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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.4.2026)

The Entry/Exit System (EES) must be fully operational at all border crossing points of the Schengen area by 10 April 2026. The Commission is aware of the concerns raised by the transport industry regarding the potential EES impact on their operations during summer 2026. To that end, the Commission is facilitating dialogue between the industry and Member States to address remaining challenges and ensure a seamless transition to the full EES operation.

The Commission encourages Member States to implement technical and operational solutions to address potentially excessive waiting times and minimise disruptions for travellers and industry operators. These measures include automation through the self-service systems and e-gates, as well as the use of 'Travel to Europe' mobile preregistration application. The Commission also urges Member States to address structural issues in border management by ensuring adequate number of personnel and sufficient infrastructure, and by supporting flow managers. The Commission additionally facilitates the exchange of good practices among Member States to enhance travel facilitation.

As of 10 April 2026, Member States will have the possibility to partially suspend EES operations during a period of 90 days to address possible excessive waiting times. This period may be extended by an additional period of 60 days if less than 80% of individual files registered during the progressive start of operations contain biometric data.