



**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EUROPEAN UNION  
Sub-Committee B  
Internal Market, Infrastructure and Employment**

**CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

**Civil use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) in the EU**

The Internal Market, Infrastructure and Employment Sub-Committee of the House of Lords European Union Committee, chaired by Baroness O’Cathain, is conducting an inquiry into the civil use in the EU of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), commonly referred to as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or ‘drones’. Public hearings will be held in October and November 2014.

**Background**

RPAS vary greatly in size, flying capability and methods of control. They are increasingly being used in Europe, in countries such as Sweden, France and the UK, to check for damage to road and rail bridges, monitor natural disasters such as flooding and to spray crops with pinpoint accuracy. Basic national safety rules apply to their use, but these rules differ across the EU and a number of key safeguards are not addressed in a coherent way.

The European Commission has been discussing since 2012 how to regulate the operations of RPAS in the EU. It published a Communication on 8 April 2014 setting out its ideas on how European industry can become a global leader in the market for this emerging technology.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, it acknowledged that the integration of RPAS into the EU’s airspace must be accompanied by adequate public debate on societal concerns, including:

- what is an ‘equivalent’ level of safety to manned aircraft, and how can RPAS be protected against security threats?
- how will data protection rules apply to RPAS and their usage?
- does the current framework for liability and insurance for manned aircraft need to be amended to take into account the specificities of RPAS?

The Committee will accordingly consider whether the Commission has identified the key issues in this debate, and how the EU’s actions can benefit the RPAS industry in Europe in a way that is acceptable to all stakeholders.

Respondents need only reply to those questions which they consider relevant to them, and are welcome to address matters which are relevant to the inquiry but are not covered by these questions.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2014) 207 ‘A new era for aviation: Opening the aviation market to the civil use of remotely piloted aircraft systems in a safe and sustainable manner’.

## Questions

1. Do you agree with the priorities identified in the European Commission's Communication for opening the aviation market to the civil use of RPAS? Are there other priorities which should have been included?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of regulating RPAS at the national, EU or international levels, for example in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)? Are the EU's actions, proposed or otherwise, consistent with developments in non-EU countries, for example in the United States?
3. In which new or innovative ways do you think RPAS will be used in the future?
4. What is your view of the estimate by the AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe that RPAS activities will create about 150,000 jobs in the EU by 2050? What are the factors that might restrict the growth of the RPAS market?
5. Will the existing competences of Member States for the safety of military and civil aircraft, as well as for more general issues such as the allocation and use of radio spectrum, be impacted by the proposed changes in the remit of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)?
6. Are the existing data protection, liability and insurance regimes at EU and Member State levels sufficient to address the concerns raised by the potential greater use of RPAS, or are changes required?
7. Is EU research and development funding for RPAS sufficiently targeted towards the most important issues, for example, getting the airspace regulatory framework right, as against improving the limited airworthiness of today's small and lightweight RPAS?

## **ANNEX I: GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at <http://www.parliament.uk/civil-rpas-written-submission-form>. This page also provides guidance on submitting evidence.

The call for evidence deadline has now passed (19 September 2014). If you would still like to submit written evidence please contact Nicole Mason, Clerk to the Committee at [masonn@parliament.uk](mailto:masonn@parliament.uk) copying in Alicia Cunningham at [cunninghamal@parliament.uk](mailto:cunninghamal@parliament.uk) or telephone 0207 219 4840.

Short submissions are preferred. A submission longer than six pages should include a one-page summary.

Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Evidence which is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Submissions which have been previously published will not be accepted as evidence. Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been accepted you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are also taken and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the clerk of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at <http://www.parliament.uk/civil-rpas>