

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003176/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(30 July 2026)**

Subject: Delays caused by the entry/exit system in summer 2026

The 2026 summer holidays got off to a rocky start as the biometric entry/exit system (EES) led to lengthy delays at many of the EU's external borders. According to media reports, out-of-order scanners, failed software updates and overloaded self-service kiosks meant hour-long waits in several Member States. Stressing that it was up to the Member States to remedy such issues, the Commission has rejected calls to suspend the checks to ease the pressure. A political solution remains evasive at land borders with the Western Balkans too.

1. In summer 2026, which Member States have reported which specific technical or organisational problems with the EES (such as equipment failures, failed software updates or bottlenecks) to the Commission?
2. In light of these reports, has the Commission taken steps to temporarily relax or lift the EES checks or empowered the Member States to that end; if so, what steps and at which border crossings?
3. If no such relief has been granted, why has the Commission refrained from taking such steps despite the issues documented by air travel and transport associations, and what criteria would need to be met for a suspension to occur?

Submitted: 30.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(11 September 2026)**

The Entry/Exit System (EES) records non-EU citizens when they cross EU borders, when they enter and exit the EU, and it does not apply to EU citizens. It has already proven its value by registering, since its launch in October 2026, 185 million border crossings and nearly 64 000 refusals of entry, including almost 1 700 cases concerning individuals considered a security threat to the EU.

The Commission is in close contact with Member States on the implementation of the EES and offers support where needed. Certain technical and other adjustments at national level remain ongoing, as often occurs in the operational deployment of large-scale IT systems.

Regulation (EU) 2025/1534 ⁽¹⁾ provides for the possibility to partially suspend the EES by not registering biometrics in the system until 6 September 2026, in certain circumstances, such as longer waiting times. Member States have used this flexibility, when needed, to manage increased passenger flows during the first summer of the EES operation.

It should be underlined that the EES is, first and foremost, a border management system that contributes to the safety of EU citizens and the security of the Schengen area.

⁽¹⁾ 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, OJ L, 2025/1534, 23.7.2025.