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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.9.2026)

The Entry/Exit System (EES) has been fully deployed since 10 April 2026. It increases the security of EU citizens and establishes a modern system of registration and checks of non-EU nationals travelling to the Schengen area.

The Commission is aware of the points raised by carriers and is in regular contact with them. The Regulation (EU) 2025/1534¹ introduced a progressive entry into operation of the EES over six months' period between 12 October 2025 and 9 April 2026. Before October 2025, eight years of thorough discussions and preparations took place, at the end of which all Schengen States implementing the EES formally confirmed their readiness to operate the system. During this period, the implementation of the EES was thoroughly tested in various comprehensive testing campaigns.

The EES Central System is stable and functions well. In case of technical difficulties or failure of the EES Central System, the Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 provides for fall-back procedures to apply². In parallel, all Member States are using the EES in integration with their national solutions. The responsibility for ensuring the effective management of border flows remains with the competent national authorities.

As of 10 April 2026, the EES is fully operational and mandatory at all border crossing points. Until 6 September 2026, in exceptional circumstances that lead to excessive waiting times at the border, Member States may suspend the registration of biometrics in the EES³. These measures are intended to allow the competent authorities and operators to fine-tune processes, adapt operations where needed, and resolve any remaining practical difficulties. The Commission is closely monitoring the situation in Member States and is providing the necessary support.

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.

² Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data and refusal of entry data of third-country nationals crossing the external borders of the Member States and determining the conditions for access to the EES for law enforcement purposes, and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 767/2008 and (EU) No 1077/2011 provides that, where it is technically impossible to enter data in the EES Central System or in the event of failure of the EES Central System, the relevant data shall be temporarily stored in the National Unified Interface (NUI). Where that is not possible, the data shall be temporarily stored locally in an electronic format. In the exceptional situation where it is technically impossible to enter data in both the EES Central System and in the NUI and it is technically impossible to temporarily store the data locally in an electronic format, shall manually store the data, with the exception of biometric data, and shall affix an entry or exit stamp in the travel document of the third-country national.

³ In line with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2025/1534 Member States may suspend the registration of biometrics at a certain border crossing point for a maximum of 6 hours in exceptional circumstances that lead to traffic of such intensity that the waiting time at a border crossing point becomes excessive.