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Drone Alliance Europe Marks Successful Parliamentary Conference on European Drone Policy

EASA and SESAR JU Officials Joined EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc for Discussion on the Future of the European Drone Market

BRUSSELS – 3 July 2018 – On 28 June, senior European policymakers and drone industry leaders gathered at the European Parliament for The Future European Drone Market and the Next Multiannual-Financial Framework (MFF): How to Open Up the Market?, a high-level discussion on the future of European Drone policy hosted by Gesine Meissner MEP in coordination with Drone Alliance Europe (DAE).

During her keynote address, EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc underscored the importance of establishing a Europe-wide regulatory framework for drones and was optimistic about the near term growth of the European drone industry.

Matthijs van Miltenburg MEP moderated a panel on the role of investments in opening up the European drone market featuring insights from Andrea Gentili, Deputy Head of Unit, DG RTD, European Commission; David Batchelor, Head of International Affairs, SESAR JU.; Carine Donzel, Deputy Head, Aeronautic Industry Department, DGAC, France; and DAE Executive Director Christoph Raab. The panel discussed the importance of safety and standardisation to the commercial drone industry. Raab explained that harmonised implementation across the EU is critical to the success of the European Drone Market.

Gesine Meissner MEP also moderated a discussion on how to shape European drone policy beyond 2020. Panelists included Marian-Jean Marinescu MEP, the Parliament's rapporteur for the EASA Basic Regulation on Civil Aviation; Filip Cornelis, DG MOVE, European Commission; Patrick Ky, Executive Director, EASA; Oliver Pulcher, Director Corporate Development, Deutsche Flugsicherung (DFS); and Marina Solin, Director Public Policy, GSMA. The panel concentrated on the impact of the EASA Basic Regulation on the European Drone Market. Panelists agreed that regulators must strike the right balance between mitigating risks and enabling innovation.

DAE is grateful to Ms Meissner for hosting the conference and to all of the speakers for sharing their views on securing the future of European leadership in drone technology. As the European Union moves to finalise the first EU-wide regulatory framework for drones, DAE looks forward to continuing to engage policymakers in support of harmonised regulations that will safely enable widespread, autonomous drone operations to the benefit of European citizens, businesses, and the economy.

For more information on the conference and Drone Alliance Europe, please visit www.dronealliance.eu, contact press@dronealliance.edu, or follow @DroneAllianceEU on Twitter.

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