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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.10.2025)

In 2023, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) carried out a standardisation inspection in Ireland, which concluded that the country is effectively implementing the safety aspects of the existing European drone regulations. As part of the inspection, the team visited operators delivering goods in Dublin and confirmed that their activities were being conducted safely and in full compliance with the applicable rules. It should be noted that verification of compliance with environmental law falls outside the scope of EASA's inspection.

Furthermore, a safety assessment is always required before drone operations may take place. Based on the data periodically collected by the EASA from national aviation authorities, the Irish authority grants operational authorisations only upon receipt of a satisfactory risk assessment, ensuring that activities are carried out in line with the applicable rules. Matters relating to noise and environmental conditions are determined nationally, in accordance with each Member State's requirements. The Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC¹ requires Member States to develop noise action plans for agglomerations exceeding 100 000 people to manage noise from air operations which may include drones, depending on whether noise exposure is determined through the prior performed strategic mapping on noise. Based on reported data by the competent authorities, there is no information distinguishing the noise exposure from drones in Dublin agglomeration.

The framework for drones was developed at European level following extensive public consultation in 2018, ensuring that stakeholders had the opportunity to contribute before the rules were adopted.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/49/oj/eng>.