

FRONT^{EX}

Evolution of the management of the EU external borders

Francois Laruelle

Director of ETIAS Central Unit Division





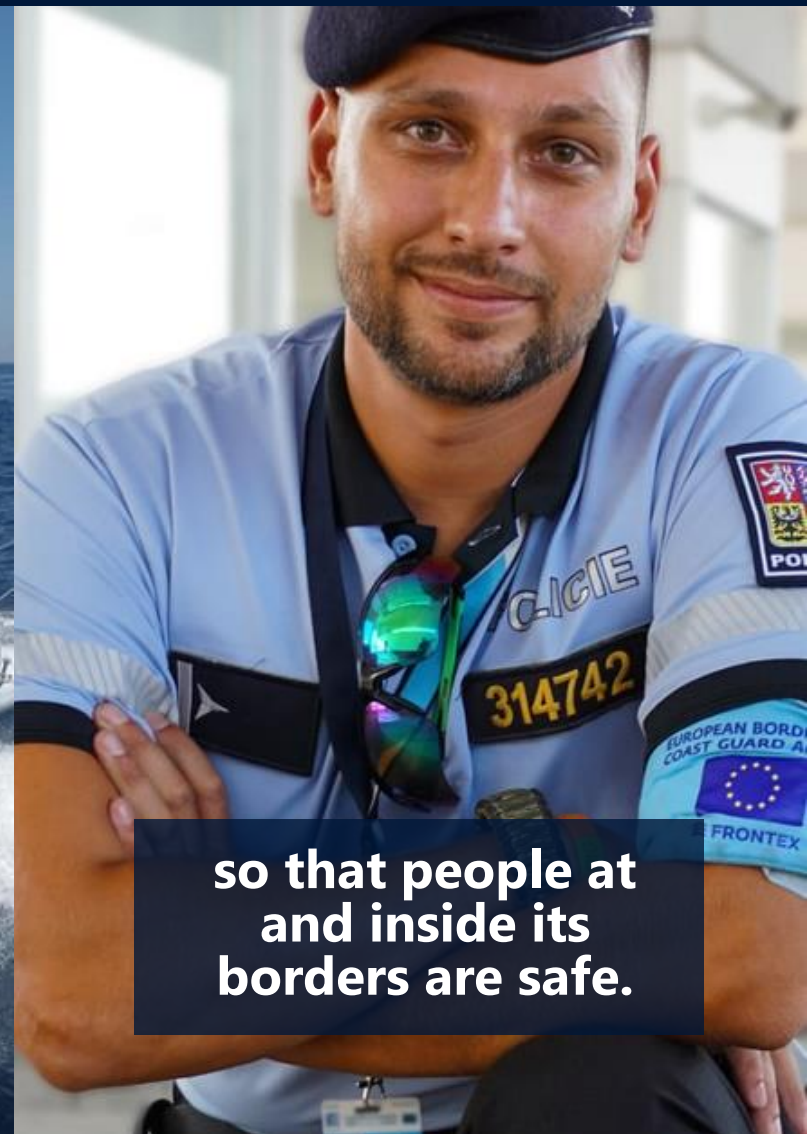
WHO WE ARE



**We are the European
Border and Coast
Guard Agency.**



**We help to secure
Europe's borders,**



**so that people at
and inside its
borders are safe.**

Protecting borders

Fighting cross-border crime

Return and
reintegration

Monitoring the borders

Risk analysis

OUR MAIN TASKS

Safer Schengen, smoother
travels (ETIAS)

Research and Innovation

Training

International and EU
cooperation



- **Inbound tourism to Europe in 2024**
758.6 million people

(source: UN Tourism)

- **Total visa applications (Schengen countries) in 2024**
11.7 million

(source: DG Migration and Home Affairs)

- **56 262 individuals returned with Frontex assistance in 2024**

(64% were voluntary)

CURRENT SITUATION



UNDER DEVELOPMENT



INTEROPERABILITY

NEW VIS



- **Enhanced security checks across all databases**
- **Better data and information exchange**
- **More efficient return procedures**
- **Strengthened capacity to prosecute and prevent crime**

ELECTRONIC VISA

Schengen visa digitalisation

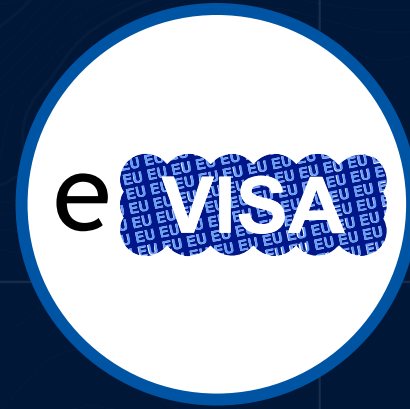
- Online application
- Digital visa replaces physical sticker with a cryptographically signed barcode
- Need to enroll biometric data at a consulate, can complete application online

Benefits

- Easier and more secure - Reduced risk of theft, fraud, and falsification
- Streamlined visa applications and lower costs for applicants and issuing authorities

Key Features

- Single EU Online Visa application platform for all Schengen countries
- Applicants can enter data, upload documents, and pay fees online



DIGITAL TRAVEL CREDENTIAL

EU Digital Travel Application - DTA



- Digital version of passport/ID card data
- Available to EU citizens and non-EU nationals with biometric passports
- Can be stored on mobile phones and in European Digital Identity Wallet (as of 2030)

Benefits

- Faster and more secure border crossings
- Enhanced security through advance checks

Data Protection

Implementation

- Voluntary, but all Schengen countries will accept digital travel credentials
- Available as of 2030, with national systems possible before then

EES: CHALLENGES FACED & CHALLENGES AHEAD



- Technology
- Adaptation of the processes
- Cooperation with national & airport authorities
- Time for enrolment of biometrics information brackets
 - Surface
 - Environmental conditions
 - Port (disembark / passenger)
 - Vehicles
- Verifications of biometrics by border guards
- Increase of processing time and queues

➤ Travel to Europe app

- Pre-registration mobile app
- Voluntary for Member States and travellers
- Collects passport data, facial image, answers to the entry questionnaire
- Developed and managed by ETIAS Central Unit



ETIAS: CHALLENGES FACED & CHALLENGES AHEAD

 Communication to travellers before departure (campaigns)

 Wrong information spread online

 Unofficial websites:
(mid-Oct 2025)

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 Official website: europa.eu/etias

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Thank you

Francois Laruelle

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