



H.E. Mr. Ferdinand Grapperhaus
Minister of Justice & Security
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Subject: Implementation of regulation EU 2226/2017, establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES)

Your Excellency, Dear Mr. Grapperhaus,

16 September 2021

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Board of Airline Representatives in the Netherlands (BARIN) fully supports the implementation of electronic travel authorization systems, such as the EES and ETIAS, as they modernize the management of Schengen external borders while ease the identification of potentially inadmissible passengers' pre-departure.

However, it is essential that the implementation of such systems consider the impact on facilitating passenger travel and on the airlines and airports' operational systems and processes. Failure to do so will jeopardize some, if not most, of the benefits that the automated control of external borders could bring for travellers, border security and industry.

In this regard, the industry remains highly concerned as we consider that the conditions for an effective and smooth start of the operations of the EES will not be met by May 2022 for several reasons. These mainly refer to the member states' preparedness and the eventual neglect of the operational impact of EES/ETIAS on airports, airlines, and passengers' experience, as key components for a truly effective EES implementation. Furthermore, the current May 2022 deadline represents a challenge as being ahead of the summer peak while in the year when the expectation is that traffic will further recover. Such concerns are even more critical, considering the current landscape that the COVID-19 crisis has brought to aviation. More specifically related to the weak financial situation of industry stakeholders, the expectation that traffic will start recovering in 2022, and the current checks regarding the compliance with government entry restrictions. The attachment contains the letter that industry, including airports and airlines associations across the globe, have addressed to the European Commission on this subject and in which you can find a detailed industry view.

We therefore call on the Netherlands to note and reflect on the above industry concerns and further call for the reconsideration of the May 2022 deadline, adding an extension for the date of the start of the EES operations of between six to eight months - while also avoiding starting implementation during peak traffic periods.

We stand at your disposal for further meetings to discuss the details of the above with the relevant experts.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Schwartzman'.

Rafael Schwartzman
Regional Vice President Europe
International Air Transport Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marnix H Fruitema'.

Marnix H Fruitema
Chairman
Board of Airline Representatives in the Netherlands

Copy: Mrs. Barbara Visser, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management (e-mail: DBO-min@minienw.nl)