

Position of the AeroSpace & Defence Industries Association of Europe, ASD, on the inclusion of aviation into the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

In common with the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ASD companies take seriously the issue of climate change and acknowledge that aviation has an impact on the environment. As such, we recognise the challenges that lie ahead.

In combination with technological progress, infrastructure improvements and operational measures, ASD companies support the aim of the European Commission's proposal to include aviation in the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

For these aims to be achieved it will be essential to arrive at globally agreed targets and measures within the framework of ICAO. It will, furthermore, be necessary to be fully in line with Kyoto recommendations and principles. Aviation must be treated equally with other sectors and there should be no distortion of competition.

ASD companies continue to work towards mitigating the environmental impact of aviation by developing cleaner and quieter technology. For example, since the introduction of the jet engine four decades ago, the industry has reduced noise by 75% and CO₂ by 70%.

The industry is fully committed to achieving the demanding ACARE (Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe) environmental goals established in 2001 by all air transport stakeholders; reducing NO_x by 80%, and CO₂ and noise by 50%, by 2020 compared to 2000.

Such large reductions can only be achieved by developing groundbreaking new technologies. ASD member companies typically spend 13% of turnover on Research & Development with much of it targeted on the environmental challenge. However, strong support from National Research Funding programmes, from the EU's framework programmes (including the Joint Technology Initiative Clean Sky), and the SESAR Programme (European Single Sky) will be essential.

Technological improvements take time to introduce, owing to the long life cycle of products typical of this industry. Meanwhile, rapid and substantial gains can be achieved by infrastructure improvements and by better co-ordinated and more intelligent control of aircraft movements, as part of the European Single Sky.

European Aeronautical Manufacturers are proud of their record of developing products which have brought, and continue to bring, huge social and economic benefits to Europe and the rest of the world.

ASD is committed to contributing constructively to discussions on the inclusion of aviation within the EU ETS.