

To: Apostolos Tzitzikostas, DG MOVE
Magnus Brunner, DG HOME

London 19th February 2026

Gentlemen,

AERA is the Association of European Rail Agents in the UK, which is the trade body for travel agents and tour organisers specialising in international rail.

Our customers are affected by the European Entry System and so we have followed carefully the discussions at EU level which have led to the introduction of this system, and we understand the reasons for its introduction in the Schengen area.

We are aware that kiosks have been installed at London St Pancras International for biometric testing and that such controls are now in use at Brussels Midi and Lille Europe.

Many of our customers, as well as some of our members, have already experienced the controls, which have sometimes gone very smoothly but in other cases have caused considerable delays, confusion and mixed problems, apparently because some Member States have not yet fully implemented them.

AERA therefore urges the European Commission to delay the full implementation of EES until the equipment and kiosks have been thoroughly tested and are compatible with systems in different countries. The current April deadline is not realistic and should be deferred at least until after the peak holiday season of 2026.

Kindest Regards

Signed for and on behalf of AERA



Trevor Garrod – Secretary



Enrico Soresini - Chairman