In November 2016, the Commission proposed to create a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) to strengthen security of travel to the Schengen area under visa-free agreements. The ETIAS will carry out pre-travel screening for security and migration risks of visa-exempt visitors. This will help to identify any possible security concerns prior to their travel to the Schengen area, thus contributing to more efficient management of the EU’s external borders and improved internal security.

ETIAS - The European Travel Information and Authorisation System

April 2018

“We need to know who is crossing our borders. By November, we will propose an automated system to determine who will be allowed to travel to Europe. This way we will know who is travelling to Europe before they even get here.”

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 14 September 2016

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THE ETIAS WILL:

- Save travellers time & hassle
- Improve border management
- Complement the EU’s visa liberalisation policy
- Prevent irregular migration
- Reinforce the fight against crime & terrorism

ETIAS will apply to visa-exempt non-EU citizens
HOW WILL THE ETIAS SYSTEM WORK?

Revenues from fees go to the EU budget.

Examples of data requested:
- Personal data
- Travel document (passport or equivalent document)
- Member State of first-intended stay
- Background questions relating to previous criminal records, presence in conflict zones, orders to leave the territory of a Member State or third countries, return decisions issued.
- If the application is submitted by a person other than of the applicant, identity of the person or company that he or she represents.

Checks against databases:
(SIS / VIS / EUROPOL DATA / SLTD & TDAWN (Interpol) / EURODAC / etc...) + ETIAS including its screening rules & watchlist

If there is a hit from the automated application processing, the application will undergo manual processing by staff of the ETIAS Central Unit and ETIAS National Unit(s).

Response to applicants:
- valid travel authorisation
- valid for 3 years
- (or until the expiry date of the travel document)
- response to most of the applicants within minutes
- justification of the refusal
- information on the national authority processing and deciding on the application
- the decision has to be taken within four weeks
- In case of refusal, applicants always have the right to appeal

Check by carriers prior to boarding:
(for people travelling by air, land and sea)
Valid travel authorisation?

Schengen area border crossing point
EES + Valid ETIAS authorisation?

Border guard’s final decision
- Ok to enter
- Refusal of entry

Payment of the fee for applicants between the ages of 18 and 70.
An ETIAS travel authorisation will be revoked if the conditions for issuing the travel authorisation are no longer met, particularly when there are serious grounds for believing that the travel authorisation was fraudulently obtained. It will also be annulled if the conditions for issuing the travel authorisation were not met at the time it was issued.

A revocation or annulment is carried out: by the authorities of the Member State in possession of the relevant evidence; by the ETIAS National Unit of the Member State of first-intended stay as declared by the applicant; or by the Member State that created the alert.

The revocation will also apply if:
- for a refusal of entry
- or a reported lost or stolen travel document.

ETIAS Central Unit
Ensures that data stored in application files and personal data recorded in the ETIAS are correct and up to date and, where necessary, verifies applications for travel authorisation to remove any ambiguity about the identity of an applicant in cases of a hit obtained during the automated process. It will also:
- define, evaluate, test and review specific risk indicators of the ETIAS screening rules after consultation of the ETIAS Screening Board and;
- carry out regular audits on the management of applications and the implementation of the ETIAS screening rules, particularly as regards their impact on fundamental rights and with regards to privacy and data protection.

ETIAS National Units
Responsible for carrying out assessment and decisions on travel authorisation applications referred from the automated process and for issuing opinions on applications when consulted by ETIAS National Units in other Member States.

Europol
Will contribute to establishing and maintaining the ETIAS watchlist. Will be consulted by ETIAS National Units in the follow up to a hit with Europol data during the ETIAS automated processing.

ev-LISA
will be responsible for developing and operating the ETIAS information system.

ETIAS Screening Board
Advisory body composed of representatives from each ETIAS National Unit and Europol. Will be consulted on the definition, evaluation and revision of the risk indicators as well as for the implementation of the ETIAS watchlist.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency
Mandate to ensure the creation and management of an ETIAS Central Unit.

ETIAS Fundamental Rights Guidance Board
Independent advisory body composed of representatives from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, the European Data Protection Supervisor, and the Fundamental Rights Agency. Will assess the processing of applications and the screening rules on fundamental rights, and provide guidance to the ETIAS Screening Board.