



5 KEY THINGS TO KNOW

# NEW EU ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM [EES]

# NEW EU ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM (EES)

The European Union is introducing a new digital border management system, the Entry/Exit System (EES), which will change how non-EU citizens, including UK travellers, enter and exit the Schengen Area. The countries in the Schengen area are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

## 1. WHAT IS EES?

It is a new electronic system for the 29 EU countries using digital records (instead of passport stamps) to track when non-EU travellers (including UK & US citizens) enter and exit the Schengen Area.

## 2. WHEN DOES IT START?

EES begins operations on **12 October 2025**.

## 3. WHAT MUST I DO BEFORE I GO?

**Nothing.** There is **no pre-application needed** and **no fee** for EES registration.

## 4. WHAT HAPPENS AT THE BORDER? (YOUR ACTION POINTS)

On your first trip after October 2025, you must:

- **Scan your passport** at a self-service kiosk or booth.
- Provide **biometrics: fingerprints and a photo/facial image**.

This registration is valid for **3 years**. For future trips, the check will be quicker, requiring only a fingerprint or photo.

## 5. WILL THIS CAUSE DELAYS?

**Yes.** You must **plan for extra time**.

- **Flying to the EU:** EES checks occur **upon arrival** at your destination airport.

- **Via Channel Crossings (Dover, Eurotunnel, Eurostar):** EES checks occur **in the UK before departure**. You must leave your vehicle or use kiosks at the port/station to complete the checks.

### **EES VS. ETIAS: DO NOT CONFUSE THEM**

<b>System</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Action Now?</b>
<b>EES</b>	Records border movements and biometrics	Oct 2025 (Phased)	No	Prepare for border registration/delays
<b>ETIAS</b>	Pre-travel authorisation (like ESTA)	Late 2026	Yes (€20)	No action required yet (you will need to apply online before travelling to Europe once the system is implemented)

### **IMPORTANT EXEMPTION NOTE**

If you are a UK national holding a specific, valid Withdrawal Agreement residence document, you are exempt from EES registration. If you hold one of these documents, you should present it to a border guard instead of registering.