

Entry/Exit System (EES) : the end of passport stamping when entering the Schengen area ?

The new system will be live starting 12 October 2025

Context

The **Entry/Exit System** (EES) has been created by the Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 and updated recently in July 2025 by the Regulation (EU) 2025/1534 to meet the need to prevent irregular immigration and to strengthen security in the Schengen area.



Am I impacted by this system ?

Only **non-EU nationals** traveling for a **short stay** (up to 90 days within any 180-days period) in the Schengen area, **whether or not they require a visa** are concerned each time they cross the external borders of the 29 Schengen countries. As a reminder, Cyprus and Ireland are not members of the Schengen area and are therefore not concerned by the EES.

Holders of a long stay visa or a residence permit will be exempted, so their data will not be recorded in the EES.



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How does the EES work ?

Starting **October 12, 2025**, non-EU nationals entering or exiting the Schengen area will have to provide their personal data when crossing the border control area :

- Fingerprints
- Photograph
- Place, time and date of the border crossing



This information will be stored in an individual digital file created for each traveler.

The data will be kept for **3 years** from the date of the last border crossing (or, where applicable, from the date of entry denial). It will be kept for **5 years** in case the traveler goes beyond the authorized length of stay and is found in an irregular situation.

The collection of the biometric data is **mandatory**. Otherwise, the traveler can be denied the entry into the Schengen area.



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How will it be implemented in France ?



Starting **October 12, 2025**, biometric data of non-EU nationals traveling to France will be registered at a few border points and progressively implemented during a 6-months transition period. During the roll out, passport stamping will remain applicable.



By April 10, 2026, the EES will be fully deployed across all external borders of the Schengen area and will replace passport stamping.

This European system will soon be supplemented by the **ETIAS system** starting the last quarter of 2026, which will require a travel authorization for visa-exempt nationals traveling to the EU.



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*Helma team will keep you informed
of any new legislative developments.*