

Teleconference with Safran 6/5/2020

Participants :

SAFRAN:

DG DEFIS :

Timo Pesonnen

highlighted the following:

The impact of the crisis:

- The aeronautics industry is one of the sectors most affected by the crisis due to the collapse of air traffic (Europe is the most affected continent with a 90% reduction)

What is needed:

1. Enable airlines to resume their activities (domestic traffic is expected to restart first, but this represents a higher challenge for Europe than in other parts of the world due to internal borders)
2. Ensure a level playing field (US and China support strongly their industry with recovery measures already effective; recovery funds must be available as soon as possible)
3. Compensate for the drop in R&D investments capability of the industry (Safran is already working at national level to ensure increase of R&D funding; at EU level, there is a need to ensure the funding of the Clean Aviation partnership at the level and funding rate proposed)

DG Pesonen:

- confirmed that the need to support quickly the aeronautics industry, including the supply chain, is understood
- highlighted the importance of industry engaging with capitals to get support for Commission recovery plan proposal (considering in particular that the aeronautics industry is very much concentrated in a few MS)

Safran reported the progress on Clean Aviation partnership:

- there will be no new aircraft within the next 5 years, the objective is to deliver a new generation of greener aircraft in 2030, the next 5 years are key to achieve this objective
- the proposal for the partnership made by industry is entirely devoted to greening with only a strong focus on a few technologies (gas turbines +SAF/hydrogen)
- further reduction of the scope and/or the budget would make the program inefficient (helicopters and business jets have already been removed from the proposal)
- the funding rate foreseen by RTD is also an issue (50% of eligible costs results for big companies like Safran to an actual 30% funding rate; MS envisage raising the funding rate of national programs up to 70%)
- DG RTD is facing budgetary constraints with a huge competition between partnerships and a 50% capping (maximum budget devoted to partnership per cluster)

DG Pesonen confirmed again its support and its intention to work together with the concerned DGs (MOVE and RTD)