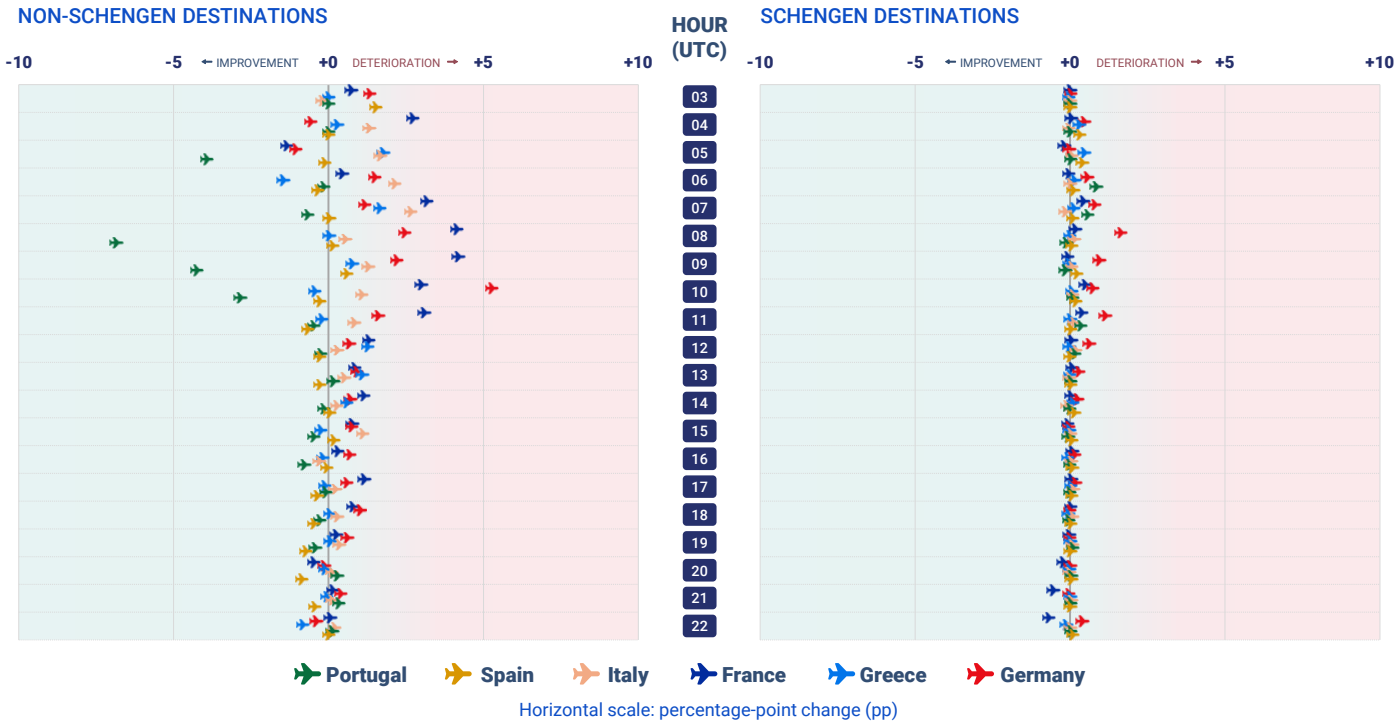
EUROCONTROL Data Snapshot

How did the EU's new Entry/Exit System (EES) impact network traffic over Summer 2026?

30 October



This data snapshot analyses the impact of the EU's digital Entry-Exit System (EES) for registering non-EU visitors on short stays into the Schengen area, which entered its mandatory phase on 10 April 2026 although practical implementation remains uneven across Schengen area airports. Specifically, we measure the impact of EES on flight departure delays over the summer (June–August), taking Schengen and non-Schengen departures for six core Schengen area countries, and looking at the percentage point change in the share of delays attributed to IATA Delay Code 86/AG (Immigration, Customs and Health) in June–August 2026 compared to the same period in 2025.

The results clearly reveal limited impacts at network level, and with decreasing impacts over the busy summer period in terms of code 86 delays. Within this, two sub-trends emerge: flights to non-Schengen destinations were more impacted than Schengen ones, and overall impacts were greater before midday.

Across June–August, non-Schengen departures showed greater variability, particularly during the morning period between 07:00 and 11:00 (UTC). Germany and France recorded morning increases in Delay Code 86's contribution of approximately +5.3 and +4.2 pp, while Portugal saw a reduction of -−6.9 pp at 08:00. Over the summer there was a pronounced deterioration in June, mixed results in July, and several improvements versus 2025 in August. These heterogeneous trends underline the importance of country-specific operational conditions when assessing EES's potential impact, with a wide range of potential additional influencing factors (e.g. operational adaptations, other delay factors, greater processing efficiency, etc.).

To complement this assessment, an airport and monthly level breakdown is available in the data file accompanying this document. This provides additional detail that may be masked in country-level results, and does reveal uneven impacts that largely reflect local operating conditions and border control arrangements. Particularly large airport-level variations should be interpreted with caution to identify underlying drivers, assess the influence of isolated events or small sample sizes, and avoid misleading conclusions based solely on aggregated figures.

Technical notes: The analyses in this Data Snapshot are conducted using data provided by airlines and are subject to variations in flight coverage from month to month.

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