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***Washington Update Becomes The VTOL Advocate!***

With today's issue, *Washington Update* gets a new name: *The VTOL Advocate*. HAI's Government Affairs Department, publisher of the newsletter, decided on the change to reflect the publication's growing international reach and the importance of providing news for and about HAI members all over the world.

Like *The VTOL Advocate*? Please tell us what you think, at [advocacy@rotor.org](mailto:advocacy@rotor.org).

**HAI, ERHC Hold Washington, D.C., Helicopter Noise Press Conference**

HAI and the Eastern Region Helicopter Council (ERHC) introduced a brand-new helicopter noise complaint system for individuals located in the Washington, D.C., metro area to share their concerns. The two trade associations announced the initiative at a press conference with US congressman Don Beyer (D-Va.) on Friday, Jun. 24. HAI and ERHC aim to work with the D.C. community to review and process noise complaints and use this data to help mitigate helicopter noise.

There are three easy ways to file a helicopter noise complaint through this joint initiative. D.C.-area residents may complete and submit noise concerns via web form, iPhone- and Android-compatible mobile app, or voicemail at the noise complaint hotline. A flyer detailing the complaint filing process also provides links to the web form and mobile app as well as the noise complaint hotline number.

[Read more](#) on HAI and ERHC's debut of this helicopter noise initiative.

### **HAI Sends Coalition Letter to New York Governor**

HAI, as part of a broad coalition of industry stakeholders, sent a [letter](#) to New York Governor Kathy Hochul urging her to veto the "Stop the Chop Act" (Bill 7493-A), which was passed in the New York State Legislature on Jun. 3. The letter details the industry's strong opposition to the legislation on the grounds that it infringes well-established federal law regarding noise and access restrictions. Federal law also specifically prohibits states and municipalities from regulating the routes or services of air carriers, which this bill would effectively do. HAI stands ready to work with the city and state governments to implement workable solutions to aviation noise issues.

### **Coalition Letter to Secretary of Transportation**

HAI recently signed and sent an industry coalition [letter](#) to US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to address congestion issues in the National Airspace System (NAS). The general aviation community requested to meet with Sec. Buttigieg to discuss the myriad of challenges facing the aviation system, which include but are not limited to staffing shortages, scheduling issues, traffic conditions, and unique weather circumstances. The letter notes that these challenges often lead to delays for the entire industry.

HAI looks forward to meeting with Sec. Buttigieg to address these issues and ensure that our aviation system can best serve all those who use the NAS.

## Congressional Recess for July 4th Holiday

Congress is in recess next week for the Independence Day holiday, from Jul. 4 to Jul. 8. Both the House and Senate will be in either a district or state work period. During these work periods, lawmakers return to their home states to meet with constituents and staff and discuss their legislative priorities.

HAI encourages you to reach out to your elected officials and meet with them during this time! If you need help connecting with your representatives, HAI is happy to put you in touch. Please contact [advocacy@rotor.org](mailto:advocacy@rotor.org) for more information.

## HAI International News

### MEPs Set Ambitious Goals for Greener Aviation Fuels

Members of European Parliament (MEPs) on the Transport and Tourism Committee adopted a draft negotiating mandate on the ReFuelEU aviation rules on Monday, Jun. 27. The adopted text expands the definition of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to create more sustainable fuel options for aircraft. The MEPs also increased the original timeline for the uptake of sustainable fuels to 85% by 2050. The Transport MEPs also proposed the creation of the Sustainable Aviation Fund to support investment in SAF, innovative aircraft propulsion technologies, or research for new engines.

Once the entire European Parliament has approved this draft negotiating position at the July plenary session, MEPs will begin discussing the final shape of the legislation with EU governments.

View the European Parliament's [press release](#) on the ReFuelEU adopted draft mandate.

### European Commission Launches Alliance for Zero-Emission Aviation

The European Commission officially launched the Alliance for Zero-Emission Aviation (AZEA) on Jun. 24. The goal of this alliance is to prepare for hydrogen- and electric-powered aircraft to enter the aviation ecosystem. This plan further ensures that the air transport community will contribute to Europe's 2050 climate neutrality objective.

AZEA will consist of representatives from aircraft manufacturers, airlines, airports,

energy companies and fuel providers, standardization and certification agencies, passenger and environmental interest groups, and regulators. The group will work to identify barriers to entry for these zero-emission aircraft, establish recommendations and a road map to address these barriers, promote investment projects, and help drive momentum.

Private and public entities from the aviation community that have committed to supporting the entry of zero-emission aircraft into the industry are invited to join AZEA. Interested parties may apply for membership through [this online form](#). The first general assembly meeting of AZEA will take place in the third quarter of 2022.

Read more about AZEA on the European Commission's [website](#).

### **European Helicopter Association (EHA) Contributions**

#### **Horizon Europe Project: Digital Transformation—Case Studies for Aviation Safety Standards**

EASA recently launched a tender for a new research project funded by HorizonEU. The research project will evaluate a series of changes applied to aviation products, processes, and operations resulting from the deployment of new digital solutions with a focus on measuring the impact on safety standards and regulatory materials as well as preparing for their evolution. The project will build upon a series of case studies to create a comprehensive investigation of the key changes at stake by developing several working examples (using cases and conceptual models) and analyzing the impact on the working processes, safety management processes, and existing regulatory standards. Such case studies will lead to the identification of key actions to be taken by safety regulators and service and solution providers to streamline the deployment of innovative digital applications. More information and an application form can be found [here](#).

#### **Horizon Europe Project: Interoperability of Electronic Conspicuity Systems for General Aviation**

EASA recently launched a tender for a new research project funded by HorizonEU: Interoperability of Electronic Conspicuity Systems for General Aviation. Airborne collision risk involving noncommercially exploited small airplanes represents a key

priority in EASA annual safety reviews and the development of safety actions at the EU level in the European Plan for Aviation Safety (EPAS).

Because of the diversity of the so-called electronic conspicuity devices, they are not always interoperable with each other, meaning that aircraft may or may not be electronically visible to each other. The lack of harmonized technical standards addressing the performances of such devices, data transmission protocols and formats, and radiocommunication spectrum usage are major impediments to their widespread use in Europe. In addition, the requirements set for electronic conspicuity of crewed aircraft for U-space operations (SERA 6005 [c]) will enter into force in 2023 and will impact the possible choices for general aviation pilots regarding the installation of such devices.

More information and an application form can be found [here](#).

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## **Helicopter Association International**

***THE Trade Association for the International VTOL Community***

***Working Each Day to Keep the Rotors Turning***

[Join HAI](#)

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