

MEMORANDUM

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The news:

On 17 November, the International conference for the Central African Republic will take place in Brussels, organised jointly by the European Union and the Central African Government.

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission Federica **Mogherini** and the President of the Central African Republic, Professor Faustin Archange Touadéra, will jointly chair the conference, which will be attended by ministers and high-level representatives from international organizations.

The conference aims at mobilising the international community in order to generate political support and concrete commitments to support the Central African Republic's authorities' ambitious agenda to achieve peace, security and reconciliation across the country, as well as to promote development and economic recovery.

Vice-President Kristalina **Georgieva***, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides** will also take the floor.

The background:

Emerging from one of the worst conflicts in its history, the [Central African Republic](#) has made impressive progress in the last three years; after a difficult political transition, new elections took place peacefully and constitutional order has been restored.

However, significant and urgent challenges remain. With support from the World Bank, the United Nations and the European Union, the Government of the Central African Republic has come up with a Plan for Recovery and Peace-building for the next five years. The conference will be an opportunity for the international community to provide the support needed for the implementation of this plan and the stabilisation of the country.

The European Union itself has already mobilised considerable support for the Central African Republic since 2013, including the EU's first multi-donors [Trust Fund \(Bêkou\)](#) whose activities have benefitted 500.000 people.

The events:

High Representative/Vice-President will co-chair the conference with the President of the [Central African Republic](#), who will present the country's plan for recovery and peace-building. The role of development in a fragile context will be presented by Jan. Walliser, Vice-President of the World Bank*. The United Nations' Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson will present the role of the United Nations in the stabilisation of the [Central African Republic](#). Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides will also take the floor.

Partners will be invited to pledge additional support to contribute to the implementation of the plan for recovery and peace-building in the [Central African Republic](#).

Two side events – a workshop for civil society and religious platforms and a working lunch with the private sector – will also take place on 16 and 18 November respectively in view of the importance of these stakeholders for the future of the country. (EC 16-11-2016)

TANZANIA GETS OVER \$126 000 JAPANESE GRANT TO REVAMP HEALTH SECTOR

The Benjamini Mkapa Foundation, Chief Executive Officer, Ellen Senkoro has said that the foundation together with Japan have signed a grant agreement worth \$126,726 to support the construction of operating theatre at Nkoma Health Centre in Itimila District in Simiyu Region.

Senkoro said on Monday that the project target is to be accomplished within six months and is expected to provide services to the nearby community.

“We hope the project will be accomplished on time in order to improve the maternal health and quality of health services in the district,” she said.

The representative from Itimila District Council, Mr Archanus Kilaja, said that Nkoma Health Centre at the time provided services as a district hospital and served the population of at least 313,900 people.

He pointed out that the health centre normally expects a total of 7,698 deliveries per year and for the previous financial year 2015/2016 the number of referral cases was 268 mostly due to surgical cases.

He said that among them 55 per cent are due to emergency obstetric cases and hoped that the project will help improve maternal and new-born health in the district.

Meanwhile Ambassador of Japan, Mr Masaharu Yoshida, said that the operating theatre will significantly improve the maternal health as well as the quality of health services in the District.

“I believe that under your firm hands the project will be completed on time without any issues and the operating theatre will be properly maintained in future,” he said.(APA 07-11-2016)

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES SET TO DOUBLE FLIGHTS TO CAPE TOWN

Ethiopian Airlines is set to increase flight frequency to Cape Town to ten times weekly beginning from December 1st 2016, the airline said in a statement on Tuesday.

Chief Commercial Officer of the airline, Mr. Busera Awel said, serving Africa remains their prior commitment as a Pan-African carrier.

“Increasing services to Cape Town, known for the Table Mountain is part of this commitment. The increase in flight frequency to Cape Town, our third gateway in South Africa, will enable tourists and business travellers to enjoy convenient connectivity options to and from 95 Ethiopian global networks on-board our state-of-the-art fleet, Boeing 787” he added.

He said the ten-time weekly service will enhance the airline’s capacity to over 400 percent in a year’s time.

“We always strive to offer the best possible passenger and cargo services the industry has to offer, including a wide variety menu of meal services with the newly inaugurated modern In-Flight Catering facility, served with a multiple award winning in-flight services” the Ethiopian Airlines official said.

Ethiopian Airlines currently flies to three cities in South Africa namely, Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

In its seven decades of operation, it has laid claim to be one of the continent’s leading carriers, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success.

It also claims to command the lion’s share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to 95 international destinations across five continents.(APA 08-11-2016)

THE COMMISSION PUBLISHES A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN EU TRAVEL AND INFORMATION AUTHORISATION SYSTEM (ETIAS)

The news:

The European Commission is tabling a proposal to establish an EU Travel and Information Authorisation System (ETIAS) on Wednesday 16 November 2016, as announced by President Juncker in his State of the Union address on 14 September when he said: *"We need to know who is crossing our borders. By November, we will propose an automated system to determine who will be allowed to travel to Europe. This way we will know who is travelling to Europe before they even get here."*

The background:

The ETIAS will gather information on all travellers who are travelling visa free to Europe to allow for advance irregular migration and security checks. This will contribute to a more efficient management of the EU's external borders and improve internal security, whilst at the same time facilitating legal travel across Schengen borders.

Security has been a constant theme since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate – from President Juncker's [Political Guidelines](#) of July 2014 to the latest [State of the Union address](#) on September 2016.

The European Commission adopted the [European Agenda on Security](#) on 28 April 2015, setting out the main actions to ensure an effective EU response to terrorism and security threats in the European Union over the period 2015-2020.

Since the adoption of the Agenda, significant progress has been made in its implementation. Key areas of attention have been reinforced by Action Plans adopted in December 2015 on [firearms and explosives](#), in February 2016 on [strengthening the fight against terrorist financing](#), the Communication of 6 April 2016 on [Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security](#), and the Communication of 20 April 2016 on [Delivering on the European Agenda on Security to fight against terrorism and pave the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union](#).

Most recently, the launch on 6 October of a European Border and Coast Guard, as announced by President Juncker in his [State of the Union Speech](#) on 9 September 2015 and only 9 months after the Commission's proposal in December, shows a clear commitment to implement the measures under the [European Agenda on Migration](#) to reinforce the management and security of the EU's external borders.

The creation by President Juncker of a specific Commissioner portfolio for the Security Union in August 2016 shows the importance the Commission has attached to stepping up its response to the terrorist threat. (EC 16-11-2016)

[Communication: Delivering on the European Agenda on Security to fight against terrorism and pave the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union](#)

CAMEROON SMES GRANTED CFA2.5BN IN CREDITS

Cameroon's Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises (BC-PME) has granted over CFA2.5 billion in credits at the end of its first year of operation, the public banking institution disclosed to APA. According to the bank's Managing Director, Agnès Ndoumbe Mandeng, the institution which is 100 percent public-owned in 2015 fully assumes the tasks assigned to it.

These consist of supporting SMEs in their growth by providing them appropriate financing.

The bank has a "satisfactory" record, Mandeng said, noting that in one year of activities, it has garnered nearly 2000 clients in its two agencies in Yaoundé and Douala.

With a capital of CFA10 billion, the BC-PME was created by the Cameroonian government to reduce the difficulties SMEs face while attempting to access banking finance, which represents nearly 95 percent of

the national industrial makeup. (APA 14-11-2016)

ANGOLAN BIOENERGY COMPANY BIOCUM EXCEEDS SUGAR PRODUCTION TARGET

Bioenergia de Angola (Biocom) produced 51,500 tons of sugar in the 2016/2017 marketing year, exceeding its previous target of 47,000 tonnes, said the director of production, the Brazilian citizen Marco Brandão.

The production director also said that despite the tonnage produced accounting for just one-fifth of the maximum capacity in this initial implementation phase in the municipality of Cacuso, northern Malanje province, in a 80 hectares concession area, of which 15.5 thousand are already in operation, "it was a very productive year."

In the 1015/2016 agricultural year, Biocom saw production of 24,700 tonnes of sugar, 10,200 cubic metres of ethanol and generated 42,000 megawatt hours of electricity.

Marco Brandão, responsible for the entire production process of Biocom, said at the closing session of the 2016/2017 sugarcane harvest that for the plant to reach production of 256,000 tonnes of sugar per year from 2020, it will need 40,000 hectares of planted area, work that is being done daily.

In the agricultural season now ending the production of ethanol, a by-product of sugar reached 13,800 cubic metres and power generation totalled 38,500 megawatt hours, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

In 2020 when Biocom reaches peak sugar production, the plant will produce 235,000 megawatt hours of electricity and 33,000 cubic metres of ethanol, which will contribute to the energy security of Angola and increase the supply of ethyl alcohol in the Angolan market.

Biocom is a company that resulted from a partnership between Odebrecht Angola Produtos e Serviços, a subsidiary of Brazilian group Odebrecht, the Angolan company Cochan, with 40% each and the state oil and fuel company Sonangol, with the remaining 20 %. (14-11-2016)

SECURITY UNION: COMMISSION PROPOSES A EUROPEAN TRAVEL INFORMATION AND AUTHORISATION SYSTEM

"We need to know who is crossing our borders. By November, we will propose an automated system to determine who will be allowed to travel to Europe. This way we will know who is travelling to Europe before they even get here." – President Jean-Claude Juncker, 2016 State of the Union Address

The Commission is today proposing to establish a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) to strengthen security checks on visa-free travellers. This follows the announcement in September by President Juncker in his 2016 [State of the Union](#) address, and is a first deliverable of the priorities for action identified in the [Bratislava Roadmap](#). The ETIAS will gather information on all those travelling visa-free to the European Union to allow for advance irregular migration and security checks. This will contribute to a more efficient management of the EU's external borders and improve internal security, whilst at the same time facilitating legal travel across Schengen borders.

First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: "*Securing our borders and protecting our citizens is our first priority. ETIAS will close an information gap by cross-checking visa exempt applicants' information against all our other systems. At the same time, the future ETIAS will be easy, quick, cheap and effective.*"

Migration and Home Affairs Commissioner **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: "*ETIAS is the missing link in our border management, connecting the dots with our migration and security policies and enhancing Schengen entry for at least 95% of visa-free travellers. Europe's openness does not come at the cost of its security.*"

Security Union Commissioner **Julian King** said: "*Terrorists and criminals don't care much for national borders. The only way to defeat them is by working together effectively. ETIAS will help do that: by spotting problem individuals and stopping them from coming, we'll enhance Europe's internal security.*"

The ETIAS authorisation is not a visa; it is a lighter and more visitor-friendly regime. Nationals of visa liberalisation countries will still be able to travel without a visa but will have to obtain a simple travel authorisation prior to their travel to the Schengen Area. This will help identify persons who may pose an irregular migration or security risk before they arrive at the border and significantly enhance the security of the external borders. The ETIAS will also bridge an existing information gap on visa-free travellers by gathering information that could be vital to Member States' authorities in advance of their arrival at the Schengen border. The ETIAS is therefore an important step forward towards stronger and smarter information systems for borders and security. The ETIAS will also facilitate the crossing of the external border by visa-exempt third country nationals. Travellers will have a reliable early indication of entry into the Schengen area which will thus substantially reduce the number of refusals of entry.

In order to decide whether to issue or reject a request to travel to the EU, an automated system will conduct prior checks, **in full respect of fundamental rights and personal data protection**. Although the final decision to grant or refuse entry will always be taken by the national border guards who are conducting border controls under the Schengen Borders Code, prior verifications of all travellers will facilitate border checks and ensure a coordinated and harmonised assessment of visa-exempt third-country nationals.

The ETIAS will be managed by the European Border and Coast Guard in close cooperation with the competent authorities of the Member States and Europol. The Agency eu-LISA will develop and provide technical management of this information system.

The key functions of ETIAS will be to:

- **Verify the information submitted** by visa-exempt third country nationals (such as information related to identity, travel document, residence information, contact details etc.), via an online application ahead of their travel to the EU's external borders, to assess if they pose a risk for irregular migration, security or public health;
- **Automatically process each application** submitted via a website or a mobile application against other EU information systems (such as SIS, VIS, Europol's database, Interpol's database, the EES, Eurodac, ECRIS), a dedicated ETIAS watch list (established by Europol) and targeted, proportionate and clearly defined screening rules to determine if there are factual indications or reasonable grounds to issue or refuse a travel authorisation;
- **Issue travel authorisations**. In cases where no hits or elements requiring further analysis are identified, the travel authorisation is issued automatically within minutes after the application has been submitted.

An authorisation will be obtained through a procedure that is simple, cheap and fast; in the vast majority of cases, an authorisation should be given in a matter of minutes. The authorisation, the application for which will not take more than ten minutes to fill in and which only requires a valid travel document, will be **valid for a period of five years** and for multiple travels. An **application fee of €5** only will apply to all applicants above the age of 18.

Background

Security has been a constant theme since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate – from President Juncker's [Political Guidelines](#) of July 2014, to the latest [State of the Union address](#) in September 2016. In his speech, President Juncker announced that by November the Commission will propose a European Travel Information System (ETIAS) – an automated system to determine who will be allowed to travel to the Schengen Area. The setting up of this system has been further prioritised in the [Bratislava Roadmap](#) signed and agreed by the EU 27 leaders, committing to: "*set up a Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) to allow for advance checks and, if necessary, deny entry of visa-exempt travellers*".

The European Commission adopted the [European Agenda on Security](#) on 28 April 2015, setting out the main actions to ensure an effective EU response to terrorism and security threats in the European Union over the period 2015-2020.

Since the adoption of the Agenda, significant progress has been made in its implementation. In November 2015, the Commission proposed the revision of the [Firearms Directive](#) followed by an [Action Plan on firearms and explosives](#) in December 2015. On terrorism, a new [Directive on Combatting Terrorism](#) was adopted by the Commission in December 2015 and a specific [Action Plan on terrorist financing](#) in February 2016. In April, the Commission proposed the establishment of the [Entry Exit System](#) (EES) and presented a Communication paving the way towards an effective and genuine

[Security Union](#). In addition, a single [EU certification for aviation security equipment](#) was adopted in September.

Most recently, on 14 September 2016, the Commission presented its Communication '[Enhancing security in a world of mobility](#)' which confirmed the need to strike the right balance between ensuring mobility and enhancing security, while facilitating legal entry into the Schengen area without the need for a visa. In addition, on 6 October the [European Border and Coast Guard](#) became operational, only 9 months after the Commission's proposal in December, showing a clear commitment to reinforce the management and security of the EU's external borders.

The creation by President Juncker of a specific Commissioner portfolio for the Security Union in August 2016 shows the importance the Commission has attached to stepping up its response to the terrorist threat. (EC 16-11-2016)

[Feasibility study on a European Travel Information and Authorisation System](#)

NIGERIA: INFLATION RATE RISES TO 18.3 PERCENT IN OCTOBER

Nigeria's inflation rate rose from 17.9 percent in September this year to 18.3 percent in October. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in its monthly report on inflation released on Monday in Abuja, said that the rise in inflation was due to increases recorded across almost all major divisions which contribute to the Headline Index.

It added that Communication and Restaurants and Hotels recorded the slowest pace of growth in October, growing at 5.7 percent and 9.4 percent year-on-year respectively.

According to the report, the Food Index rose by 17.1 percent (year-on-year) in October, up by 0.47 percent points from 16.6 percent recorded in September.

During the month, all major food groups which contribute to the Food sub-index increased with Fruits recording the slowest pace of increase at 11.5 percent.

Price movements recorded by the All Items less farm produce or Core subindex rose by 18.1 percent (year-on-year) in October, up by 0.4 percent points from rates recorded in September (17.7 percent).

During the month, the highest increases were seen in Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels as well as, fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment and Education.

Communication and Restaurants and Hotels recorded the slowest pace of growth in October, growing at 5.7 percent and 9.4 percent year-on-year respectively. (APA 15-11-2016)

MOROCCO VOWS TO DEFEND AFRICA'S VITAL INTERESTS



King Mohammed VI on Wednesday declared that Morocco, a leading player committed to consolidating regional security and stability is determined to defend Africa's vital interests.

“The kingdom is determined to strengthen its contribution to the defense of the continent’s vital interests, alongside countries with which it is on friendly terms and within the African Union” the Moroccan monarch declared.

He was opening the African Action Summit in Marrakech on the sidelines of the 22nd Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22).

With an ambitious renewable energy program, the kingdom was putting its expertise at the disposal of its partners, King Mohammed VI said, before making a personal promise to invigorate an African network of climatic expertise, from Morocco’s “Center of Expertise on Climate Change”.

He said Morocco is also mobilizing support for the implementation of the “Adaptation of African Agriculture” or “Triple A” Initiative, pointing out that this innovative mechanism promotes the adoption and funding of solutions intended for productivity and food security.

While indicating Morocco’s conviction that funding was a priority for COP22, King Mohammed VI said that his kingdom was also encouraging the involvement of Sovereign Funds in developing so-called green infrastructure in Africa.

“Acting ourselves and for ourselves is an imperative and involving our strategic partners is now a necessity” the Moroccan monarch posited.(16-11-2016)

SECURITY UNION: A EUROPEAN TRAVEL INFORMATION AND AUTHORISATION SYSTEM - QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Security has been a constant theme since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate – from President Juncker's Political Guidelines of July 2014, to the latest State of the Union address in September 2016.

In his speech, President Juncker announced that by November the Commission will propose a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) – an automated system to determine who will be allowed to travel to Europe. The Commission's proposal to establish this system is a first deliverable of the priorities for action identified in the [Bratislava Roadmap](#).

What is the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)?

ETIAS will be an **automated IT system** created to identify any risks associated with a visa-exempt visitor travelling to the Schengen Area. All visa-exempt third-country nationals who plan to travel to the Schengen area will have to apply for travel authorisation through the system prior to their trip. The information gathered via the system, in full respect of fundamental rights and data protection, will allow for advance verification of potential security or irregular migration risks.

The ETIAS authorisation is **not a visa**. Nationals of visa liberalisation countries will still be able to travel without a visa but will be required, as a mandatory condition for entry to the Schengen area, to obtain a travel authorisation prior to their travel.

In order to decide whether to issue or reject a request to travel to the EU, the system will conduct prior checks and either issue or refuse a travel authorisation. Although the final decision to grant or refuse entry will always be taken by the national border guards who are conducting border controls under the Schengen Borders Code, prior verification of visa exempt third-country travellers will facilitate border checks and ensure a coordinated and harmonised risk assessment of third-country nationals and substantially reduce the number of refusals of entry at border crossing points.

How will ETIAS address existing information gaps?

Currently, the competent border and law enforcement authorities have little information on those who are visa-exempt – whereas they do have information on people travelling with a visa.

By **ensuring that all visitors are checked prior to their arrival** and that a valid travel authorisation is required for all visa-exempt third-country nationals, ETIAS will identify persons who may pose a security or irregular migration risk before they arrive at the border and will address this information gap on visa-

free travellers by gathering information that could be vital to Member States' border and law enforcement authorities.

How does ETIAS complement existing information systems for borders and security?

In line with the interoperability strategy proposed in the [Communication on Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security](#) of 6 April 2016, ETIAS is designed to be **interoperable with existing systems**, and systems currently still developed, such as the [Entry Exit System](#) (EES).

To the maximum extent possible and when technically feasible, the ETIAS Information System will re-use the hardware and software components of the EES and its communication infrastructure.

Interoperability will also be established with the other information systems to be consulted by ETIAS such as the Visa Information System (VIS), Europol data, the Schengen Information System (SIS), Eurodac and the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).

ETIAS and EES will share a common repository of personal data of third-country nationals, with additional data from the ETIAS application (e.g. residence information, answers to background questions, IP address) and the EES entry-exit records separately stored, but linked to this shared and single identification file.

What databases will ETIAS check travellers' data against?

When verifying and assessing the information submitted by visa-exempt travellers in order to grant or deny a travel authorisation, the system will automatically cross-check each application against:

- relevant existing EU information systems:
- the Schengen Information System (SIS),
- the Visa Information System (VIS),
- Europol data,
- the Eurodac database,
- proposed future EU information systems:
- the Entry/Exit System (EES),
- the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).
- relevant Interpol databases:
- the Interpol Stolen and Lost Travel Document database (SLTD),
- the Interpol Travel Documents Associated with Notices database (TDAWN)),
- and a dedicated ETIAS watch list (which will be established by Europol).

How will ETIAS improve the security of EU citizens?

By **providing vital information on security, irregular migration and public health risks** prior to the arrival of a person at the Schengen border, ETIAS will significantly contribute to closing existing security information gaps and provide vital information necessary for the authorities of the Member States to help spot potential problem individuals and take action before they reach Schengen's external borders.

More specifically, a better and more accurate identification of potential security risks of visa-exempt third-country nationals before arriving at the external border of the Schengen area will improve the detection of trafficking in human beings (particularly in the case of minors), help tackle cross border criminality, and more generally will facilitate the identification of persons whose presence in the Schengen area could pose a security threat. ETIAS thus contributes to improving the security of citizens in the Schengen area and enhances internal the security of the EU.

The data stored in ETIAS, in respect of fundamental rights and data protection, may also be made available to national law enforcement authorities and Europol if necessary for the prevention, detection or investigation of a terrorist offence, or other serious criminal offences as well as for the identification of the perpetrator of a terrorist offence or other serious crime.

What is the difference between a Schengen visa and an ETIAS travel authorisation?

First of all, ETIAS is not a visa. A visa free traveller does obviously not need a visa to enter the Schengen area. ETIAS will not change this. ETIAS is a lighter, significantly cheaper, faster and more visitor-friendly system, which will, in more than 95% of cases, result in a positive answer within a few minutes. It cannot be compared to a Schengen visa. ETIAS is a necessary and small procedural step for all visa-exempt travellers which will allow them to avoid bureaucracy and delays when presenting themselves at the borders. ETIAS will therefore not only fully respect this visa-free status, it will also facilitate the crossing of the Schengen external border for visa-exempt third country nationals and allow visa free visitors to fully enjoy their status.

An ETIAS travel authorisation does not entail the requirements of a visa. There is no need to go to a consulate to make an application, no biometric registration is needed and significantly less information is collected and assessed than during a visa application procedure. Whereas, as a general rule, a Schengen visa procedure can take up to 15 days, and can in some cases be extended up to 30 or 60 days, the on-line ETIAS application only takes a few minutes to fill in. The validity will be for a period of five years, significantly longer than the validity of a Schengen visa. ETIAS will be valid for an unlimited number of entries.

What is the impact of ETIAS on the common visa policy?

Visa liberalisation is an important tool in building partnerships with third countries and in increasing the attractiveness of the EU for business and tourism. Mandatory systematic advance verification and assessments of potential risk related to visa-exempt travellers through ETIAS, while fully respecting their visa-free status, will help to **safeguard and complement** the success of the EU's visa liberalisation policy. Adding this layer of information and risk assessment on visa free visitors would bring significant added value to existing measures to maintain and strengthen the security of the Schengen area and will allow visa free visitors to fully enjoy their visa-free status.

As visa liberalisation dialogues with third countries continue to progress, ETIAS will strengthen the EU's capacity to assess and manage the potential migration and security risks represented by an increasing number of visa-free travellers whilst at the same time facilitate the crossing of the Schengen external borders. Travellers will also have a reliable early indication of entry into the Schengen area which will substantially reduce the number of refusals of entry. This is a significant improvement for travellers compared to the current state of play.

How will ETIAS ensure and guarantee the respect for fundamental rights and data protection?

The Commission's proposal fully complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and contains all appropriate safeguards as regards the protection of personal data, ensuring that ETIAS is developed in line with the **highest standards of data protection**, in particular regarding access, which is strictly limited.

The proposal also foresees individuals' **right of redress**, particularly as regards the right to a judicial remedy and the supervision of processing operations by public independent authorities.

Personal data recorded in the ETIAS will not be kept for longer than is necessary for its purpose.

Data shall be stored for:

- the period of validity of the travel authorisation or,
- five years from the last entry record of the applicant stored in the Entry Exit System (EES) or,
- five years from the last decision to refuse, revoke or annul the travel authorisation.

The proposed retention period for data related to ETIAS applications will be, as a general rule, five years. This retention period corresponds to the retention period of an EES record with an entry authorisation granted on the basis of an ETIAS travel authorisation or a refusal of entry. ETIAS will ensure interoperability in terms of information and technological infrastructure with the EES and the development of the EES and ETIAS will be carried out together and in parallel. This synchronisation of retention periods is necessary to allow the competent authorities to perform the necessary risk analysis and ensures that both the entry record and the related travel authorisation are kept for the same duration, while also ensuring interoperability between ETIAS and EES.

After the expiry of the five-year period, the application file and personal data will be automatically deleted from the ETIAS Central System.

Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol will have access to ETIAS, under strictly defined conditions, for the prevention, detection or investigation of terrorist offences or other serious criminal offences. This access would only be granted for specific cases and only after prior consultation of national criminal databases and when Europol databases have not turned up the information sought. The designated authorities and Europol should only request access to ETIAS when they have reasonable grounds to believe that such access will provide information that will substantially assist them in preventing, detecting or investigating a terrorist offence or other serious criminal offence.

The proposal provides for effective safeguards for consultations by national law enforcement authorities or Europol of the data stored in the ETIAS central system:

- consultation of data stored in the ETIAS Central System for law enforcement purposes may only be granted for the prevention, detection or investigation of criminal offences or other serious criminal offences and only if it is necessary for a specific case;
- designated national law enforcement authorities and Europol may only request consultation of data stored in the ETIAS Central System if there are reasonable grounds to consider that such access will substantially contribute to the prevention, detection or investigation of the criminal offence in question;
- data elements with limited relevance for criminal investigations will not be available for consultation (such as education or health data);
- all requests for consultation of the data stored in the ETIAS Central System are subject to an independent verification by a court or an independent authority in order to verify if the strict conditions laid down for access for law enforcement purposes are fulfilled;
- national law enforcement authorities and Europol can only request consultation of data stored in the ETIAS Central System if prior searches in all relevant national databases of the Member State and Europol databases did not lead to the requested information.

How will ETIAS be structured?

The ETIAS would be composed of the ETIAS Information System, the ETIAS Central Unit and the ETIAS National Units.

The **ETIAS Information System** will comprise:

- a Central System to process the applications;
- a National Uniform Interface in each Member State
- a secure Communication Infrastructure between the Central System and the National Uniform Interfaces;
- a public website and a mobile app for mobile devices;
- an email service.

The **ETIAS Central Unit** will be established within and managed by the European Border and Coast Guard, and will be part of its legal and policy framework.

Operating on a 24/7 basis, the ETIAS Central Unit will have four central tasks:

- 1) ensuring that the data stored in the application files and the data recorded are correct and up to date;
- 2) where necessary, verifying the travel authorisation applications with regards to traveller's identity in cases of a hit obtained during the automated process;
- 3) defining, testing, implementing, evaluating and revising specific risk indicators of the ETIAS screening rules;
- 4) carrying out regular audits on the management of applications and on the implementation of the ETIAS screening rules, particularly as regards their impacts on fundamental rights and especially with regards to privacy and data protection.

ETIAS National Units operating 24/7 would be established in each Member State, and would have the primary responsibility of conducting the risk assessment and deciding on travel authorisation for applications rejected by the automated application process as well as providing applicants with information regarding the procedure to be followed in the event of an appeal.

An ETIAS Screening Board with an advisory function would also be established within the European Border and Coast Guard. It would be composed of a representative of each ETIAS National Unit and Europol, and would be consulted for the definition, evaluation and revision of the risk indicators as well as for the implementation of the ETIAS watchlist.

What will the role of Europol be?

Europol, as an EU security information hub, is in a unique position to combine information that is not available to individual Member States or in other EU databases.

Data provided by applicants for an ETIAS authorisation will be cross-checked against data held by Europol related to persons who are suspected of having committed or taken part in a criminal offence,

who have been convicted of such an offence, or regarding whom there are factual indications or reasonable grounds to believe that they will commit such an offence.

Europol will also be involved in the definition of ETIAS screening rules and will also manage the ETIAS watchlist within the Europol data. Moreover, ETIAS National Units will consult Europol in the follow up to a hit that occurred during the ETIAS automated processing with data held by Europol..

What is the ETIAS watchlist?

The ETIAS watchlist, to be established and managed by Europol, will consist of data related to persons who are suspected of having committed or taken part in a criminal offence or persons regarding whom there are factual indications or reasonable grounds to believe that they will commit criminal offences.

The watchlist will be established on the basis of:

- (1) the United Nations list of war criminals;
- (2) information related to terrorist offences or other serious criminal offences provided by Member States;
- (3) information related to terrorist offences or other serious criminal offences obtained through international cooperation.

What will the role of eu-LISA be?

Eu-LISA, the Agency for the operational management of large-scale information systems in the area of freedom, security and justice, will **develop the ETIAS Information System** and ensure its technical management. It will develop National Uniform Interfaces to connect Member States' national border infrastructures to the Central System. It will set up a secure Communication Infrastructure between the Central System and the National Uniform Interfaces, a public website and a mobile app for mobile devices to be used by the applicants for introducing their applications and a webservice enabling communication between the ETIAS and the applicants as well as with carriers.

What will visa-exempt travellers have to do before their travel?

Travellers will have to make an **online application** via a dedicated website or an application for mobile devices. Filling in the application should not take more than 10 minutes and should not require any documentation beyond a travel document (a passport or other equivalent document). In case of an inability to create an application (due to age, literacy level, access to and competence on information technology etc.) applications may be submitted by a third person.

An electronic **payment of a €5 fee** for each application will be required for all applicants above the age of 18. This process (and payment) will only have to be renewed at the end of the validity of the travel authorisation. The electronic payment methods will take into account technological developments and their availability in the visa-free countries in order not to hinder visa-free third country nationals who may not have access to certain payment means when applying for an ETIAS authorisation.

The **automated assessment process** will start after the fee collection is confirmed. The vast majority of applicants (expected to be more than 95% of all cases) will be given automated approval (when there are no hits on searched databases, the dedicated ETIAS watchlist or against clearly defined screening rules) which will be communicated to them within minutes of payment. If there is a hit or an undecided outcome of the automated process, manual handling of the application will take place by a Central Unit in the European Border and Coast Guard or by a Member State team. This can prolong the response time to the visa-exempt third country national by up to 72 hours. In very exceptional circumstances further information and steps can be asked of applicants, but in all cases a final decision shall be taken within two weeks of their application.

Of the roughly 5% of applications which produce a hit or hits, it is expected that 3-4% will receive a positive decision after ETIAS Central Unit verifies the data, with the remaining 1-2% being transferred to ETIAS National Units for manual processing.

After the decision applicants will be given a **response by email** with a valid travel authorisation, or a justification for the refusal.

What happens if a person has been refused travel authorisation from ETIAS?

If the travel authorisation is refused, the applicant will always have the right to appeal. Appeals would be launched in the Member State that has taken the decision on the application and in accordance with the national law of that Member State. The applicant would be informed which national authority was responsible for the processing and decision on his or her travel authorisation, as well as information regarding the procedure to be followed in the event of an appeal. If the traveller considers their treatment

to have been unfair, he/she is also given the right to seek redress or request access to the information through the national authority.

What is the validity of an ETIAS travel authorisation?

The validity of the travel authorisation would be 5 years (or until the expiry date of the travel document).

What are the obligations for the carriers?

Prior to boarding, air and sea carriers, as well as carriers transporting groups overland by coach will have to verify the status of the travel document required for entering the Schengen Area, including that the visa exempt third country national has a valid ETIAS travel authorisation.

What will happen at the border crossing point?

Upon arrival at a Schengen area border crossing point, the border guard will electronically read the travel document data, thereby triggering a query to different databases as provided for by the Schengen Border Code, including a query to ETIAS in the case of visa-exempt travellers.

- If there is no valid ETIAS travel authorisation, the border guards will refuse entry and record the traveller and the refusal of entry in the EES.
- If there is a valid travel authorisation, the border control process will be conducted as per the current Schengen Border Code. As a result of this process, the traveller may be authorised to enter the Schengen area or refused access under the conditions defined in the Schengen Border Code.

Can an issued travel authorization be revoked?

Although the travel authorisation is valid for 5 years, it may be revoked or annulled should the conditions for issuing the travel authorisation no longer apply.

How much will it cost to develop ETIAS?

To be as efficient as possible, ETIAS will **build on the basis of the existing information systems** to be consulted and the interoperability which exists between them (EES, SIS, VIS, Europol data, Eurodac and ECRIS) and on the re-use of components developed for those information systems, in particular the EES. The development and implementation of EES and ETIAS should be carried out together and in parallel, which will ensure significant cost savings for the set up and operation of ETIAS.

The cost for developing ETIAS is estimated at **€212,1 million** and the average annual operations cost at €85 million. ETIAS will be financially self-sustaining, as the annual operations costs would be covered by the fee revenue.

What is the territorial scope of ETIAS?

The ETIAS proposal constitutes a development of the Schengen acquis. As such, the ETIAS legislation will apply to those Member States that are part of the Schengen area. In particular, it builds on the conditions of entry to the Schengen area as per article 6 of the Schengen Borders Code which applies to all Schengen countries (including those which do not yet fully apply the Schengen acquis, i.e. Croatia, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania).

When will ETIAS be ready?

ETIAS is expected to be operational as early as **2020**.

Its development will be built on the establishment of the proposed Entry Exit System (EES) which is currently being negotiated by the Council and the European Parliament and is expected to enter into operation on 1 January 2020.

What are the next steps of the proposal?

The proposal for a Regulation to establish the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will now be transmitted to the European Parliament and Council for adoption.

The Commission counts on the co-legislators' support for the establishment the necessary legal basis in 2017, to allow for the technical development by eu-LISA of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System. (EC 16-11-2016)

IMF ANALYSES FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN MOZAMBIQUE

A technical mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be in Maputo from 1 to 14 December and to analyse the Mozambican financial system, according to the Bank of Mozambique in a statement on Monday.

The mission from the IMF Monetary and Capital Markets Department comes after the central bank intervened in two Mozambican banks and alongside negotiations with the Maputo government for the resumption of aid from the financial institution, which was suspended in May following the hidden debt scandal.

The central bank said that it was a technical mission to “provide support to the Mozambican authorities in analysing the health of the financial system and applying measures to improve financial stability and banking supervision.”

The Bank of Mozambique ruled last Friday the dissolution and liquidation of Nosso Banco, owned by the National Social Security Institute, which had an “unworkable situation”.

This is the second financial institution that has undergone intervention since Rogerio Zandamela was appointed to lead the central bank. At the beginning of October the central bank decided to suspend the board of directors and the executive committee of Moza Banco to “protect the interests of depositors.” (15-11-2016)

WHO WANTS AFRICA TO ACCELERATE DIABETES PREVENTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa has called on African governments to adopt legislations and programs that will accelerate the prevention and control of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases in the region.

In his message in observance of World Diabetes Day on Monday, November 14, 2016, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti called on leaders in the region to ensure that policies and programs promote healthy diets, physical activities and the reduction in consumption of tobacco and alcohol.

Dr. Moeti noted that the observance of World Diabetes Day is a great opportunity to increase public awareness about the disease and ways to prevent it, through regular screening, early diagnosis and equitable access to medicines and technologies to manage its complications including visual impairment and blindness.

He pledged WHO’s continuous commitment to provide technical support to member states to develop their national policies, strategies and plans including scientific guidelines for the prevention and control of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases.

Moeti disclosed that the number of people living with diabetes in Africa has increased from four million in 1980 to 25 million in 2014 adding: “The current prevalent rate of diabetes in the region is estimated to be 7.1 percent as compared to 3.1 percent in 1980.”

He blamed the increase in the number of people living with diabetes to aging, obesity, genetics and changing lifestyles with overweight and obesity being the strongest risk factors and as such, a lot needs to be done to stem the tide of rising non-communicable diseases, especially diabetes.

Diabetes is a chronic disease characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose, which is due either to insufficient production of insulin by the pancreas (type 1 diabetes) or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces (type 2 diabetes).

Most diabetes cases are type 2 and are largely preventable.

World Diabetes Day is observed on November 14 each year.

This year's observance is being held under the theme "Eyes on Diabetes" with emphasis on screening to ensure early diagnosis and treatment of type 2 diabetes to reduce serious complications, disabilities and death.(APA 14-11-2016)

LA BEI RENFORCE AVEC BMCE BANK OF AFRICA SON SOUTIEN AUX ENTREPRISES MAROCAINES



En marge de la COP22, la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) a signé une ligne de crédit d'un montant de 150 millions d'EUR avec BMCE BANK Of Africa. L'objectif étant de renforcer le soutien aux petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) pour le financement de projets dans les secteurs de l'industrie et des services.

« C'est un financement important pour l'économie marocaine a souligné Marion Hoenicke, chef de Division à la BEI pour les opérations de prêts aux PME dans les pays voisins, lors de la cérémonie de signature. Les entreprises sont un vecteur de croissance et d'emploi, c'est pourquoi il est de notre responsabilité de créer des conditions optimales de financement et d'accès au crédit. En agissant ainsi avec BMCE BANK Of Africa, nous contribuons au dynamisme et à la compétitivité de l'économie marocaine. »

« Pleinement investie dans le financement et l'accompagnement des PME Marocaines, la Banque est fière de collaborer avec un partenaire aussi prestigieux que la Banque Européenne d'Investissement à travers la mise en place de cette ligne de financement. Dans une conjoncture marquée par un besoin imminent de respect de notre environnement, ce partenariat marque une nouvelle fois le rôle fondamental de BMCE Bank of Africa dans la réalisation d'une économie durable et responsable» a déclaré M. Brahim Benjelloun, Administrateur Directeur Général Exécutif Groupe, BMCE Bank of Africa.

Cette nouvelle ligne de crédit octroyée à des conditions très favorables grâce à la notation triple A de la BEI permettra à BMCE BANK Of Africa de renforcer sa capacité d'intervention en faveur des entreprises, facilitant ainsi l'accès de ces dernières à un financement attractif et adapté à leurs besoins, notamment via des maturités plus longues de prêt. Une attention particulière sera portée aux activités d'importation et d'exportation des entreprises soutenues.

Ce financement de la BEI est conforme aux priorités de l'Union européenne et du Maroc en faveur du développement d'une économie de marché propice aux investissements et aux échanges commerciaux à l'échelle tant nationale qu'internationale. M.Mickaël Koehler, Directeur général pour le Voisinage (NEAR) à la Commission européenne, signale ainsi que l'Union européenne s'apprête également à lancer son programme Croissance verte & Compétitivité avec un montant de **plus d'un milliard de dirhams** (105 millions d'euros) pour accompagner les réformes économiques et les projets d'aide à la compétitivité des Très Petites, Petites et Moyennes Entreprises et à la croissance verte au Maroc.

« Autant d'initiatives en synergie pour le secteur privé marocain ».

En tant qu'un des principaux bailleurs de fond du Maroc, la BEI a consacré près de 7 milliards d'euros d'investissements à l'appui de projets dans les secteurs clefs de l'économie marocaine tels que

l'énergie, les transports, l'eau et l'assainissement, l'éducation, la santé, le logement social, l'industrie, les PME ou encore l'innovation. (EIB 15-11-2016)

EGYPT RECEIVES \$2.75 BN FROM IMF



The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has received \$2.75 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the first tranche of a \$12 billion loan that will be disbursed in four stages.

The IMF's executive board on Friday approved a three-year \$12 billion loan to Egypt to support its economic reform programme, the Fund confirmed in a statement.

The IMF will disburse an initial \$2.75 billion loan tranche to Egypt, according to the terms of the deal.

The move comes after the Central Bank of Egypt's decision to float the pound last week, a move praised by the IMF as a step in the right direction to improve the country's ailing economy.

In August, the IMF reached a staff-level agreement with Egypt for a \$12 billion three-year funding facility to support a government reform programme. (APA 12-11-2016)

NIGERIA STOPS WHEAT IMPORT FROM RUSSIA



Nigeria has formally informed Russia of its decision to stop the importation of wheat from the country. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hajiya Khadija Abba-Ibrahim, notified a Russian delegation of the move at the end of the fourth Joint Commission meeting between Russia and Nigeria in Abuja on Friday night.

"We import a lot of wheat from Russia and we are telling Russia that this has to stop.

"We want the Russian companies and farmers to come to Nigeria to show us how we can grow our agriculture sector with modern technology," the minister said.

The Russian delegation was led by Mr. Dianov Alexandar Yurievich, Deputy, Head Russian Delegation in Nigeria.

Abba-Ibrahim said the meeting was to foster the existing relationship between the two countries and

noted that Nigeria and Russia had enjoyed cordial relations over time.

“Russia has always been in support of Nigeria at different international fora, it has been in support of Nigeria in the area of fighting terrorism” she said.

Abba-Ibrahim said the meeting considered various areas of cooperation, including solid minerals, atomic energy, trade, power, works and housing, transport, petroleum, communication, water resources, defence, agriculture and health.

She said Russian companies expressed interest in investing in some areas of the Nigerian economy, especially through mining, agriculture, among others.

“We have two agreements on military cooperation which we have negotiated and are likely to be signed very soon.

“They are on technical cooperation, training and purchase of modern military equipment at a moderate prices than going into the international market,” she said.

Yurievich lauded the cordial relations between the two countries. (APA 12-11-2016)

A BOOST FOR CLIMATE ACTION: FMO AND EIB SUPPORT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN MOROCCO

Signed at the margins of COP22 in Marrakech today, the Dutch development bank (“FMO”) and the European Investment Bank (“EIB”) have closed a facility for Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur (“BMCE”), a universal bank in Morocco. BMCE has established a reputation as a leader in Morocco and is known for its pioneering initiatives in the field of sustainable finance. Through its 75% shareholding in Bank of Africa Group, BMCE has a banking network in 18 countries in Sub Saharan Africa.

The facility is dedicated to support BMCE’s initiatives towards improvement of solid waste management practices and standards, one of the major environmental challenges in Morocco.

Management of municipal solid waste is lacking proper infrastructure and suitable funding in areas outside of major cities. In response to these challenges, the Moroccan government developed the National Solid Waste Program (PNDM), which aims to upgrade the management of municipal solid waste. With the proposed facility for BMCE, FMO and EIB will support the PNDM objectives and targets, which include, among others, ensuring household waste collection rates of 100% by 2030 and rehabilitating or closing all existing disposal sites by 2020.

The facility consists of:

- a term loan facility of EUR 20 million to fund the pre-identified solid waste management projects. The loan facility is provided in partnership between FMO and EIB, with both institutions providing a EUR 10 million loan.
- a comprehensive Technical Assistance package that include both sectoral studies on waste management as well as expert studies for the pre-identified projects. The package also facilitates a mission of BMCE, its waste management clients and Moroccan regulators to The Netherlands to get introduced to best international waste management practices. The Technical Assistance program will be provided by FMO.

As part of the proposed facility, BMCE has identified a number of projects which will be carried out by specialist companies in the management of solid waste for the creation of disposal and treatment facilities in several Moroccan cities. The new waste management facilities enable, among others, increased recycling and energy generation from landfill gas, and will have positive impacts on environment and climate.

Mickael Koehler, Director General of the European Commission's Neighbourhood Policy Directorate said : *"This investment from the EIB is very much in line with the priorities of the European Union in Morocco as concerns the development of a market economy favouring investment and enterprise both at the national and international level. The European Commission is also ready to launch its Green Growth and Competitiveness Programme worth more than one billion Dirhams (EUR 105 million) to underpin economic reform and projects to support the competitiveness of micro-small and medium sized enterprises in Morocco and green growth in the country."*

Jurgen Rigterink, CEO of FMO said: *"FMO is very proud to be a partner in this facility as it signifies the first Green Finance transaction that FMO provides to a bank in Africa. Given the pioneering role of Morocco in the area of Sustainable Finance initiatives and the leading role of BMCE Bank of Africa, we are optimistic about the positive demonstration effect of the transaction for Africa. We look forward to maintain our close cooperation with BMCE to support similar initiatives in the Bank of Africa group. The constructive and efficient cooperation with the EIB in this transaction is another highlight that bodes well for closer successful cooperation between our institutions in the future"*.

Brahim Benjelloun – Touimi, Group Managing Director of BMCE Bank of Africa and Chairman of Bank of Africa said: *"BMCE Bank of Africa's innovative green facility in partnership with FMO - global Sustainable Finance leader, and EIB represents our continued engagement to support Sustainable and Inclusive Finance in Morocco over the last 15 years. This green facility is aligned with Morocco's National Sustainable Development Strategy and contributes towards the financing of a circular economy in Morocco, with a vision of developing similar partnerships in the African continent through Bank of Africa. We hope that this green loan facility will further herald a new way for businesses to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle."*

Marion Hoenicke (Head of SME Lending, European Investment Bank) said : *"I am delighted that the European Investment bank as a leading international climate action financier is supporting this green financial line. This is a strong signal in support of our strategic climate action in the Mediterranean partner countries. Morocco - a country on the cutting edge of climate investment – is one of the EIB's key partners : since 2011, 28% of the EIB's investments in Morocco have been dedicated to climate action, representing climate investment of around EUR 500m against total financing of EUR 1.7bn. Our objective is to finance sound, concrete and scalable projects to develop a sustainable green economy while mobilizing private investment via specific and innovative financial tools."* (EIB 15-11-2016)

CABO VERDE STUDYING TAX COMPETITIVENESS

The government of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) plans to conduct a study on tax competitiveness in 2017, a document that will serve as a guide for the next steps to reduce rates of tax, the country's Finance Minister announced Friday in Praia.

Minister Olavo Correia told businessmen from the archipelago's Leeward islands at a meeting to discuss the 2017 state budget proposal that the study is intended to "create a more competitive tax environment, a more tax efficient machine that is more capable of serving the state, businesses and citizens."

Correia, quoted by the Inforpress news agency, stressed that "the country currently has a significant level of tax flight and tax evasion and an inefficient tax machine."

"We must begin to focus on the efficiency of Tax and creating conditions to charge more, increase the tax base and allow each person to pay less," said the minister. (14-11-2016)

LE GHANA APPROVISIONNE EN GAZ PAR LE NIGERIA



Le secteur énergétique du Ghana devrait s'améliorer à la suite de l'approbation par le Parlement de l'approvisionnement du pays en gaz par la West Africa Gas Ltd (WAGL), une filiale de la NNPC (compagnie nationale de pétrole du Nigeria), indique le Daily Graphic de ce lundi. En vertu de cette approbation, la WAGL devrait fournir au Ghana 180 millions de pieds cubes standard de gaz par jour pour les dix prochaines années.

Le projet d'approvisionnement comprend les unités flottantes de stockage et de gazéification et le dragage du port de Tema sur 300 mètres.

L'annonce de cette approbation survient à un moment où le Ghana lutte pour maintenir la stabilité de l'approvisionnement en électricité qu'il a obtenue en décembre de l'année dernière.

Le Ghana a connaît un rationnement énergétique depuis octobre 2012.

Cette pratique est connue sous le nom de "dumsor dumsor", ce qui signifie allumage par intervalles. (APA 14-11-2016)

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