

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000788/26
to the Commission
Petra Steger (PfE), Mary Khan (ESN)
(25 February 2026)**

Subject: Follow-up question to E-001070/2025 — Ongoing delays to the introduction of the entry/exit system (EES)

On 23 June 2025, the Commissioner responsible, Magnus Brunner, responded to the written question I submitted on 12 March 2025 (E-001070/2025) on the ongoing delays in the introduction of the entry/exit system (EES). In his answer, he attributed these delays to ‘disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, technical complexities of the EES design and specific implementation difficulties at central and national levels’ ⁽¹⁾.

On 2 February 2026, Euronews ran another headline about the EU postponing EES rollout until September over fears of summer travel chaos. It was also reported that the scale-up of the biometric technology had already run into teething problems, causing significant delays for air, ferry and Eurotunnel passengers. A report from the end of last year by the Airports Council International Europe found that the progressive introduction of the biometric system was pushing up border control processing times at airports by up to 70%, with travellers facing waiting times of up to three hours. ⁽²⁾

The fact that such a crucial monitoring system cannot deliver even in partial operation and despite repeated deferrals points to not only organisational incompetence but also a blatant lack of political will to put major security projects pertaining to border protection and migration control into operational effect.

1. What does the Commission make of reports of issues with scaling up the biometric technology and significant delays for air, ferry and Eurotunnel passengers?
2. How many Member States have reported issues with the progressive introduction of the EES to date?

Submitted: 25.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(29 April 2026)**

The Entry/Exit System (EES) is one of the most modern border management systems in the world contributing to the security of the EU and its citizens.

The Commission is aware of media reports on challenges in scaling up biometric registrations under the EES, including alleged delays.

While some Member States faced isolated delays, the vast majority of Member States successfully registered border crossings respecting the required thresholds and without significant disruptions or queues attributable to the EES.

The Commission diligently monitors the progressive roll out of the EES through daily statistics, close coordination with Member States encountering technical difficulties, targeted support and exchange of best practices on possible solutions.

Moreover, the regulation (EU) 2025/1534 ⁽¹⁾ provides solutions, such as the full or partial suspension, to address exceptional circumstances, for example extended processing times or technical issues.

The Commission is liaising with the sea, air, land and rail carriers, urging Member States to collaborate in ensuring seamless travel for passengers.

The legal framework governing the EES requires Member States to submit monthly reports detailing their adherence to rollout plans and identifying deviations or corrective measures.

These reports are submitted to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, and the EU Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems (eu-LISA) ⁽²⁾.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001070-ASW_EN.html

² <https://www.euronews.com/travel/2026/02/24/eus-entryexit-system-rollout-delayed-until-september-over-fears-of-summer-travel-chaos>

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1534/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Article 3(3), Regulation (EU) 2025/1534 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2025 on temporary derogations from certain provisions of Regulations (EU) 2017/2226 and (EU) 2016/399 as regards the progressive start of operations of the Entry/Exit System.

Consequently, the European Parliament receives regular, transparent updates on the operational status of the EES in each Member State, including implementation difficulties encountered during the phased introduction. For precise figures on the number of Member States reporting issues, the Honourable Members may refer to these reports.
