

# What Europe does for me

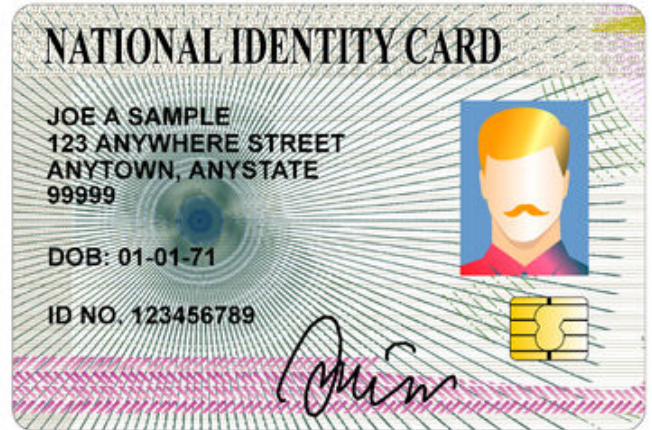
New EU law | My EU rights and freedoms



## Improving security for EU ID cards

There are currently at least 86 different types of identity card, and 181 different types of residence document, in circulation in the EU. Many can be used as travel documents, both within the EU, and when entering the EU from non-EU countries. Increased levels of citizen mobility, however, combined with a fragmented regulatory framework, makes the security of travel and identity documents a key element in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

A new set of rules has been designed to boost security in three areas. First, in order to improve the security of EU citizens' identity cards and residence documents issued to EU citizens and their family members, the new rules seek to curb the use of fraudulent documents, potentially used by terrorists and criminals to enter the EU from non-EU countries. Second, registration certificates are to be issued to Union citizens living for more than three months in another EU country. The rules on the period of validity of ID cards have also been clarified (10 years as a rule, reduced to 5 years for minors). Third, only duly authorised staff designated by national authorities will be allowed to collect biometric identifiers.



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The new rules will apply as of 2 August 2021. ID cards that do not meet the new requirements will be renewed in the new format following their expiry, or at the latest within 10 years of the application of the new rules. ID cards that do not have a machine-readable zone will cease to be valid at their expiry or by 3 August 2026.

### Further information:

- [Legislative Train Schedule](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1157](#)
- EPRS, [Plenary At A Glance](#), April | 2019
- EU Commission, [Improve the security of ID cards](#)

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