

Statement on the Exception from EU Regulation for Model Aircraft Pilots (RC), Motion 20.3916

The Drones Industry Association Switzerland (DIAS) represents leading manufacturers and providers of drone products and services with business in Switzerland. The Association is recognized as a key stakeholder of the Swiss drone industry – that has rapidly grown into an ecosystem of 100 plus companies – creator of around 3'000 new jobs.

DIAS welcomes the new EU regulations that aims at formalising airspace access for recreational and commercial drone operators. These new regulations, in particular EU Regulation 2019/947, will also apply to traditional model aircraft remote control (RC) flights. The recent parliamentary motion 20.3916 aims to exclude RC model airplane operations from EU Regulation 2019/947.

DIAS recommends to **reject the motion** for the following reasons:

1. The EU regulation increases the safety and security for all citizens.
2. A common drone regulation at European level creates new opportunities for all (i.e. recreational and commercial actors) and allows Swiss organisations to seamlessly expand business and activities to EU countries.
3. The Swiss FOCA had a strong impact in the redaction of the EU drone regulations as defined by EASA. Accepting the motion will undermine the role and importance of FOCA with EASA, and lower its impact and influence on future European aviation law. Furthermore, this will reduce the influence that Swiss companies will have on the laws that will govern their industry.
4. A specific Swiss drone regulation, that will be seen as an exception, will discourage foreign drone companies from investing in Switzerland.
5. The EU regulation introduces minor and manageable constraints for the RC model aircraft community (namely the need to register aircraft and remote pilots, and to join a club, if under the age of 12, or to fly higher than 120m above ground level).

DIAS also supports the other arguments put forward by the Swiss Federal Council:

<https://www.parlament.ch/de/ratsbetrieb/suche-curia-vista/geschaefft?AffairId=20203916>

About DIAS

The Drones Industry Association Switzerland (DIAS) represents, supports and promotes its members who offer and export drone-related products and services from Switzerland. DIAS embraces the safe use of drones and seeks to accelerate the acceptance and adoption of drones. More information at www.droneindustry.ch.

The DIAS Board