1. As of today, the Commission has not received any indication that the EU drone regulatory framework\(^1\) that has entered into force on 31 December 2020 does not adequately ensure data protection and safeguard privacy and civil rights. Under Article 15 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/947\(^2\), Member States can define geographical zones where drone flights may be restricted by competent authorities to protect the security or privacy of people. Furthermore, a regulatory framework for the U-space\(^3\), which will be applicable as from 26 January 2023 will complement these provisions by covering many drone operations.

2. Points 4 of Annex IX of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Basic Regulation\(^4\) provides the essential requirements for registration of drones and drone operators. Article 74 of this Regulation requires EASA to establish and manage a repository of information, which is aimed at exchanging registration information among the competent authorities through a digital platform. In accordance with this Regulation, such information is therefore not directly available to citizens.

3. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/945\(^5\) imposes that during the flight, drones broadcast automatically, the operator’s registration number, the positions of the pilot and take-off point, enabling any person potentially affected by the operation of the drone, to access and record these data through a mobile device. Citizen considering that their rights have been breached can report to the law enforcement authorities. In any case, where drone operators qualify as a controller under the General Data Protection Regulation\(^6\), they also have to comply with their obligations under that text.

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\(^2\) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R0947


