing (pre-compliance and compliance phase) and go-live (including security protocols to be used) were explained in detail.</p> <p>Moreover, eu-LISA gave an overview of the technical implementation of the Carrier Interface. Examples of nationalities and categories of travellers falling either in or out-of-scope of the EES and ETIAS Regulations were highlighted. The Agency presented particular use cases of the checks on passengers prior and after the go-live of ETIAS and the responses to be expected from the Carrier Interface in different cases. Details of the data transmission between the Central System and the Carrier Interface and the workflow including estimated response times were highlighted. In addition, eu-LISA explained the data that needs to be transmitted on the passengers when launching a query to the Carrier Interface and on the carriers, their schedules and other relevant details, as required by the EES and ETIAS Regulation. Furthermore, eu-LISA shared information on the options for communication protocol and the message format applied in the Carrier Interface.</p>
<p>4. ETIAS Verification tool for TCNs</p>	<p>Next, eu-LISA explained the objective, content and functioning of the ETIAS Verification Tool for third country nationals to search data of relevance to them for their ETIAS Travel Application/Authorisation. All ETIAS applicants shall have access to a Verification Tool, either via the public website or via the application for mobile devices, enabling them to check the status of their application (submitted) or Travel Authorisation (valid, refused, annulled, revoked or expired) and its period of validity. The tool will work on a two-factor authentication for security reasons. Upon successful authentication the applicants will see their requests for travel authorisation and the response to each request. It was pointed out that carriers will not be able to access the tool but knowledge on the tool would be beneficial to inform travellers.</p>
<p>5. Frequently asked questions</p>	<p>Under frequently asked questions the Commission and eu-LISA replied to questions previously posed by the carriers. The questions addressed matters such as web services for third country nationals, possibilities to check the remaining authorised stay, the logs to be kept by eu-LISA and which tool travellers should check if they made an error in entering their travel document information.</p>
<p>6. State of Play of Standard Operating Procedures</p>	<p>A representative of Frontex shared the state-of-play of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Carrier Assistance. Frontex is finalising the first drafting of the content of the different chapters, the workflow of business cases and the working arrangements supporting the processes. As soon as the internal consultation, within Frontex, is concluded the consultation with eu-LISA will be launched; and the chapters and processes, that fall under eu-LISA responsibility (e.g. registration, de-registration, technical assistance requests), will be drafted. At the next Carrier Working Group Frontex intends to</p>

	present the first draft of the procedures and the processes of the different business cases.
7. Q&A session	
8. Future Working Group schedule and closing comments	The next Carrier Working Group is expected to be take place in December 2021.