

Envisioning the Future of Aviation: “Drones – Innovation to Shape Our Future Skies”



In photo: European Parliament Vice-President Jan-Christoph Oetjen MEP; Tanja Grobotek, CANSO Director Europe Affairs

Brussels, 21 February 2024 – European Parliament Vice-President Jan-Christoph Oetjen MEP and the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) hosted a reception, yesterday February 20, to support their joint exhibition in the European Parliament “*Drones – Innovation to Shape Our Future Skies*”.

In an era marked by technological breakthroughs and unprecedented innovation, the aviation industry stands on the threshold of an exciting transformation. Running from 19 to 22 February, this exhibition presents the bold future of aviation, and allows stakeholders, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore the transformative potential of drone technology and airspace management.

The exhibition aims to:

- **Envision the airspace of 2045** through interactive displays and visionary presentations of a future in which airspace is maximised to its utmost

potential

- **Illustrate the role of innovation** in effecting the extensive and collective changes required to transform visions into reality
- **Highlight ongoing projects** from drones to air taxis and U-space
- **Raise awareness** of the indispensable role of air navigation services providers (ANSPs) in facilitating growth and ensuring the safety of all passengers.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our exhibitors, the SESAR Joint Undertaking, the European Defence Agency, ENAIRE, ENAV, the EUREKA project, NATS, PANSAs, and the U-ELCOM project, whose contributions will be instrumental in shaping the discourse around the future of aviation.

European Parliament Vice-President Jan-Christoph Oetjen said: “The EU drone eco-system must closely work together to unfold the sector's full potential. The Drone Strategy 2.0 is a good basis, but we need more efforts from the EU Member States in its implementation and harmonised solutions that do not undermine drone operations at borders. Sufficient funding in the future is a priority to ensure scaling-up of the market and development of the technology. A European drone label could create more trust and acceptance amongst users when operating.”

Tanja Grobotek, Manager Europe Affairs at CANSO, said: “This exhibition represents a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue, foster collaboration, and drive innovation. The air traffic management industry will support the integration of these exciting new technologies into our airspace and chart a course towards a safer, more efficient, and sustainable future of aviation.”

Mr. Oetjen and CANSO invite all interested parties to visit the exhibition, which is open until Thursday afternoon.

Venue: Distribution Area, 3rd floor, ASP building, zone D-E, European Parliament, Brussels



NOTES FOR EDITORS

About CANSO

CANSO – the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation – is the global voice of the air traffic management (ATM) industry and is shaping our future skies. Our members support over 90% of the world's air traffic and include air navigation service providers, airspace users and operators, manufacturers and aviation industry suppliers. We raise the bar on global ATM performance by connecting the industry to share knowledge, expertise and innovation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Angy Odysseos

Media Relations Manager, CANSO

+31 625183795

angy.odysseos@canso.org

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HANGAR III, Centurionbaan 160 - 23, Soesterberg, The Netherlands 3769 AV,
Netherlands

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