



EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

ETIAS in the news - dealing with misinformation, fake and unofficial ETIAS websites

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COUNTERING MISINFORMATION - WHAT THE MEDIA GOT **WRONG** RECENTLY

- ETIAS is a new type of visa
- There is no official ETIAS website
- Date of entry into operations
- Confusion as to number of countries ETIAS applies to
- Only people between 18 and 70 will need ETIAS
- Medical information necessary to apply
- Travellers should apply for a visa if ETIAS refused
- **Media publish links to unofficial/fake ETIAS websites**



Example: medical information as part of the application process

When filling out the application, provide ETIAS with the following information about you:

1. Name and surname
2. Number and place of birth
3. Information about citizenship
4. Email address and contact number
5. Education and work experience
6. EU country you intend to visit (If you are traveling to several countries, then you should write the name of the country where you are going to arrive for the first time)
7. Information about **health status**
8. The passport, which must be attached to the application.



Applicants will have to fill out a personal details questionnaire digitally which will include marital status, employment status, **medical status**, criminal history and other data.

No medical information collected in the application!

WE RESPONDED



DONALD TRUMP ON ETIAS:

- US media reported about the new changes to Europe travel plans for U.S. travellers.
- Trump pledged to: ‘put an end to the ETIAS requirement if re-elected’.



PRESS OFFICERS' NETWORK - 110 members to foster information campaign

- EU member states,
- Schengen countries
- European Commission,
- European Council,
- eu-LISA,
- Frontex,
- Europol



COUNTERING MISINFORMATION/PROMOTING THE ETIAS NARRATIVE

ETIAS advisory group on communications

Gathers communications experts from:

- transportation
 - Tourism/travel industry
 - travel sector
 - European Travel Commission
 - Frontex, European Commission
 - eu-LISA
- Member States (rotating member from the country holding the presidency of the Council of the EU, (Spain))



EUROPEAN
TRAVEL
COMMISSION



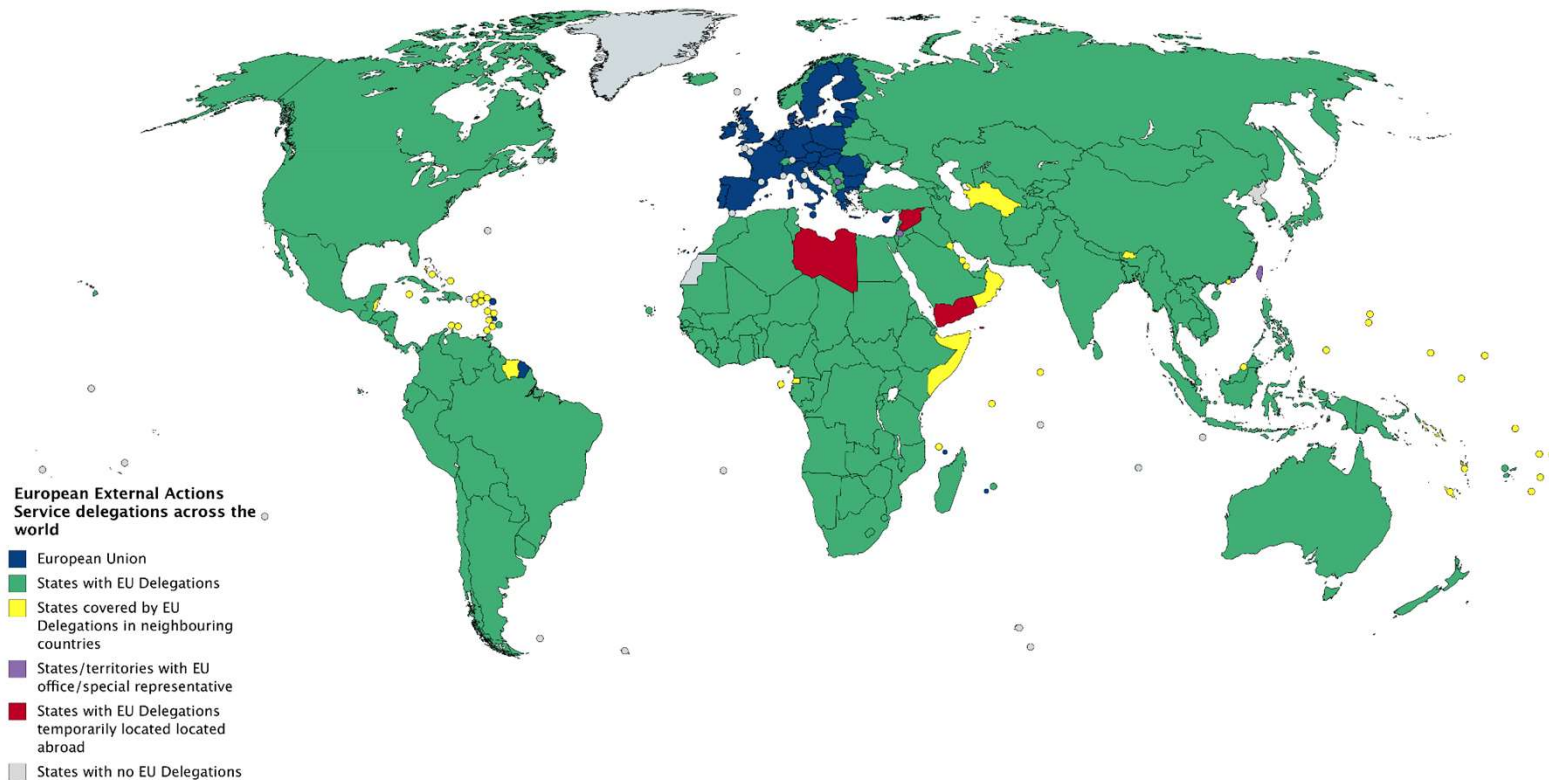
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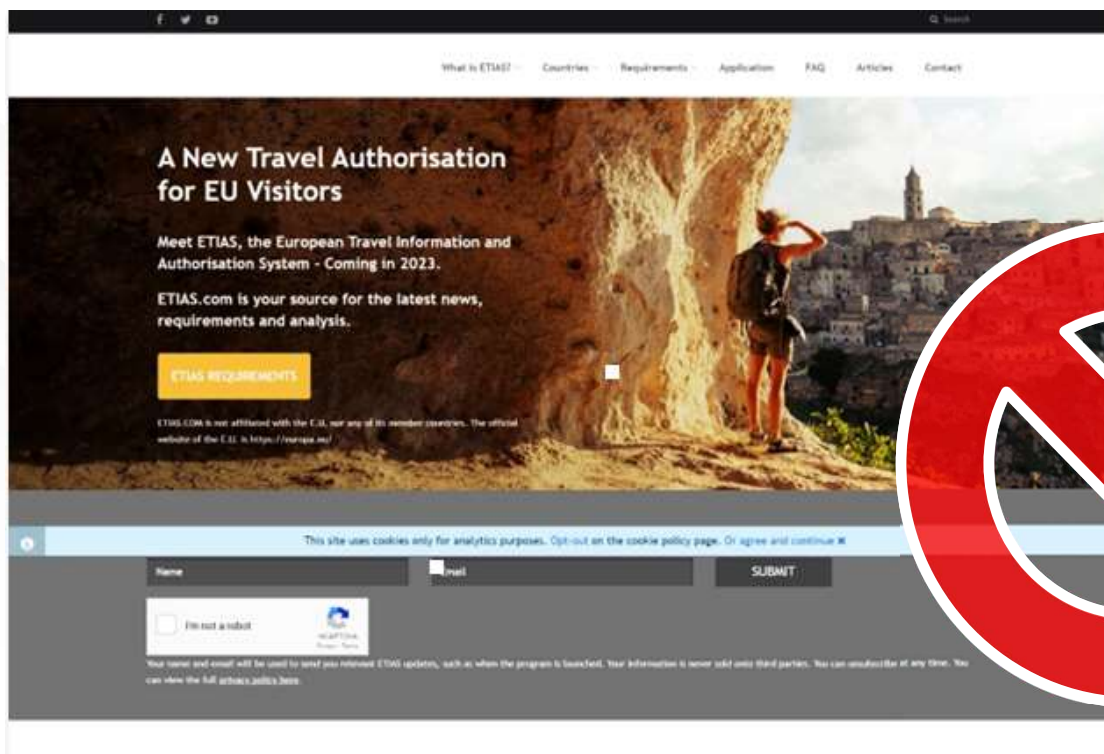
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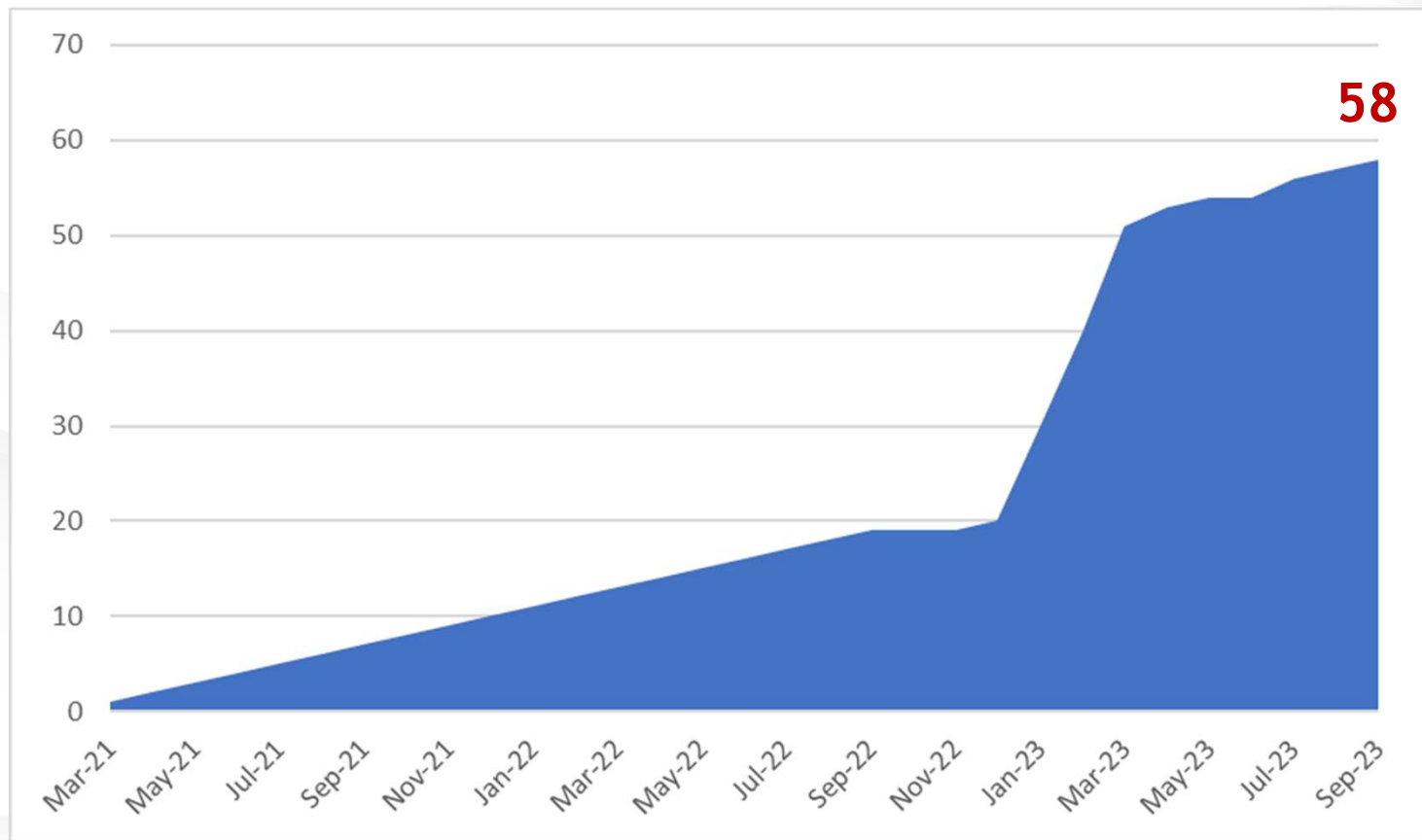
COUNTERING MISINFORMATION: EXPANDING OUR WORK WITH EU 50+ DELEGATIONS



58 UNOFFICIAL OR FAKE ETIAS WEBSITES EXIST, SOME CONTRIBUTE TO MISINFORMATION



UNOFFICIAL ETIAS WEBSITES KEEP MUSHROOMING



WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE UNOFFICIAL ETIAS WEBSITES

- Commercial intermediaries allowed
- **Request to provide sensitive data: personal data, credit card numbers**
- Some collect personal data of users in a form of questionnaire
- One claims to have processed 671 applications
- One offers a 40% for early applications
- Some use EU logo - illegal
- Worldwide reach
- Quoted by the media widely
- Often tailored-made for the country
- Some copy & paste content of the official ETIAS website

TRAVEL & PASSENGER TRANSPORT INDUSTRY PROACTIVELY APPROACHED BY UNOFFICIAL WEBSITES

- A major air carrier published an article about the new travel requirements to Europe
- Added a link to the unofficial ETIAS website
- The news immediately picked up by a huge number of travel industry magazines
- Misinformation was corrected, **but media had already picked up the story**

TYPES OF POSSIBLE ABUSE

- Identity theft (personal details)
 - Bank details
- Charge unreasonable amount (ETIAS only costs EUR 7)
- Charge money without providing travel authorisation

Ruin the trip

HELP US PROMOTE THE OFFICIAL ETIAS WEBSITE, WARN TRAVELLERS AGAINST POSSIBLE ABUSE

- Promote the official website
- **Publish the link to the official website**
- **Warn against abuse**
- Engage the media & our respective stakeholders
- Use the ETIAS press pack (social media posts and press lines for the network)
- Repost articles on info corner



BEWARE OF UNOFFICIAL ETIAS WEBSITES

There is only one
official ETIAS
website:

europa.eu/etias





ETIAS

European Travel Information
and Authorisation System

official website: europa.eu/etias

