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## PRESS RELEASE

### CLEAN SKY JTI: FLYING SOLO

**Today, the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking has been granted administrative and operational autonomy from the European Commission. The Joint Undertaking is now on track to fulfil its ambitious programme for greening aeronautics.**

The autonomy granted today to the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking by the European Commission enables it to implement its own budget and execute its own work plan.

*"This is a decisive step in the Clean Sky programme", states Marc Ventre, Chairman of the Governing Board. "Our Joint Undertaking, which is a mix of public and private cultures, is more than ever committed to performing efficient programme coordination and to reaching our environmental targets".*

The Joint Undertaking manages the Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) that will develop breakthrough technologies to significantly improve the impact of the air transport on the environment. Since the official date of set-up of the Clean Sky JTI in February 2008\*, operation of the Clean Sky JU during this interim period was carried out by the European Commission.

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research stated: *" Today, the Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative leaves the nest. As one of the parents, the Commission is proud to let it fly solo. Clean Sky is one of the five public-private partnership for research we hatched two years ago in areas of promising technologies. I am confident Clean Sky will help Europe to keep EU research on clean technologies in the lead and to move towards a competitive "green" economy. The JTIs will set the example for many more public private partnerships at European level "*.

The JU team intends to fulfil an ambitious work programme. *"The preliminary studies of the system-level demonstrators are well on track", says Eric Dautriat, Executive Director. The year 2010 will see a steep increase in the workload and budget for all projects. The JU will ensure their consistency and keep the focus on strongly reducing carbon emissions and noise".*

\* Council Regulation (EC) 71/2008 of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007 setting-up the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking.



By the end of this year, Eric Dautriat intends to have the contracts with the selected candidates from the first call for proposals finalised and signed.

A second call for proposals will be announced in the meantime on the Clean Sky website. Subsequent calls will be published at a rate of around four per year.

**\*\*end\*\***

### **Background note to editors:**

***The Clean Sky initiative*** aims to develop cleaner and quieter aircraft in order to establish an innovative and competitive Air Transport System. It will be built upon 6 different technical areas called Integrated Technology Demonstrators (ITDs): Smart fixed wing aircraft; green regional aircraft; green rotorcraft; sustainable and green engines; systems for green operations; eco-design. In addition, the Technology Evaluator (TE) will be used to assess the impact of all innovations at a global level. Clean Sky will assess, design, build and test many technological validation vehicles that will give the industry greener, more innovative and competitive aviation products.

Clean Sky is one of the largest European research initiatives ever, with a budget estimated at €1.6 billion over seven years, of which half is contributed by the European Commission in cash and half by the European Aeronautics industry, in kind. This public-private partnership will speed up technological breakthroughs to be introduced in future aircraft fleet.

***The Clean Sky Joint Undertaking*** has been set up by Council Regulation (EC) 71/2008 of 20th December 2007. It aims at addressing the implementation of innovative, environmental-friendly technologies:

- in all segments of civil air transport, including large commercial aircraft, regional aircraft and rotorcraft,
- and in all supporting technologies such as engines, systems and products life cycle.

The Clean Sky Joint Undertaking will deliver full scale demonstrators in all areas of research activities which should be tested either in flight or on the ground, as a result of a fully integrated approach and monitoring of the technological progress and impact.

***Joint Technology Initiatives*** are a major new element of the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme. They provide a way of creating new partnerships between publicly and privately-funded organisations involved in research, focussing on areas where research and technological development can contribute to European competitiveness and quality of life. The approach proposed by the JTIs signals a real change in how Europe promotes industry-driven research, designed to establish European leadership in certain technologies that are strategic to Europe's future.

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