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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
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Since its inception, certification of aeronautical products has been a key competence of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). This and the relationship with national competent authorities are defined in the EASA Basic Regulation¹.

1. The overall legal and organisational framework in the certification area is fit for purpose; EASA and national authorities cooperate effectively. The most important challenge is to ensure that the Agency has the necessary resources to accomplish its related tasks in due time. The 2025 revision of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2347 ('EASA Fees and Charges Regulation') is an important element in this regard. A main challenge consists in the fact that – as all EU agencies – EASA must respect its staff ceiling as defined in EASA's establishment plan.

2. EASA already started to address challenges from emerging technologies by building up the required expertise. The Commission sees a main challenge in the Agency's capacity to have the technical expertise available to better support EU industry's competitiveness to ensure the timely entry into service of the next generation of more sustainable aircraft.

3. The Commission monitors closely EASA's workload and has taken action to reinforce staff, promote further efficiencies in processes, and support digitalisation. The Commission proposed staff increases in the 2027 draft EU budget. Work is also being undertaken to identify concrete measures to simplify the EU's regulatory framework for aviation safety, including as regards certification.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1139/2025-05-25/eng>.