

Weekly Policy News Summary

Year 2018 – week 8

Aviation Strategy: EU at forefront of safe drone operations

The EU is breaking new ground by combining product and aviation legislation, which will ensure the highest safety and security standards and support the competitiveness of the EU's aviation industry. A set of common rules for safe and secure drones operations is an important milestone under the Commission's Aviation Strategy for Europe. Common European rules will also cement the internal market for drones and drone-related services and therefore contribute to the EU's global leadership in this booming sector. "A clean, safe and secure drone ecosystem in Europe is now becoming a reality, as we move to the implementation phase of our rules. Work also continues in parallel on the U-space to develop a modern airspace management system for safe drone operations in our skies." On the basis of this technical opinion the Commission will adopt concrete regulatory proposals later in the year, which will in turn help deliver the target of getting drone services up and running in the U-space by the end of 2019.

EPRS (DG for Parliamentary Research Service): Prospects for e-democracy in Europe

Digital tools could create stronger connections between European citizens and the EU decision-making process and, by doing so, might contribute to reducing the EU democratic deficit. This report investigates what lessons can be drawn from local, national and European experiences of the use of digital tools for the functioning of EU decision-making procedures and institutions. For that purpose, a review of current literature on e-democracy and the European public sphere has been carried out; 22 local, national and EU experiences with existing digital tools have been investigated and evaluated; and an analysis has been made of the suitability of the most promising digital tools for implementation and use at EU level. Please click [this](#) to access the full study.

CEF Telecom: €30 million to improve cross-border digital services

The Commission has opened a call for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to stimulate and support the deployment of European Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs). Up to €30 million will be made available to meet the needs of public administrations, businesses and citizens in their cross-border activities. Interested applicants from all EU MS, as well as Iceland and Norway, may submit their proposals in the areas of [eIdentification & eSignature](#), [Europeana](#) and [Safer Internet](#). The deadline for submitting proposals is 15 May 2018. CEF Telecom funding supports projects of common interest that contribute to increasing the interoperability, connectivity and deployment of trans-European digital infrastructures across the EU, improving the daily life of citizens, businesses and public administrations, and thereby contributing to the development of a Digital Single Market. To receive co-funding under the calls, actions must be ready for deployment, contribute to EU Digital Single Market policies and have a long-term sustainability strategy. The funding will be allocated to those eligible proposals which best meet the award criteria as specified in the [2018 CEF Telecom Work Programme](#) and call texts in the areas relevant to this call.
