



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2012/2005(INI)

25.6.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on the implementation of the Single European Sky legislation
(2012/2005(INI))

Rapporteur: Evgeni Kirilov

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Transport and Tourism, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Reaffirms that the safe, efficient and flexible use of airspace can only be achieved through close cooperation and coordination between civil and military users of airspace;
2. Respects fully the sovereignty and national prerogatives of the Member States as regards Air Traffic Management (ATM) relating to military and other state aircraft operations and training; notes the Member States' commitment to ensuring that the concept of flexible use of airspace¹ is fully and uniformly applied and recognises the need to support their efforts to that end; highlights the fact that state aircraft include, in addition to military aviation, those on police, fire-fighting, coast guard, customs, civil protection and other missions, thus bringing a wide range of security and crisis management activities within the scope of their operations;
3. Stresses that the military community is a key actor in the Single European Sky (SES) context and should be fully involved at all levels and at a very early stage; recognises the progress made in the implementation of SES legislation and urges the Member States to speed up their efforts to achieve coordination on the military side; while acknowledging the national specificities of civil-military relations, calls on the Member States to focus on enhancing civil-military cooperation and interoperability and apply best practices in that area;
4. Notes that, while military and civil military expertise is present at different levels within the various stakeholder institutions such as the Single Sky Committee, EUROCONTROL and the SESAR Joint Undertaking, there is still a need for coordinated and comprehensive analysis of the implications of SES/SESAR for the military; notes the need to include the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) in the process, as this will ensure that defence chiefs are adequately informed;
5. Recognises in this regard the natural roles of the European Defence Agency (EDA) as a bridge between the defence community and the Commission and as a facilitator between military stakeholders; is in favour of strengthening the EDA's role in building political awareness, networking, assisting with the deployment phase of SESAR and supporting Member States in financial and operational risk analysis; notes that the EDA is well placed to contribute to future SES challenges, for example in the field of equipment and training; welcomes the decision by Member States to involve the EU Military Staff (EUMS) in supporting the EDA in connection with SESAR; welcomes the establishment of the SES/SESAR Military Implementation Forum facilitated by the EDA and encourages its further effective continuation, as it has the strong merit of bringing all relevant actors in the defence community to the table; emphasises that cooperation with NATO is indispensable and welcomes ongoing developments in this regard;

¹ Statement by the Member States on military issues related to the Single European Sky of 10 March 2004, OJ L 96, 31.3.2004, p. 9.

6. Calls for an urgent and thorough assessment of the impact of the SES legislation on military aviation, which should also take into account the associated financial and operational risks and the cost of delay or non-synchronisation, and notes the EDA's preliminary work in this area; regrets that the high-level risk analysis report regarding the impact of SES has been delayed and calls on the EDA and the defence ministries to conclude it as soon as possible; asks the EDA to inform Parliament on its outcome; highlights the significant financial burden projected for the military in investments for SESAR deployment by airspace users, airport operators and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs); urges the Commission to fully involve the EDA in any future ex ante assessments of Union legislation and actions that have a bearing on military capabilities or fall within the defence field and to inform Parliament accordingly;
7. Insists that, despite the requisite major investment, there are a number of important and tangible benefits stemming from harmonisation, including flight optimisation, fuel efficiency, reduction of noise, air pollution and climate change, and the flexible and safe use of a less fragmented sky; highlights the efficiency that greater civil-military coordination would achieve, as using joint infrastructure would result in cost-cutting; emphasises that enhanced interoperability between Member States and the realisation of Functional Airspace Blocks (FABs) would also produce benefits in terms of cross-border operations;
8. Points out that the critical phase of deployment is on the horizon and must be tackled in a timely, synchronised and coordinated manner; stresses that the major challenge for the military is to finance implementation and invest early in new technology; draws attention to the fact that ways and means should be found swiftly to address this challenge; asks the EDA and the Commission to assist Member States in upgrading their non-EU manufactured state aircraft and to secure at the same time high standards of protection of key enabling technologies and the know-how of EU industries; requests type-approval, insofar as this is possible, for existing military technologies that meet SES requirements, since this would generate major savings for defence ministries; asks the Commission to find ways to fund directly or co-finance projects that have an impact on military aviation in this regard out of the EU budget in order to guarantee the timely deployment of SESAR by the military.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	21.6.2012
Result of final vote	+: 34 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Elmar Brok, Tarja Cronberg, Arnaud Danjean, Michael Gahler, Marietta Giannakou, Ana Gomes, Anna Ibrisagic, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Ioannis Kasoulides, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Maria Eleni Koppa, Andrey Kovatchev, Vytautas Landsbergis, Krzysztof Lisek, Ulrike Lunacek, Kyriakos Mavronikolas, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Norica Nicolai, Raimon Obiols, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Alojz Peterle, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Marek Siwiec, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Kristian Vigenin
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Diogo Feio, Knut Fleckenstein, Indrek Tarand, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García, Janusz Władysław Zemke
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Ingeborg Gräßle, Petru Constantin Luhan