

ASD KEY PRIORITY 2

PROMOTE AERONAUTICS INDUSTRY AS A STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOR EUROPE

ISSUE

The aeronautical industry and its products do not enjoy the recognition they would deserve for their achievements in the three crucial environmental issues that are at the forefront of public debate today: CO2 emissions, noise and, increasingly, climate change. The very real progress made over the years on all three fronts is taken for granted or ignored. Unless corrected, this state of affairs will adversely influence the EU support for aeronautics. Ultimately, the ability of our strategic industry to win against a fierce global competition may be affected. ASD has, therefore, decided to launch a major campaign to correct the perception of its industry amongst European decision makers. Its success will be measured by an increase in their interest and commitment to our industry.

BACKGROUND

It is not easy to identify a common European interest related to aeronautics among the Member States. Apart from the 5 big Member States in which the aeronautics tradition is an established and vibrant one, few European countries consider the aeronautics industry to be of key strategic importance. Amongst the new Member States, only three have a history of aeronautics. Other Member States, whether old or new, function only as subcontractors and thus have no aerospace strategy. The lack of a common European aerospace interest is complicated by the strong environmental sensibility of some Member States, who are susceptible to the criticism leveled at the industry. This array of positions is reflected among the Members of the European Parliament.

As the Lisbon Treaty enters into force, the European Parliament acquires full legislative parity with the Council on budgetary matters. The 2007-2013 EU Financial Perspective as well as FP7 are undergoing a mid-term review. The aeronautics R&T budget could change either way.

The relevant DGs of the European Commission (Enterprise, Transport, Research and Environment) have different priorities, perspectives and interests. ASD therefore faces an ongoing challenge in building a vision of the industry's future that everyone can subscribe to. In the past, the aeronautics industry was successful in putting its case forward: it is the biggest beneficiary of the funds devoted to the transport sector in the current FP7 research

framework and has also received significant funds under other headings (Environment, Security).

Discussions about the FP8 priorities began in 2009 while formal negotiations will be launched in 2010. The discussions will involve officials from over 10 DGs. For ASD, the challenge will not only be to obtain a significant raise in R&D funding for transport, but also to ensure that an optimal share of that budget is allocated to aeronautics. Maintaining this leadership in the FP8 framework, and thus boosting Europe's commitment to the aeronautics industry, is the ultimate objective of the ASD campaign

OBJECTIVE

ASD has therefore approved a three-fold approach for short and medium term results.

In the short term: (1) Preparation of a Communication Plan following a perception audit, (2) Organisation of an "Aero Week" taking place on the premises of the European Parliament with 4 different simultaneous events being organized: (a) an aeronautics exhibition; (b) an experts' conference on policy topics, (c) a high level Round-Table with a debate on public aerospace topics; (d) the ASD Board and Council meetings.

In the long term: (3) Facilitating the selection of a High Level Group of Personalities among European officials as well as Industry stakeholders to discuss and decide about the future of R&T in aeronautics and its importance in the future R & T programmes of the European Commission.

ASD ACTION

- ASD will prepare and implement a communication plan on aeronautics;
- ASD will prepare and follow up the organisation of the Aero Week at the European Parliament.
- ASD will facilitate and follow up the interaction between European stakeholders for the selection of a High Level Group of Personalities to support Aeronautics as a strategic asset for Europe.
- ASD will develop corresponding recommendations for FP8.

For more information please contact:

Patrick de Prévaux, ASD Director Air Transport, R&T and Operations

patrick.dePrevaux@asd-europe.org