Strategic objectives

ASD is the association of aerospace and defence industries in Europe. For the European aviation sector, ASD advocates for the following strategic objectives:

Further improve global aviation safety

Today, civil aviation is already the safest transport mode. Nevertheless, in particular in light of continued traffic growth, there is no reason for complacency and there is a need to work further towards the aspirational goal of zero accidents. The European industry is committed to continue working with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as well as national regulators to further increase global aviation safety, and develop together efficient and robust procedures.

Move towards a greener and carbon neutral aviation sector

The European industry is committed to work with other EU aviation stakeholders (such as airports, airlines and air navigation service providers) on a European sustainable aviation roadmap. This roadmap will complement the ongoing efforts carried out at a global level by ICAO and the Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), and will propose a combination of measures, supporting research and appropriate policies that can help Europe's industry fulfil its climate change commitments (e.g. operational improvements of the European airspace, Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs), aircraft/engine efficiency and innovation, as well as market-based measures (ETS/CORSIA).

Improve the industry's competitiveness

All EU actors need to work together towards a common goal to support the competitiveness of EU industry within the global civil aviation market based on an industrial strategy. Such strategy should support all segments of the European industry (Original Equipment Manufacturers, as well as EU Supply Chain) by providing them with tools that allow EU industry to compete on a level playing field with both established and emerging competitors, all of which receive strong support from their respective governments.

Foster European innovation leadership

The European industry is playing a leading role in the development of future green technologies for civil aviation, including the long term goals of hybridisation and electrification, as well as incremental improvements to traditional technologies. In addition, the European industry is also an emerging player in new aviation concepts, including urban air mobility concepts and unmanned aircraft that need to be supported by robust strategies for cyber protection. Some of those new concepts could also be important testbeds for a greener and more automated aviation sector, in addition to their own market potential. Collaboration at a European level through Joint Technology Initiatives, such as SESAR and Clean Sky, is essential in this context. Therefore, meeting the EU climate targets also depends on safeguarding funding for civil aviation research (both SESAR and Clean Sky) in the future Horizon Europe Programme. The early involvement of EASA in future research programmes will also be important to anticipate coherent regulatory evolutions in technological developments.

Implement the Digital European Sky

There is a need to address the capacity crunch in European Air Traffic Management (ATM), which led to congested European skies and increasing air traffic delays. The EU industry has developed various SESAR solutions to ease congestion. The deployment of these solutions should be accelerated in order to improve the performance of the European ATM System. Financial incentives will be required to reward early adopters of new technology. The SESAR Airspace Architecture Study should be implemented.