

Overview

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) are increasingly being used in European airspace, but with a limited regulatory framework. Basic national safety rules apply to the operation of RPAS, but even these differ across EU Member States and safeguards are not being addressed in a coherent way. EASA published a formal Technical Opinion in December 2015 which laid down the foundation for all future work regarding the development of rules, guidance material and safety promotion. ERA welcomed the opinion but believe that more needs to be done with the increase in use of RPAS, coupled with wider availability - such devices can easily be purchased online and with very little or no safety guidance material. The recent number of reported near misses between RPAS and commercial aircraft supports ERA concerns.

