

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023



European Union

ETIAS launch date delayed until 2024

Executive summary

The spokesperson for the EU Commission's Migration and Home Affairs department recently confirmed that the launch of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) has been delayed until 2024. The ETIAS, designed to more effectively regulate non-EU nationals' entry into and exit from the Schengen Area, was initially expected to go into effect in May 2023 and then delayed until November 2023.

Background

The [ETIAS](#) is an IT system designed to mitigate irregular migration to the Schengen Area. It will apply to most non-EU nationals who do not need a visa to enter the Schengen Area (i.e., visa-exempt nationals) and require them to complete an online registration form prior to travel. The form will include questions about their identity, education, occupation, travel documents, travel history and prior criminal convictions (if any). ETIAS authorizations will be granted for three years and allow travelers to enter the Schengen Area without restrictions on the number of entries during the ETIAS validity period, provided they comply with all Schengen Area rules (e.g., they do not remain in the Area for more than 90 days in any 180-day period).

Key developments

The latest change in the ETIAS implementation date comes weeks after the EU authorities announced their decision to postpone the [launch](#) of the Entry and Exit System (EES) until late 2023. The EES is an automated IT system designed to mitigate irregular migration to the Schengen Area and expedite the entry and exit of bona fide non-EU nationals. Under the EES, impacted travelers will be required to scan their passports at self-service kiosks each time they cross an external EU

border. The EES will automatically record these travelers' names, biometric data, travel documents, dates and places of entry into and exit from the Schengen Area, as well as instances when they are denied entry to the Area.

The spokesperson also confirmed that the ETIAS is likely to be introduced five to six months after the EES goes into effect. The EU authorities are expected to confirm the exact launch date for the ETIAS in the upcoming months.

Impact on employers

Employers may continue to monitor developments related to the ETIAS so they can take necessary actions once it is implemented.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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