


Mrs Mariya GABRIEL
Commissioner for Youth and Innovation
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 Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD), I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of your nomination as Commissioner for Youth and Innovation.

ASD represents the interests of more than 3000 companies with more than 870 000 employees across Europe. Our industries form a unique, diverse, performing and recognized ecosystem that constantly works at the cutting edge of technology and invests on a long-term basis. European cooperation represents an important dimension for our members and has enabled them to develop high-tech products that became symbols of what Europeans can achieve together.

Our industries benefit in many ways from the European Union: the internal market, common standards and rules have all helped our sectors to flourish. At the same time, our companies also contribute to achieving key European policy objectives. By investing significantly in research and employing a highly skilled workforce, they constantly drive innovation in strategic technologies that are needed to sustain economic growth, achieve climate neutrality, ensure the protection of European citizens and defending European interests and values.

Climate change and reduction of CO2 emissions are amongst the biggest challenges for the aeronautics industry. Our companies concentrate a large part of their research investments in this area and will thus be playing a leading role in developing the future environmental friendly technologies for civil aviation working on both incremental improvement of existing technologies and disruptive technologies.

The current performance and competitiveness of the EU aeronautics industry is the result of continuous high levels of public-private investments in R&T. In this perspective, the partnerships between the EU Institutions and industry at European level through Joint Technology Initiatives such as SESAR and Clean Sky are essential. New long-term investments and continuous commitment of industry and the EU would be necessary to meet the new EU ambitious strategic research agenda and in particular the climate targets.

In addition, our sector is facing important challenges such as the emergence of new, often state-sponsored competitors, the lack of a level playing field in global markets, the increasing trade tensions, the new digital revolution and its impact on technologies and skills.

In order to cope with these challenges, our industries need more than ever the support of the EU, including an appropriate legislative framework and investment. We therefore advocate for a renewed and strengthened partnership with the EU Institutions, in particular the European Commission, in order to elaborate an ambitious and forward-looking agenda in the Aerospace sector.

Your mandate will start at a time when the Union faces strategic challenges, externally and internally. We as industry therefore stand ready to support you and your services and are fully committed to contribute when developing these strategic policy areas.

I look forward to meeting you in a near future.



ASD

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