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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Frontex report on the ETIAS state of preparation

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Delegations will find enclosed Frontex's report on the ETIAS state of preparation.

Received on  
10. 04. 2019

Ms Carmen Dan  
Minister of Internal Affairs of Romania  
Piata Revolutiei no.1 A,  
district 1, Bucharest  
Romania

Mr Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen  
Secretary General of the Council of the European Union  
Council of the European Union  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat, 175  
B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel  
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Our ref: ETIAS/FRLA/4121/2019  
Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 10 April 2019

Dear Ms Dan,  
Dear Mr Tranholm-Mikkelsen,

Please find enclosed the Report on the ETIAS state of preparation for your attention and consideration.

This document constitutes the Report to be submitted by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in accordance with Article 92, Article 2.2, second paragraph of the Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

  
Fabrice Leggeri  
Executive Director

CC: Ms. Nusa Coman; Ms. Sonia Capata  
Annex: Report to the European Parliament and Council on the ETIAS state of the preparation

# Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the ETIAS state of preparation

Period covered: November 2018 - April 2019

Frontex - European Border and Coast Guard Agency

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## Foreword

Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018, establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), entrusts the setup of the ETIAS Central Unit to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

The ETIAS Central Unit is an important component of the ETIAS system, which itself is an important element of the overall architecture of the different systems to be put in place to ensure a high level of security in the Schengen area, to contribute to the prevention of illegal immigration, to contribute to the protection of public health and to enhance the effectiveness of border controls. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency is fully committed to contribute to the successful implementation of the ETIAS System.

Considering that the setup of the Central Unit requires careful and timely preparation with many organisational and practical challenges for the Agency, and even though the Legislative Financial Statement for ETIAS does not foresee any financial or human resources for 2019, the Agency has allocated resources this year to initiate a programme related to the setup of the ETIAS Central Unit and interoperability projects relevant to Frontex and to support the Commission, eu-LISA, Europol and the Member States in the development of the system.

This document constitutes the report to be submitted by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in accordance with Article 92, Article 2.2, second paragraph to the European Parliament and the Council.

## 1. Current Actions

During the period covered since the publication of ETIAS Regulation in the Journal of the EU, a number of activities have been initiated with two clear objectives. The first objective aims at supporting the Commission in the development of the Delegated and Implementing Acts consequential to the ETIAS Regulation. The second one aims at initiating the project for the development of the ETIAS Central Unit including all aspects of this endeavour, including, for example, the recruitment of staff and the allocation of necessary premises space so that it is ready for operation on time.

The following actions were undertaken.

- Following approval of the Management Board of the Agency in 2018 for such organisational structure, a Task Force for the management of the ETIAS and Interoperability programme has been officially created by Executive Director Decision. It is a temporary structure that will undertake the organisation, coordination and the follow up of the activities required to set up the ETIAS Central Unit. The first Staff members (3) have been allocated to the Task Force and it can also call upon the resources of the other business units when needed.
- The relevant regulations have been analysed in order to identify the detailed responsibilities of the Agency under the ETIAS regulation and related regulations (data protection, SIS, EES).
- By co-organising with the Commission, Europol and eu-LISA, a High Level Seminar on 21 January 2019 in Warsaw, the Agency contributed to the awareness of the Member States, in particular with regard to the impact of the ETIAS project on them and of the urgency for them to start taking organisational measures to establish the National Units. The Agency also participated actively in the Forum on the implementation of the new architecture for EU information systems for borders and security organised by the Commission on 5 March 2019 in Brussels. The objective this time was to increase the awareness of the main players about all the projects in the area of Information Systems and Interoperability.
- The Agency supported the Commission in the development of Delegating Acts and Implementing Decisions by producing contributions and comments to the proposed texts and by attending meetings with groups such as the Smart Borders Committee, the ETIAS Expert group and the EES-ETIAS Advisory Group.
- It also contributed to the smooth cooperation between the agencies by participating in regular coordination meetings to discuss issues and status progress on activities, documents and deadlines for contributions.

- It contributed to the overall Governance of the project by participating in the meetings of the ETIAS Project Management Board and the eu-LISA Management Board.

## 2. Planned Actions

For the period April 2019 to December 2019, the following activities are planned.

The ETIAS Task Force of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency will

- continue to support the Commission and to optimise the existing cooperation with eu-LISA, Europol and the Commission to implement the project and to reduce as much as possible the risks inherent to it. The Agency will participate in the development and review of the functional specifications for the system, and in particular to the parts related to the Central Unit.
- design further the operations model for the ETIAS Central Unit.
- develop further the project planning and management activities (with a view to have a detailed work plan by the time most Delegating and Implementing Acts are approved).
- establish the recruitment plan for the ETIAS Central Unit for 2020 and 2021 and in collaboration with the Human Resources and Security Unit, integrate it in the broader recruitment goals for the European Border Coast Guard Agency. It will progress with the recruitment activities for all the roles required by the Central Unit - by defining and describing the tasks and the required skills, by recruiting to fill the advertised profiles and by on-boarding the new staff.
- in collaboration with the Agency's Task Force for the new building advance the preparation work for renting temporary operational facilities for the ETIAS Central Unit, required until the new headquarters building becomes available.

## 3. Budget

So far, a budget of € 172.700 has been committed to cover the costs of missions and the costs of organisation of the High Level Seminar on ETIAS. These costs have been borne by the 2019 budget of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

## 4. Risks

At this stage in the project, based on the information at hand, there is no concrete risk yet identified which may impact the overall costs of the Central Unit to be borne by the general budget of the Union in accordance with Article 85.