



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

H.E. Magnus Brunner
Member of the European Commission

7.05.2026 No 5-4/51-2

Dear Commissioner,

I was delighted to receive your letter – as you rightfully outlined, the entry into operations of the Entry/Exit System (EES) is indeed a significant milestone for the Schengen area, bringing the Member States closer together as well as immensely accelerating the digitalisation of the border management.

I am proud of the fact that Estonia has implemented EES without delay and in a comprehensive manner on the 12th of October 2025, thus we were confidently staying ahead of the deadline for the full implementation. However, as referred in your letter, there had been shortcomings with the recording of the biometric data. We are aware of this serious matter and have tackled this gap with the aim to resolve this inconsistency as soon as possible.

I personally took the opportunity to investigate the implementation of the EES at Tallinn Airport in December 2025 by serving as a volunteer Border Guard at passport control gates. I spent 15-hour shift there to monitor all arriving planes from non-Schengen countries. As the malfunctions with taking biometric data became frequent, the queues in response became substantial. In response to this situation, the Chief of Border Crossing Point had to make a decision to minimize attempts of taking all data because of the delays in the system itself. This action was taken in order to avoid the scenario where passport control waiting time would have exceeded 90 minutes.

The most common reason behind the delays was finger-print scanning – although scanner showed image with a decent quality, the EES often did not capture the data and returned error messages. I issued an official inquiry to the Ministry's IT-agency SMIT about these malfunctions and received a report that the problem was not located on our end of the system but stemmed from the EES' Central System. This information was passed on by me to the Executive Director of eu-LISA, Mr. Tillmann Keber.

Additionally, I would like to use this opportunity to inform you about the designated national representative for the coordination, which is as follows:


Ms. Eve Kalmus, Head of Border Management Bureau of the Police and Border Guard Board of Estonia

Contact: eve.kalmus@politsei.ee

Mobile: +372 504 6011

I would like to thank you for your kind interest and cooperation in this matter. The Ministry of the Interior of Estonia remains at your disposal and fully committed to ensuring the implementation of the EES for the benefit of European Union citizens.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Igor Taro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Igor Taro
Minister of the Interior