

PRESS RELEASE

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Ensuring aviation safety and safe use of drones: Council signs off on EASA reform

The Council today adopted updated aviation safety rules, which include a revised mandate for the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the first ever EU-wide rules for civil drones of all sizes. The reform introduces proportionate and risk-based rules designed to enable the EU aviation sector to grow, make it more competitive and encourage innovation. A provisional deal was concluded with the European Parliament on 29 November 2017.

"These rules will ensure that flying remains safe even when our skies become increasingly busy," said Ivaylo Moskovski, Bulgarian Minister for Transport, Information Technology and Communications.

The rules on drones lay down the basic principles to ensure safety, security, privacy, data protection and environmental protection. The text establishes the registration threshold for drone operators: operators must be registered if their drones are capable of transferring more than 80 Joules of kinetic energy upon impact with a person. The other detailed rules on drones will be set by the Commission with help from EASA, on the basis of the principles outlined in this regulation.

Today's Council vote concludes the legislative procedure at first reading. The European Parliament voted on 12 June 2018. The regulation will be signed by both institutions and published in the EU Official Journal, probably by the end of July. It will enter into force 20 days after publication.

- [Regulation on common rules in the field of civil aviation](#)
- [Updated aviation safety rules and new rules on drones approved by the Council \(press release 22/12/2018\)](#)
- [Drones: reform of EU aviation safety \(background information\)](#)
- [Civil drones \(Unmanned aircraft\) - EASA website \(includes proposals for detailed rules\)](#)

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