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DAE Applauds EU Council's Adoption of General Approach to EASA Basic Regulation Offers Critical Steps Toward Establishing Pan-European Drone Regulations

Brussels, Belgium – 2 December 2016 – Yesterday, the EU Council adopted a general approach to the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Basic Regulation. The Basic Regulation, presented in December 2015 as part of the agency's [Aviation Strategy](#) package, sets forth a pan-European regulatory framework to establish a single European drone market.

Drone Alliance Europe (DAE) commends the Council for supporting a flexible regulatory approach essential to enabling future innovation whilst also prioritising safety, security, and privacy. Adoption of the position is a vital step toward establishing proportionate, risk-based, pan-European regulations critical to the growth of the European drone industry.

In particular, DAE is pleased the Council's position incorporates reasonable licensing requirements for drone operators that uphold safety and security, while encouraging new entrants into the drone market.

DAE also supports the Council's decision to maintain the Commission's power to refine and supplement the essential requirements for drones outlined in Annex IX of the Basic Regulation. This will enable the Commission to revise these requirements to reflect and support ongoing advancements in drone technology.

Further, DAE supports the Council's focus on safety, security, and privacy. Existing and emerging technological solutions, such as unmanned traffic management (UTM) systems, will provide assurances to aviation authorities, citizens, and policymakers that commercial drones will be operated in a safe and secure manner that respects individual privacy.

DAE reiterates its strong commitment to safe operations and support for a regulatory framework that establishes a clear path toward authorisation of expanded operations throughout Europe, including fully autonomous and beyond visual line of sight operations. We look forward to continuing work with the Council, Commission, and European Parliament throughout the trilogue negotiation process, as well as to ongoing collaboration with the entire aviation industry, to develop a regulatory framework that will not only embrace, but encourage the growth of the European drone market. We will continue to advocate for a forward-leaning regulatory framework that secures European leadership in the research, development, production, and

application of drones leading up to a final agreement on the Basic Regulation, projected for mid-2017.

DAE is a coalition of leading technology companies representing the commercial drone industry before European political leaders, regulators, and other industry stakeholders, as well as international regulatory and advisory bodies. For more information on Drone Alliance Europe, please visit www.dronealliance.eu, contact press@dronealliance.eu, or follow @DroneAllianceEU on Twitter.

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