



Subject: Background information on High-Level workshop “Synergies between European and national/regional research & innovation programmes in the aviation sector” (4 March 2023) co-organised by the European Commission's DG R&I and the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking, in cooperation with the European Committee of the Regions

1. ACTION PLAN ON SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE CLEAN AVIATION JU AND EUROPEAN REGIONS / MEMBER STATES

The [Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking](#) (CAJU) established under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme is the largest ever European Public-Private Partnership to support R&I for transforming aviation towards a sustainable and climate-neutral future in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal.

CAJU, together with the EC DG R&I “Clean Planet” Directorate, has re-launched an ambitious action plan to maximize strategic cooperation on synergies with the European *Aeronautics Regions/Member States* in order to accelerate the maturation and demonstration of low-emission disruptive aircraft technologies for an Entry-Into-Service in the 2030-2035 timeframe, thus contributing to the digital/circular and green transformation of the EU aviation industry.

The Horizon Europe impact assessment for partnerships already stated the significant potential of synergies. The Council Regulation ⁽¹⁾ establishing JUs enables to use all the tools made available under the Horizon Europe Regulation ((EU) 2021/695), to establish cooperation on synergies with other European, national and regional programmes.

The synergies mechanisms ⁽²⁾ materialise into the following categories: alternative funding following the awarding of a ‘Seal of Excellence’ foreseen for calls for proposals in the work programme; co-funded actions between different Programmes; and Transfer of Resources from Member States to the Programme.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe

⁽²⁾ Based on the applicable Regulations, the Commission adopted an Interpretative Notice (Notice “Synergies between ERDF programmes and Horizon Europe”, Official Journal C 421 of 4 November 2022, ref. attachment) providing practical tools for the implementation of the new possibilities and legal certainty as to the interpretation of these new or updated provisions

The CAJU action plan builds on the success of Clean Sky 2 JU which established and exploited synergies with regional and players, in combination with ESIF funding, leading to 18 Memoranda of Understanding, the introduction of seals of excellence, and a series of regional projects for a total value of around EUR 50 million ⁽³⁾.

2. APPROACH

Taking into account the key mission of CAJU, the level of ambition of its strategic and technical objectives and the policy objective to strengthen the synergies between the EU and regions/MSs in order to maximise and accelerate the impact of the EU R&I funding, the joint goal of the EC DG R&I “Clean Planet” Directorate and the CAJU is to establish a cooperation on synergies with *Aeronautics Regions* which goes beyond what has been achieved under Clean Sky 2.

The ambition is to govern the cooperation on synergies between CAJU and relevant regional/national authorities through Memoranda of Cooperation (MoCs) defining strategic technical areas on the basis of joint road-maps for “Net-Zero Aviation” and modalities of cooperation contributing to the achievement of the Clean Aviation objectives. A model of MoC has been developed and adopted for the cooperation with Campania and Occitanie regions [ref. section 3].

The invitation to engage on cooperation based on synergies with CAJU has been renewed to the 18 countries/regions which signed an MoU with Clean Sky 2 JU and is extended to any interested regions willing to aligning strategies (e.g. regional Smart Specialization Strategies), technical roadmaps and regional investments of their operational programmes to the Clean Aviation objectives and its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda⁴.

3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (UPDATE OF OCTOBER 2023)

The CAJU signed Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) with Occitania and Campania at the Paris Air Show in June 2023.

Press release with Occitanie: [Clean Aviation & Occitanie region join forces to accelerate \(clean-aviation.eu\)](#).

Press release with Campania: [Clean Aviation & Campania region step up collaboration for \(clean-aviation.eu\)](#).

Additionally, several regions expressed their interest and engagement.

⁽³⁾ Results achieved in this collaboration under Clean Sky 2 are briefly summarised in [Deep dive into synergies with Member States and Regions](#).

⁴ https://clean-aviation.eu/sites/default/files/2022-01/CAJU-GB-2021-12-16-SRIA_en.pdf