



The latest news, views, and announcements

EES Set to Bring Major Changes to European Coach Travel

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The EU's Entry/Exit System (EES), planned for 10th November, has once again been delayed, now expected to launch in 2025. This system will significantly alter how coach operators and passengers experience border crossings across Europe once implemented.

What is the EES?

EES is part of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) framework, aimed at enhancing border security within the Schengen Area. The system will electronically register non-EU nationals entering and exiting Schengen Zone countries, replacing the traditional passport stamp with biometric data collection, including fingerprints and facial recognition.

EES will apply to all EU member states, with the exception of Cyprus and Ireland, as well as four non-EU countries within the Schengen Zone: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

Recent Developments and Concerns

The system, first expected in 2022, has faced repeated delays due to IT issues and the installation of required infrastructure, such as automated barriers at land, maritime, and air borders. Although the Port of Dover is currently preparing to meet these EES requirements, concerns remain regarding how efficiently large groups of passengers, particularly those on coaches, will be processed under the new system.

Additionally, logistical issues persist around the juxtaposed border controls at the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel, and St Pancras, which could lead to longer queues for travellers leaving the UK.

Stay Informed: Upcoming Members Meeting

To address these concerns, we will be hosting **guest speakers from the Port of Dover and the Home Office** at our next Members Meeting on October 22nd. They will provide detailed information about the EES, its operational impact, and offer insights into how coach operators can prepare for the eventual implementation.

By staying proactive and informed, coach operators can mitigate potential challenges and ensure smoother transitions at the border when the EES finally comes into force.

UKCOA Calls on MPs to Back the Coach Industry in Autumn Budget



As part of our ongoing efforts to champion the needs of the coach industry, we have formally written to all Members of Parliament ahead of the Autumn Budget. In our letter, we highlighted key challenges facing the sector, such as driver recruitment, the transition to alternative fuels, and the need for improved infrastructure to support electric coaches.

We urged MPs to consider these issues and proposed practical solutions, including lowering the minimum driving age for coach drivers, supporting biofuels through tax reductions, and investing in charging infrastructure at service stations and coach parks.

The UKCOA is committed to ensuring the government recognises the vital role coaches play in the UK transport system and the economy.

To read the letter in full, visit our website [UKCOA - UK Coach Operators Association \(uk-coa.co.uk\)](http://uk-coa.co.uk).

Dartford Crossing Closures

- **Friday 18 October:** Dartford west tunnel, 11pm to 6am
- **Saturday 19 October:** QEII Bridge closure, 10pm to 5am
- **Sunday 20 October:** Dartford east tunnel closure, 10pm to 5am
- **Mon 21 to Thurs 24 October:** Dartford west tunnel, 10pm to 5:30am
- **Friday 25 October:** Dartford west tunnel, 11pm to 6am
- **Saturday 26 October:** Dartford west tunnel, 10pm to 5am
- **Sunday 27 October:** Dartford east tunnel closure, 10pm to 5am

Over State Pension age?

You could be entitled to **Pension Credit** and get the **Winter Fuel Payment**.*

Check your eligibility for Pension Credit online.

Eligibility criteria apply
*or the equivalent in Scotland

If you have employees, colleagues, family, or friends over the State Pension age, they may be eligible to claim Pension Credit.

It is estimated that up to 880,000 households are not currently claiming Pension Credit when they could be eligible, making people on average £3,900 better off a year.

Entitlement to Pension Credit can also lead to eligibility for other types of support such as the Winter Fuel Payment, the Warm Home Discount Scheme and Cold Weather Payments along with help with housing costs, Council Tax and a free TV licence for those aged 75 and over.

Check your eligibility at [gov.uk/pension-credit](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit) or by calling 0800 99 1234.



- **Tuesday 22nd October**
UKCOA Members Meeting
10:30 - 12:30
Guest speakers discussing EES
- **12th - 14th November**
Euro Bus Expo 2024
NEC, Birmingham
- **Saturday 25th January**
UKCOA Annual Winters Ball

24 hr Crisis Control:
07974 359001

If your company, or one of your vehicles, is involved in an incident that is attracting media attention, our Crisis Control service is here to help. More information can be found [here](#)

Share Your Stories with UKCOA: Help Us Inspire and Inform Our Members!

At the UK Coach Operators Association, we believe that some of the best insights come from the road. That's why we're inviting all members to share news, interesting stories, or memorable experiences from your journeys that could benefit our wider community. Whether it's a unique solution you've implemented, a challenge you've overcome, or simply a positive experience with passengers, your story could provide valuable lessons and inspiration for others in the industry.

By contributing, you'll help foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing across our network. If you have something to share, please email us at info@uk-coa.co.uk, and we'll feature selected stories in upcoming newsletters or on our social media.

We look forward to hearing your stories and helping each other thrive!

Our Industry Partners: **We Couldn't Do It Without You**

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