



European Powered Flying Union

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EPFU News Flash No. 156, May 2026

Dear Readers

Aero 2026 in Friedrichshafen has come to a close. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend in person, but we had a representative on site. We will publish a report on the workshops attended in upcoming issues of “News Flash.”

As always, this issue is a collaborative effort by René, Martin, and me, based on various sources. Suggestions from our members are, of course, always welcome. Here you will find the links compiled by Martin and René’s summary of current relevant topics.

Stay safe and healthy! I wish you all a very pleasant May!

Antti, your President

Thibauld Jongen appointed EASA Certification Director

COLOGNE, 30/4/2026 – EASA writes: “Thibauld Jongen has been appointed Certification Director for the European Union Aviation Safety Agency, effective from June 1, 2026.

The Certification Directorate is responsible for EASA certifications of all aircraft, as well as validations of certifications by authorities in other countries that hold a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement with the European Union.”

Congratulations and best wishes from EPFU!

For more information on Thibauld Jongen please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/newsroom-and-events/press-releases/thibauld-jongen-appointed-easa-certification-director>

After the Leading Show for General Aviation April 22 - 25, 2026

This brings you to the website for reviews:

<https://www.aero-expo.com/>

A special report prepared by our treasurer Manfred Kunschitz will be published in our next News Flash.





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Very soon:

EUROCONTROL and EASA: Aviation Inclusion Event 18/5/2026

Related domains: Aerodromes Air Traffic Management Aircrew & Medical.

Event dates: 18/5/2026, 10:00 - 16:30
local time.

Event location: Eurocontrol
Headquarters, Brussels.

For more information and for a registration please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/newsroom-and-events/events/eurocontrol-and-easa-aviation-inclusion-event>



Terms of Reference (ToR), Notices of Proposed Amendments (NPA), Comment Response Documents (CRD), Opinions, Agency Decisions, and Public Consultations published between 1/4/2026 and 30/4/2026. Title or text parts in bold characters means that the texts are at least partially important for our community:

ToR: None.

Public Consultations by EASA: None

Notice of Proposed Amendment:

NPA 2026-01 Regular update of the aerodrome rules for the transposition of ICAO SARPs amendments, published by EASA on 28/4/2026, comes in 5 parts. The Agency writes:

“The amendments proposed with this NPA are based on Amendment 18 to ICAO Annex 14 Volume I — Aerodrome Design and Operations, and on Amendments 9 and 10 to Annex 14 Volume II — Heliports.

They can be summarised as follows:

- incorporation of criteria in the design of aprons for safe ground-handling activities;
- provision of runway and taxiway lights based on a new runway visual range (RVR) threshold of 300 m;
- provision of runway distance remaining signs (RDRSs);
- clarification of serviceability level for aerodrome lighting;
- provision of visual aids to denote temporarily closed runways and temporarily closed/restricted areas;
- revision of the apron management procedures to include guidance to aircraft departing from the stand and securing of parked aircraft to prevent unintended movement;



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- revised design characteristics for the final approach and take-off area (FATO), touchdown and lift-off areas (TLOF), helicopter clearways, helicopter taxiway and taxi routes, heliport lights, sign markings and markers;
- revised design specifications for the obstacle limitation surfaces related to vertical procedures and point-in-space (PinS) approach or departure procedures with or without a proceed visually instruction.”

Comment period ends on 23/6/2026. For all related texts please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/notices-of-proposed-amendment/npa-2026-01>

Focused Consultations: None.

Agency Decision:

15/4/2026 Regular update of CS-23, ED Decision 2026/003/R. (RMT.0687 — SUBTASK.2). EASA writes:

“Regular update of CS-23 — CS-23 Amendment 6 and AMC & GM to CS-23 Issue 5:

The objective of this Decision is to ensure that the Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM) to CS-23 reflect the latest technological developments and certification practices for normal-category aeroplanes.

Specifically, this ED Decision incorporates updated consensus standards developed by ASTM International. These standards, established through the ASTM F44 committee, provide state-of-the-art methods for demonstrating compliance with CS-23 requirements. EASA has reviewed the revised standards and, where appropriate, included them in AMC1 to CS-23.

The proposed regulatory material is intended to support global harmonisation, ensure consistency with performance-based regulations, and promote innovation by maintaining a regularly updated set of compliance means.”

For all related texts please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/agency-decisions/ed-decision-2026003r>

Opinion:

14/4/2026 Opinion 03/2026 Regular update of the Initial Airworthiness Regulation and associated acceptable means of compliance and guidance material. (RMT.0031)

EASA writes: “This Opinion proposes to amend Regulation (EU) No 748/2012 (the Initial Airworthiness Regulation) in order to address miscellaneous issues of a non-controversial nature. The objective is to ensure that the Initial Airworthiness Regulation is fit for purpose, cost-effective, and can be effectively implemented. To achieve this, the following main actions are proposed:

- amendment of the articles of the Initial Airworthiness Regulation to correspond to the current situation regarding grandfathering and transitional measures and correction of cross references to the points in Annex I (Part 21) to the Initial Airworthiness Regulation;



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- clarification of the competence requirements for pilots performing operational suitability data flight tests in Annex I (Part 21);
- clarification and simplification of the reporting obligations for production organisation approval holders in Annex I (Part 21); and
- correction of inconsistencies, typographical errors and cross references in Annex I (Part 21).

The proposed regulatory material is expected to enhance the efficiency of Annex I (Part 21) implementation and ensure alignment with the current industry practices.”

This is the link brings you to all related texts::

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/opinions/opinion-no-032026>

Comment Response Document:

14/4/2026 **CRD 2024-04 Regular update of the Initial Airworthiness Regulation and associated acceptable means of compliance and guidance material (RMT.0031)**. See also Opinion 03/2026. This is the link to the comments and to all related documents:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/comment-response-documents/crd-2024-04>

EU Consultations/”Have your say”:

Repetition

EU aviation strategy: The Commission writes: “EU industrial leadership in aviation brings high added value but faces increasing global pressure from competitors, the race for raw materials, the imperative to decarbonise, and ever more complex geopolitics. This threatens the EU single market and the entire value chain. Action is needed to bolster the EU’s excellence in aviation and aeronautics, secure its competitive position as it evolves throughout the green and digital transitions, tackle emerging threats and preserve strategic autonomy.”

The adoption by the Commission is planned for the third quarter 2026. We shall keep you informed on intermediate materials when such are published. **Deadline for inputs: 21/5/2026.**

For more details you may go to

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/17372-EU-aviation-strategy_en

EU Regulations:

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/781 of 8 April 2026 amending Regulations (EU) No 1178/2011 and (EU) No 965/2012 as regards the requirements applicable to **flight simulation training devices and the use of those devices for pilot training, testing and checking**. Published in the Official Journal of the EU on 10/4/2026. For the full text please go to

http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/781/oj



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Theft of Agricultural Spray Drones in New Jersey Raises Security

27/4 2026 by Miriam McNabb, from dronelife



“New Jersey state police have reported that the stolen drones were recovered yesterday from a warehouse in Dover, NJ after a warehouse employee contacted police. Police say that the investigation is ongoing and there is no further information available. Incident highlights long-standing concerns about drone misuse and growing focus on counter-UAS preparedness.” For more details please go to

<https://dronelife.com/2026/04/27/stolen-spray-drones-new-jersey-fbi-investigation/>

Conversation Aviation

Starting positive conversations about safety, published by EASA. The very last sentences of the EASA Director’s foreword already contain the key principles that define good airmanship. You can then select the sections that are relevant to you from the chapters. For the full text please go to

https://www.easa.europa.eu/community/system/files/2026-04/easa_conversation-aviation_2026-01_double-page.pdf



CEI 2026.03 — Direct Accreditation of Qualified Entities: Air Traffic Management/Air Navigation Services Systems and Constituents domain experts

23/4/2026 EASA has published a new call for expression of interest (CEI) to be accredited as qualified entity. Qualified Entities are an essential building block in the Agency’s outsourcing strategy of certification and oversight tasks.

Closing date for applications: 31/5/2026. For more information please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/newsroom-and-events/news/cei-202603-direct-accreditation-qualified-entities-air-traffic>



EASA Artificial Intelligence Days 2026, 9-10/9/2026

Hybrid event (partially online and partially on-site), EASA Headquarters at Cologne.

Related domains: Aerodromes Air Operations Air Traffic Management Aircraft & products Aircrew & Medical Cybersecurity Drones & Air Mobility Research & Innovation Rotorcraft & VTOL

Event dates: 9/9/2026, 08:30 - 18:00, 10/9/2026, 08:00 - 17:30, all times local.

For more information and/or a registration please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/newsroom-and-events/events/easa-artificial-intelligence-days-2026>





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10th Electrify-In, Bern Airport, Switzerland

Save the Date! The dates for 11th –13th September 2026 are confirmed. With all permits already in place, the stage is set for the 10th edition of Electrify-In Switzerland. It promises to be an event you will not want to miss — so be sure to save the date for a weekend filled with innovation, inspiration and premier networking.



European Technical Standard Order (ETSO) Workshop 2026, 22-23/9/2026

Related domains: Aircraft & products

On-site event at EASA Headquarters, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Köln

Event dates: Welcoming and Registration 22/9/2026, 08:30, event start 22/9/2026, 09:00 - 17:30
23/09/2026, 09:00 - 17:30
all times local

For more information please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/newsroom-and-events/events/european-technical-standard-order-etso-workshop-2026>



Repetition

Save the Date: Part-IS Workshop 2026 –7-8/10/2026

Related domains: Aerodromes Air Operations Air Traffic Management Aircraft & products Aircrew & Medical Cybersecurity International cooperation Rotorcraft & VTOL.

Event location: EASA Headquarters, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Köln

For more details please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/newsroom-and-events/events/save-date-part-workshop-2026-october-07-08>



SAVE THE DATE — Innovative Air Mobility Implementation Forum 27/10 2026 to 28/10/2026

Hybrid event (partially online and partially on-site). Description: “The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) is pleased to announce the second edition of the Innovative Air Mobility (IAM) Implementation Forum.





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Following the strong engagement and fruitful exchanges of the inaugural event, this new edition will once again gather authorities, industry leaders, technical experts, and community representatives to discuss the evolving IAM, UAS and U-space regulatory implementation.”

For more information please go to

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/newsroom-and-events/events/save-date-innovative-air-mobility-implementation-forum>

Bristow and Electra Partner to Launch Green Flight Trials in Norway

22/4/2026 **Aviation News** writes:”Bristow Group Inc., Electra, Avinor, and the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority officially signed a contract today to launch a second international test project for zero- and low-emission aviation. This initiative aims to establish the regulatory and operational framework necessary to integrate hybrid-electric aircraft into Norway’s regional transport networks.”



Picture from Bristow/Aviation News, many thanks.

For more information please go to:

<https://aviationnews.eu/news/2026/04/bristow-and-electra-partner-to-launch-green-flight-trials-in-norway/>

CAAC Releases Statistical Bulletin of Civil Aviation Industry Development in 2025

22/4/2026 Something new: statistics presented in a different form, difficult to interpret, but nevertheless offering an interesting insight in another culture. For the text please go to

https://www.caac.gov.cn/English/News/202604/t20260422_230642.html



The CAAC logo, found in Wikipedia Commons

Murphy’s Law COMPLETE, compiled by Arthur Bloch

On page 114 there we find Maryann’s Law: “You can always find what you are not looking for.”

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Best wishes, kind regards

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