

Aviation industry welcomes postponing of EU smart border system



The hope of the aviation industry is to have all issues resolved before the rollout

The decision to delay the implementation of the EU's new smart border system for non-EU nationals (i.e. Entry Exit System, EES) has been welcomed by ACI EUROPE, A4E, ERA and IATA.

The EES system will be a game changer for how the EU's borders are managed. There are, however, a number of issues which must be resolved to ensure a smooth rollout and operation of the new system so that air passengers do not face disruptions.

These issues, as laid out in a January press release from [IATA](#), include:

- Wider adoption and effective implementation of automation at national border crossing points by national authorities
- Funding by member states to ensure a sufficient number of trained staff and resources are deployed to manage the EU's external border, particularly at airports
- Deployment of sufficient resources to support the implementation of new procedures by airports and airlines
- The need for a public communications campaign to alert third-country nationals to the new requirements

The aviation industry is fully behind the rollout of EES and is committed to working with the EU and national authorities for a successful implementation. But it is important the EU and national

authorities address industry concerns and provide efficient coordination for an effective implementation. This includes EU-LISA (the agency responsible for managing the system) strengthening its communications with the industry, and with international partners such as the US, to ensure the IT systems are connected and compatible.

Postponing the implementation until after the busy 2023 summer period will give airlines, airports, EU and national authorities the opportunity to resolve these issues and ensure the system is fully tested. We therefore urge all those involved to make the best use of the extra time now available to address the outstanding issues and ensure enough resources are deployed for its introduction,” continues the release. “A new start date for EES should be set to ensure continued smooth aviation operations and in particular trouble-free processing of passengers at airports. This will help deliver the time savings the European Commission identified as the biggest benefit of EES. Building traveler confidence with an effective rollout of EES is critical for the aviation sector as it continues its recovery.