

**Brussels, 16 May 2025**

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#### **MEETING DOCUMENT**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Frontiers
Subject:	ITEM 3: 13th report on the state of preparation of ETIAS

Delegations will find attached the presentation made by Frontex at the meeting of the Working Party on Frontiers of 15 May 2025 on the above-mentioned subject.



## **13th report on the state of preparation of ETIAS**

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Director of the ETIAS Central Unit Division



# State of play of preparation of the ECU

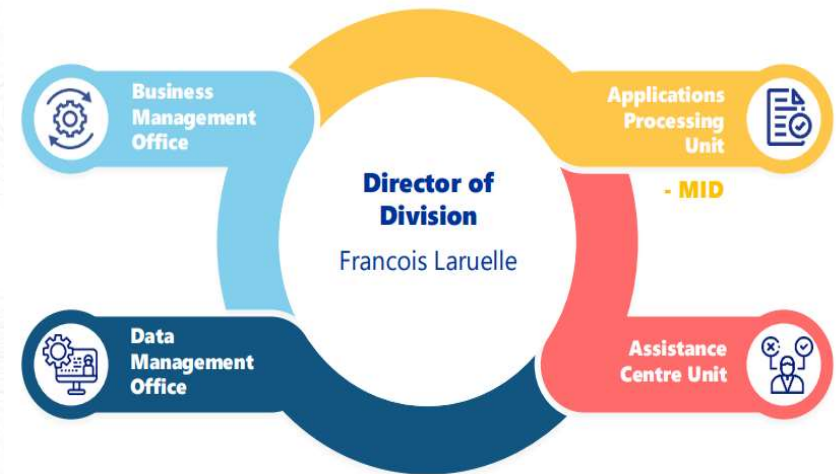
## ▪ Organisational structure:

Development of

- internal rules, SOPs,
- shift work arrangements.

## ▪ Staff allocation:

- End of March 2025, 151 staff members (117 operators)
- **27** ETIAS operators are assigned to internal work streams,
- **90** continue to temporarily support other business entities within the Agency.
- Revised timeline for EES and ETIAS : Extend the temporary reassignment of ETIAS operators in other divisions



# State of play of preparation of the ECU

## ▪ Security, Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans:

- Plans reviewed with eu-LISA for alignment, consistency and gaps identification
- In January 2025 the Sec Plan, BC & DR Plan were reviewed by ETIAS Advisory Group (eu-LISA).
- Plans to be presented to Frontex Management Board for approval in June.
- Frontex confirmed its participation in eu-LISA's annual Sec and BC Exercise involving SON, ENISA and other ETIAS stakeholders to test efficiency and effectiveness of security and business continuity procedures.

## ▪ Content development for the official ETIAS website

- Update of the ETIAS public website and mobile application mock-ups ongoing.
- Content translation into all official languages of the EU, Norwegian and Icelandic and 13 official languages of the countries listed in Annex II to the Regulation (EU) 2018/1806.

# State of play of preparation of the ECU

## ▪ Outreach activities of ECU

- Support DG HOME in its ETIAS information campaign preparations.
- Raise awareness about the official ETIAS website
- Warn the public against unofficial ETIAS websites (114 identified).

## ▪ Multipliers' networks:

- Explain the new travel requirements for visa-free travellers in 59 countries and address the spread of misinformation about ETIAS, through two key networks of multipliers:
  - the press officers' network
  - the Advisory Group on ETIAS Communications (AGEC), run by EC
- Conferences (panel speakers & exhibition stand): 8 conferences
- Webinars (tourism & travel industry): 3 webinars in 2024





# State of play of preparation of the ECU

## ▪ Support to carriers:

- FAQs and Carriers' SOPs are updated to accommodate legal and digital tooling changes.
- 24/7 structure with ICT tutorials and dashboard in ACU.
- Participating in Carrier Working Groups, International Events & Awareness Sessions with carriers.

## ▪ Support to travellers:

- Developing documents to support ETIAS applicants and other internal documents for ACU operators.
- Supporting eu-LISA in the development of the Chatbot.
- *ACU will provide support to travellers and Member States using the Travel to Europe App.*

## ▪ Support to MS:

- Revising Guidelines document for Member States for Technical Impossibility and other notifications.

# State of play of preparation of the ECU

## ▪ Data Protection:

- Many data protection issues remain unclear despite close and coordinated efforts of the major ETIAS data protection stakeholders.
- COM has announced that it will provide a legal analysis, timeline is not specified.
- ECU provided to COM a thorough document presenting the most critical pending data protection issues in order to support COM's analysis.
- Most of data protection activities are set on hold or limited anticipating the COM's guidance.
- ETIAS CS DPIA redrafting with eu-LISA (joint activities continue but now addressing only low impact issues.), however with low overall progress.

# Support activities to the Commission

- **Meetings of the respective fora:**

- the Smart Borders Committee
- Schengen Borders Committee
- relevant Advisory and Experts' Groups, including Working Groups for Carriers
- Bi-weekly meetings with EC on topics related to support to carriers and travellers



# Support activities to eu-LISA

- **Support activities to eu-LISA:**

- Meetings Frontex participated with representatives in the:
  - ETIAS Programme Management Board and eu-LISA MB
  - EES-ETIAS Advisory Group ('EES-ETIAS AG')
  - ETIAS Test Expert Group
  - *EES/VIS Transition Activities Group ('VIS TAG') organised by eu-LISA for the start of EES.*
  - Carrier Working Groups
  - Bi-weekly meetings on business/user requirements
- Cooperation on the requirements for the carrier onboarding and support (COBST) and third country nationals (TCN)
- Preparations for end-to-end testing : tests coordination by ECU ( scenarios > 1 country)

# Support activities to Member States

- **Support activities to Member States:**

- Setting up of the ETIAS National Units and Central Unit with the EU MS and SAC meetings (18).
- Working Group on Risk Screening Ops for harmonised implementation of the risk screening capability.
- Trainings for ETIAS NU staff, aimed at supporting MSs in building their capacity to implement ETIAS at the external borders.
- Development and finetuning of the Member States Guidelines for technical Impossibility.

- **ESB**

- ESB : established on 2/10/2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting took place on 14/05/2025.

# State of play of preparation of the ECU

## ■ Budget:

- The financial year 2024 closed with approximately EUR 440 thousand committed for the ETIAS project.
- ETIAS project budget for year 2025 amounts to approximately EUR 2 million.

## ■ Risks

- There are no major budgetary risks, which may impact the overall costs to be borne by the general budget of the Union.
- Major risk during the reporting period relate to:

Risk	Description	Management approach
Risk of lack of the Traveller Support Tools due to delays in their development by eu-LISA.	The necessary tools for the implementation of the support to travellers have not been delivered by eu-LISA. This may result in a delay in testing and training activities.	The risk level has been lowered as eu-LISA has concluded the requirements analysis of required supporting tools including chatbot. The solution for traveller support is under finalisation by eu-LISA.
Risk of not being able to forecast applications due to potentially invalid assumptions and unpredictable events resulting in a lack of resources and capabilities.	ECU needs well-grounded forecast of applications in order to properly estimate the workload required after the start of ETIAS. This will have an impact on the staffing and equipment required. With some parameters still unknown, there is certain level of ambiguity remaining.	Frontex has designed internal methodology and tools for forecasting the level of applications. It keeps monitoring the environment and is waiting for more details regarding the start of EES and ETIAS.

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**Thank you**

