

# Carriers Working Group of 28 February 2022

## Summary

**Subject:** Monthly Carriers Working Group meeting

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p><b>a. Agenda</b> <b>b. Carriers meeting calendar</b></p>	<p>The agenda of the 9<sup>th</sup> Carriers Working Group was presented to the participants.</p> <p>The WG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with highlights of the dates for the upcoming meetings. It was reminded that the Carrier Awareness sessions take place every two weeks, and the Carrier Working Group every month consisting of three sessions dedicated to sea, land and air carriers respectively.</p>
<p><b>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</b></p>	<p>The Carriers WG took note of the status of the implementing regulations related to carriers, as presented by the European Commission. The two implementing regulations<sup>1</sup> amended due to the approval of the ETIAS Consequential Amendments and the revised VIS, are under inter-service consultation, and will be presented at the next Carriers WG.</p> <p>Thereafter, the participants of the Sea Carriers session were reminded of the rules and exceptions for crew members according to the EES and ETIAS Regulations.</p>

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1224 of 27 July 2021 concerning the detailed rules on the conditions for the operation of the web service and data protection and security rules applicable to the web service as well as measures for the development and technical implementation of the web service provided for by Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Implementing Decision C(2019)1230, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1217 of 26 July 2021 laying down the rules and conditions for verification queries by carriers, provisions for data protection and security for the carriers' authentication scheme as well as fall-back procedures in case of technical impossibility

<p><b>3. Carrier Timeline Implementation (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>The Carriers WG took note of the timeline and milestones of implementing the regulations applicable to carriers. The current project planning for the Entry-into-Operation of the Web Portal and Mobile Application as well as the System-to-System solution were presented and respective dates were highlighted.</p> <p>A list of implementation recommendations for carriers planning to use the Web Portal and/or the Mobile App was provided. All carriers who opt for these access solutions are advised to conclude registration by the end of May 2022. Technical documentation will be sent by eu-LISA as from March 2022 to all registered carriers. It was emphasised that each carrier needs to assure that its authorised staff is properly trained before go-live. The training will be followed by a declaration of the carrier to eu-LISA that serves as a confirmation of readiness.</p> <p>The implementation recommendations for carriers using System-to-System solution were also presented. All carriers who opt for this access solution were advised to conclude their registration as soon as possible as the deadline was the end of February 2022, which will enable to carry out a fully- fledged preparation and testing procedure.</p>
<p><b>4. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>Technical updates were provided to the Carriers WG. A thorough overview of the EES-ETIAS Carrier Implementation Process was given, including the steps for the System-to-System as well as for the Web Portal and Mobile Application channel.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Carrier Certification and Testing Strategy was presented to the WG. The purpose and implementation of the pre-compliance and compliance phases were explained in detail and recommendations were shared with carriers regarding both phases.</p> <p>The Carriers WG then took note of the Carrier User Roles. A clarification of the SPOC or Backup SPOC role, support assistance role and the authorized system access role was provided.</p> <p>The Agency presented several exceptions concerning travel documents issued by third countries and how the carrier interface will handle them. The cases of Hong Kong and Macao, Bahrain, Belarus, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Iraq, Malaysia and Mexico were depicted in detail.</p>

<b>5. FAQ updates (Frontex)</b>	Frontex informed the Carriers WG about the updates of the Frequently Asked Questions. The status and role of the Frequently Asked Questions in support of carriers, their categories and the next steps were presented. The first draft is being finalised and it will soon be consulted with the Commission and eu-LISA.
<b>6. Q&amp;A</b>	During the Questions and Answers session the participants of the Carriers Working Group inquired about the replacement of stamping of passports by entering electronic records to EES and whether a mock-up version of the carrier interface would be made available. The Commission gave further details on the replacement of the stamping of passports by electronic records when EES enters into operation and eu-LISA confirmed that at the next meeting it will show how the carrier interface operates by presenting a mock-up web service to the carriers to further clarify questions on this topic.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p><b>a. Agenda</b> <b>b. Carriers meeting calendar</b></p>	<p>The agenda of the 9<sup>th</sup> Carriers Working Group was presented to the participants.</p> <p>The WG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with highlights of the dates for the upcoming meetings. It was reminded that the Carrier Awareness sessions take place every two weeks, and the Carrier Working Group every month consisting of three sessions dedicated to sea, land and air carriers respectively.</p>
<p><b>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</b></p>	<p>The Carriers WG took note of the status of the implementing regulations related to carriers, as presented by the European Commission. The two implementing regulations<sup>2</sup> amended due to the approval of the ETIAS Consequential Amendments and the revised VIS, are under inter-service consultation, and will be presented at the next Carriers WG.</p> <p>A clarification was given on the provisions and obligations regarding land carriers within the applicable legal base.</p>
<p><b>3. Carrier Timeline Implementation (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>The Carriers WG took note of the timeline and milestones of implementing the regulations applicable to carriers. The current project planning for the Entry-into-Operation of the Web Portal and Mobile Application as well as the System-to-System solution were presented and respective dates were highlighted.</p> <p>A list of implementation recommendations for carriers planning to use the Web Portal and/or the Mobile App was provided. All carriers who opt for these access solutions are advised to conclude registration by the end of May 2022. Technical documentation will be sent by eu-LISA as from March 2022 to all registered carriers. It was emphasised that each carrier needs to assure that its authorised staff is properly trained before go-live. The training will be followed by a declaration of the carrier to eu-LISA that serves as a confirmation of readiness.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1224 of 27 July 2021 concerning the detailed rules on the conditions for the operation of the web service and data protection and security rules applicable to the web service as well as measures for the development and technical implementation of the web service provided for by Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Implementing Decision C(2019)1230, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1217 of 26 July 2021 laying down the rules and conditions for verification queries by carriers, provisions for data protection and security for the carriers' authentication scheme as well as fall-back procedures in case of technical impossibility

	<p>The implementation recommendations for carriers using System-to-System solution were also presented. All carriers who opt for this access solution were advised to conclude their registration as soon as possible as the deadline was the end of February 2022, which will enable to carry out a fully-fledged preparation and testing procedure.</p>
<p><b>4. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>Technical updates were provided to the Carriers WG. A thorough overview of the EES-ETIAS Carrier Implementation Process was given, including the steps for the System-to-System as well as for the Web Portal and Mobile Application channel.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Carrier Certification and Testing Strategy was presented to the WG. The purpose and implementation of the pre-compliance and compliance phases were explained in detail and recommendations were shared with carriers regarding both phases.</p> <p>The Carriers WG then took note of the Carrier User Roles. A clarification of the SPOC or Backup SPOC role, support assistance role and the authorized system access role was provided.</p> <p>The Agency presented several exceptions concerning travel documents issued by third countries and how the carrier interface will handle them. The cases of Hong Kong and Macao, Bahrain, Belarus, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Iraq, Malaysia and Mexico were depicted in detail.</p>
<p><b>5. FAQ updates (Frontex)</b></p>	<p>Frontex informed the Carriers WG about the updates of the Frequently Asked Questions. The status and role of the Frequently Asked Questions in support of carriers, their categories and the next steps were presented. The first draft is being finalised and it will soon be consulted with the Commission and eu-LISA.</p>
<p><b>6. Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p>During the Questions and Answers session eu-LISA land carriers to share information about their preferred choice of connection and anticipated interest in a system-to-system connection. The carriers are in the planning process and the situation will be clarified in the coming weeks or months. The Agency emphasised that the carriers are invited to plan sufficient time to train their personnel. A carrier representative noted that it is important to get the large coach companies on board to ensure proper implementation of the EES and ETIAS legal base in terms of carriers.</p>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p><b>a. Agenda</b> <b>b. Carriers meeting calendar</b></p>	<p>The agenda of the 9<sup>th</sup> Carriers Working Group was presented to the participants.</p> <p>The WG took note of the Carriers meeting calendar with highlights of the dates for the upcoming meetings. It was reminded that the Carrier Awareness sessions take place every two weeks, and the Carrier Working Group every month consisting of three sessions dedicated to sea, land and air carriers respectively.</p>
<p><b>2. Legal updates (European Commission)</b></p>	<p>The Carriers WG took note of the status of the implementing acts related to carriers, as presented by the European Commission. The two implementing regulations<sup>3</sup> amended due to the approval of the ETIAS Consequential Amendments and the VIS Recast, are under inter-service consultation, and will be presented at the next Carriers WG.</p>
<p><b>3. Carrier Timeline Implementation (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>Carriers WG took note of the timeline and milestones of implementing the regulations applicable to carriers. The current project planning for the Entry-into-Operation of the Web Portal and Mobile Application as well as the System-to-System solution were presented and respective dates were highlighted.</p> <p>A list of implementation recommendations for carriers planning to use the Web Portal and/or the Mobile App was provided. All carriers who opt for these access solutions are advised to conclude registration by the end of May 2022. Technical documentation will be sent by eu-LISA as from March 2022 to all registered carriers. It was emphasised that each carrier needs to assure that its authorised staff is properly trained before go-live. The training will be followed by a declaration of the carrier to eu-LISA that serves as a confirmation of readiness.</p> <p>The implementation recommendations for carriers using System-to-System solution were also presented. All carriers who opt for this access</p>

<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1224 of 27 July 2021 concerning the detailed rules on the conditions for the operation of the web service and data protection and security rules applicable to the web service as well as measures for the development and technical implementation of the web service provided for by Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Implementing Decision C(2019)1230, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1217 of 26 July 2021 laying down the rules and conditions for verification queries by carriers, provisions for data protection and security for the carriers' authentication scheme as well as fall-back procedures in case of technical impossibility

	<p>solution were advised to conclude their registration as soon as possible as the deadline was the end of February 2022, which will enable to carry out a fully-fledged preparation and testing procedure. A clarification of the use of the term “duly authorised staff” was provided and that the usage of Self-Checking systems is still authorised.</p>
<p><b>4. Technical updates (eu-LISA)</b></p>	<p>Technical updates were provided to the Carriers WG. A thorough overview of the EES-ETIAS Carrier Implementation Process was given, including the steps for the System-to-System as well as for the Web Portal and Mobile Application channel.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Carrier Certification and Testing Strategy was presented to the WG. The purpose and implementation of the pre-compliance and compliance phases were explained in detail and recommendations were shared with carriers regarding both phases.</p> <p>The Carriers WG then took note of the Carrier User Roles. A clarification of the SPOC or Backup SPOC role, support assistance role and the authorized system access role was provided.</p> <p>The Agency presented several exceptions concerning travel documents issued by third countries and how the carrier interface will handle them. The cases of Hong Kong and Macao, Bahrain, Belarus, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Iraq, Malaysia and Mexico were depicted in detail.</p> <p>Remarks made by a carrier representative on the cases of Kosovo and Ecuador, which were noted by the Agency and will be addressed in future sessions.</p>
<p><b>5. FAQ updates (Frontex)</b></p>	<p>Frontex informed the Carriers WG about the updates of the Frequently Asked Questions. The status and role of the Frequently Asked Questions in support of carriers, their categories and the next steps were presented. The first draft is being finalised and it will soon be consulted with the Commission and eu-LISA.</p>
<p><b>6. Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p>In the Questions and Answers session concerns regarding the readiness of MS for the Entry-into-Operation of EES were raised. eu-LISA assured that this should not be a concern for carriers and that, according to the current planning, carriers will be able to query the system in September 2022.</p> <p>A question regarding the checking and stamping of the multiple-entry visas and “over stayers” was asked by a carrier representative. The Commission will check and reply to this question at the next meeting.</p> <p>A suggestion to hold a dedicated presentation around outage scenarios including fall-back procedures was made. eu-LISA took note and will be</p>

presenting it in a future session. Furthermore, it was clarified that in case of an outage, notification will be sent to carriers and MS, and that carriers will be relieved of their obligation to check travel documents during the outage period.

A question was also noted regarding the rules applicable when the Country of Destination is EU MS but not a Schengen MS (IE), or when not applying Schengen in full. The Commission will share information on this topic at the next WG meeting.