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## Strengthening security checks at Europe's borders

- Shared database on entry, exit and refusal of entry of non-EU nationals
- Registering visa and visa-exempt travellers admitted to stay for up to 90 days
- Reducing irregular migration of over-stayers and fighting organised crime

### **A common electronic system to speed up checks at the Schengen area's external borders and to register all non-EU travellers was backed by Parliament on Wednesday.**

The new Entry/Exit System (EES) will register information on non-EU nationals, such as name, travel document, fingerprints, facial image, date and place when they enter, exit or are refused entry into the Schengen area. It will apply both to travellers requiring a visa and to visa-exempt travellers admitted for a short stay of 90 days, who cross the Schengen area's external borders.

EES would make it easier to check that the authorised duration of a short stay - 90 days in any 180-day period - is respected.

The system will replace the manual stamping of passports and speed up border crossings, while making it easier to detect over-stayers and document or identity fraud.

### **Data storage**

- Data will be retained for three years and for overstayers for five years
- Data stored in the EES can be consulted to prevent, detect or investigate terrorist offences or other serious criminal offences

### **Access to the data**

The new system will register various data and share the information with external border check points to stop illegal entry and track over-stayers.

- The information stored in the new system will be accessible to border and visa authorities
- Data will be also available to Europol

- National asylum authorities will not have access to the EES

### **Bulgaria and Romania to take part in EES**

The EES will be operated by the [member states which apply Schengen rules in full](#) or member states that do not apply Schengen rules in full, but for which, inter alia:

- The Schengen evaluation has been completed and
- passive access to Visa Information System (VIS) has been granted.

### **Quote**

Rapporteur [Agustín DÍAZ DE MERA](#) said ““The Entry/Exit System will allow for quicker and safer border crossings. It will also help to detect terrorists and other criminals hiding behind a false identity”.”

### Next steps

The draft law, already informally agreed with member states, was approved by 477 votes to 139, with 50 abstentions.

EES is expected to be operational in 2020.

On Wednesday, Members also approved the amendments needed to integrate the new Entry Exit System into the Schengen Border Code, by 496 votes to 137, with 32 abstentions.

### Quick facts

The proposal for an entry-exit system (EES) is part of the [smart borders package](#) presented by the Commission in April 2016.

The cost of the EES has been estimated at €480 million.

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*" The Entry/Exit System will allow for quicker and safer border crossings. It will also help to detect terrorists and other criminals hiding behind a false identity "*

Agustín DÍAZ DE MERA GARCÍA CONSUEGRA (EPP, ES)

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## Further information

[Adopted text will be available here \(click on 25.10.2017\)](#)

[Video of the debate in plenary \(25.10.2017\)](#)

[Video interview with Mr Diaz de Mera on how it will work](#)

[EP Research briefing: Smart borders: EU Entry/Exit System](#)

[Audiovisual material for professionals:](#)

## Political groups

[Press release by the EPP group](#)

[Press release by the S&D group](#)

[News pages of the ECR group](#)

[News pages of the ALDE group](#)

[News pages of the GUE/NGL group](#)

[Press release by the Greens/EFA group](#)

[News pages of the EFDD group](#)


[News pages of the ENF group](#)


## Contacts

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Maja OREL SCHWARZ

Press Officer

 (+32) 2 28 32357 (BXL)

 (+32) 473 86 49 74

 [@EP\\_Justice](#)

 [maja.orel@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:maja.orel@europarl.europa.eu)

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New electronic entry/exit system will make life easier for travellers entitled to enter the EU ©AP Images/EU-EP