

## Entry-exit system: Council agrees on its negotiating mandate

On 2 March 2017, the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) agreed on a negotiating mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament on a proposal for an entry-exit system. This system will register entry, exit and refusal of entry **information of third country nationals crossing the external borders** of the Schengen area.

The entry-exit system will help:

**reduce border check delays** and improve the quality of border checks by automatically calculating the authorised stay of each traveller  
ensure systematic and reliable **identification of overstayers** and those who no longer fulfil the conditions for entry  
**strengthen internal security and the fight against terrorism** by allowing law enforcement authorities access to a travel history records

"Bringing our border controls up to date will help us manage the increasing flow of travellers. It is also a basic tool for managing migration better, in particular cases of overstay, as well as for improving our response to the current terrorist threat."

*Carmelo Abela, Maltese Minister for Home Affairs and National Security*

Coreper also agreed on a mandate for negotiations on a regulation amending the Schengen borders code in view of the entry-exit system.

On the basis of these mandates, the Maltese Presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament.

The Council's position envisages several important elements, including the following.

### Information stored

The entry-exit system will apply to third country nationals, both those requiring a visa and those visa-exempt, admitted for a short stay of 90 days in any 180 day period. It will register their entry, exit and refusal of entry.

It will also store information on their identity and travel documents as well as biometric data (four fingerprints and the facial image).

The draft regulation also provides for interoperability between the entry exit system and the visa information system (VIS) for those third country nationals who require a visa to cross the EU external border. Checking information against the VIS will ensure rapidity and efficiency at the border checks.

The entry-exit system consists of a central database, where the information is stored, connected to national uniform interfaces.

Data related to third country nationals will be kept for a period of five years for border management purposes.

### Access to the information

The information stored in the entry-exit system will be accessible to border authorities, visa authorities and the authorities within the member states competent to check if a third country national fulfils the conditions of entry or stay.

Data in the entry-exit system will also be available to the designated law enforcement authorities and Europol, to prevent, detect and investigate terrorist offences or other serious crimes, according to conditions as set out in the Council position.

Any access and processing of the information contained in the entry-exit system should be proportionate and necessary for the

performance of tasks of the competent authorities.

## **Background**

The proposed regulation is a revised version of a legislative package presented by the Commission in February 2013. After the co-legislators voiced technical, financial and operation concerns on certain aspects of the 2013 package, the Commission carried out a technical study, followed by a pilot project entrusted to eu-LISA, the EU agency for the operational management of large scale IT systems. On the basis of the results of this preparatory phase, the Commission presented a revised proposal on 6 April 2016.

### **Press office - General Secretariat of the Council**

Rue de la Loi 175 - B-1048 BRUSSELS - Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319  
press.office@consilium.europa.eu - [www.consilium.europa.eu/press](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press)