



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2014/2243(INI)

18.5.2015

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on safe use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), commonly known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), in the field of civil aviation (2014/2243(INI))

Rapporteur: Soraya Post

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Transport and Tourism, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) can be used for a range of civil (non-military) purposes, such as critical infrastructure and civil protection, disaster management and search and rescue, environmental protection, law enforcement and surveillance, journalism, commercial activities and leisure;
- B. whereas, notwithstanding the potential and benefits of RPAS, their use entails significant risks and specific challenges when it involves the processing of personal data, as it interferes with fundamental rights, namely the rights to privacy and data protection;
 1. Supports the Commission proposal to swiftly modify Regulation (EC) No 216/2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation by reconsidering its lack of competence for regulating RPAS under 150 kilograms so as to ensure that the EU can properly regulate the integration of RPAS into the civil aviation system by addressing the safety, security, privacy and data protection preconditions for the civil use of RPAS;
 2. Reiterates that when personal data are processed by RPAS operated in the EU, including for law enforcement purposes, the right to the protection of personal data enshrined in Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and Article 16 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) applies and that the EU legal framework for data protection is to be fully complied with;
 3. Calls on the Commission to ensure that, in the development of any EU policy on RPAS, privacy and data protection guarantees are embedded, by making, as a minimum requirement, impact assessments and privacy by design and by default compulsory;
 4. Considers that rules at EU and national level should clearly indicate the provisions applicable to RPAS in relation to the internal market and international commerce (production, sale, purchase, trade and use of RPAS), safety and security (pilot licences, flight authorisation, identification and monitoring of RPAS and of RPAS flights, including in no-fly zones, such as airports and other critical infrastructure, and rules that should be followed when operating a drone, such as those on visual contact), privacy and data protection and also any other applicable law, such as criminal, intellectual property, aviation, and environmental law, which should be specified in a notice for buyers;
 5. Strongly recommends that the current discussions between EU and national policy makers and regulators, industry, SMEs and commercial operations should be opened up and that a public debate should be launched with the participation of citizens and other relevant stakeholders, to take note and address the concerns related to the use of RPAS.