



## **Drone Alliance Europe calls for a full harmonisation of the drone rules at the EU level**

**30 June 2016 – Brussels, Belgium.** Following the publication of amendments submitted by Members of the European Parliament to a report by Marian-Jean Marinescu on the review of the EASA Basic Regulation<sup>1</sup>, Drone Alliance Europe (DAE) reiterated its call for a single, fully harmonised and proportionate set of EU-wide rules on civil drones.

The European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism is currently working on the European Commission's proposal to review the EU safety rules presented last December as part of the Aviation Package. In parallel, work is underway in the Council of the European Union. The proposed Regulation contains three articles and a specific annex, which lay down new provisions and essential requirements for the risk-based regulation of drones. MEPs in the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism have tabled 1103 amendments, out of which 49 relate to the section on drones.

Drone Alliance Europe welcomes MEPs' involvement in the drafting of new provisions on drones. However, some of the proposed amendments risk impeding the development of a competitive European drone market. In particular, the Alliance is concerned by amendments that call for only limited EU level harmonisation of the rules, giving Member States the possibility to adopt or maintain stricter, but differing rules regarding security and safety protection. Whilst this sounds reasonable, it would in fact be both counterproductive and restrict the European drone industry. It would create a patchwork and subjective approach instead of a harmonised and risk-based approach that provides legal certainty for the industry, a primary objective of the Regulation.

DAE Executive Director Andrew Charlton said: "The European drone industry leads the world in innovation and in business development. But differences in national rules fragment markets and prevent mutual recognition. In order to maintain Europe's leadership, we need one single system based on objective standards. At the same time, it is essential that European rules provide innovators the flexibility to test new technologies in any Member State".

"The Commission has tasked the European Aviation Safety Agency to develop objective common rules that ensure the safe interaction with existing airspace users and create a large single home market. We ask European Parliament to support that process".

"The Alliance looks forward to working with MEPs and other interested parties to ensure that regulation is effective and proportionate, so as to guarantee both safety and security, whilst safeguarding the continued successful future of this dynamic sector".

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2015)613



**About Drone Alliance Europe:** DAE was formed earlier this year by Altitude Angel, Amazon Prime Air, Delft Aerial Robotics, Gatewing, ParaZero and Unifly. We are a coalition of leading technology and drone companies from across Europe. The goal of the group is to assist European regulators and policymakers as they craft drone legislation and regulations. The Alliance seeks a system with strong public support that allows for safe and flexible beyond visual line of sight autonomous operations across Europe.

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