

## Coronavirus crisis

### French and German aerospace industries call for a strong recovery plan at European level

- **European aerospace industry is deeply impacted by the crisis**
- **BDLI and GIFAS express a shared vision of recovery**
- **A powerful Europe must be the nucleus for strong support of the aerospace industry**

**Paris/Berlin, 13 May 2020** – GIFAS (French Aerospace Industries Association) and BDLI (German Aerospace Industries Association) today held a joint meeting of their respective Executive Committees of their Boards of Directors.

This virtually held meeting was chaired by **Eric Trappier, Chairman of GIFAS** and Chairman & CEO of Dassault Aviation, and **Dirk Hoke, Chairman of BDLI** and CEO of Airbus Defence & Space.

The joint meeting assessed the situation of the French and German aerospace industries, which are facing an unprecedented challenge due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting provided an opportunity to define a common vision for the measures which will need to be taken for the recovery of the European aerospace and defence industry.

The Chairmen of GIFAS and BDLI urgently call for an ambitious European recovery plan in favour of civil aerospace to preserve the future of the industry. The plan will support the joint efforts of the profession in favour of innovation and responsible aviation, while also integrating environmental issues.

**Eric Trappier** and **Dirk Hoke** also ask for strong support at European level in the fields of defence and space, at a time when budgetary and sovereignty issues are of utmost importance.

“France and Germany are two countries at the origin of a remarkable cooperation in the field of European aerospace. This crisis is an opportunity to reaffirm our strong commitment to civil aeronautics and defence and space. The achievements of our commitments have been at the heart of European construction for several decades. We need the support of Europe”, said Eric Trappier, Chairman of GIFAS, on this occasion.

“France and Germany cooperate more in aerospace than any other two countries in the world. Building on these successes, facing this coronavirus crisis, we are sending a strong message to European political decision-makers, to industry and to the general public: we need a sustained support for our industry, essential to continue building a stronger Europe together”, said Dirk Hoke, Chairman of BDLI.

Both associations, during their meeting, underlined the excellent bilateral industrial cooperation. They also recalled the interaction and interdependence in many civil and military fields, and the major role that the two countries play in Europe, both in aerospace and defence.

The Franco-German aerospace supply chains, from SMEs to equipment and systems manufacturers, have also benefited from excellent and ambitious cooperative relationships for several decades, as stated by GIFAS and BDLI.

***About BDLI:***

The German Aerospace Industries Association (Bundesverband der Deutschen Luft- und Raumfahrtindustrie e.V. – BDLI) with around 250 members represents the interests of an industrial sector which has become a significant driver of economic growth in Germany due to its international technological leadership and worldwide success. Combining almost all strategic key technologies, the German aerospace industry with a directly employed labor force of around 111,500, achieves an annual turnover of currently Euro 40 billion in 2018. Communication *with political institutions*, authorities, associations and foreign representations in Germany is one of the major tasks of the BDLI, as well as providing a variety of services in Germany and abroad for its members. The BDLI is the trademark owner of the trade fair par excellence for "Innovation and Leadership in Aerospace" ILA Berlin.

***About GIFAS:***

The French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) was created in 1908. It is an industry body that brings together more than 400 companies ranging from the main prime contractors and system suppliers to SMEs. They form a cohesive, hard-driving high-technology sector specializing in the design, development and construction, marketing and maintenance of all aeronautical and space programmes and equipment, both civilian and military planes and defence and security systems. GIFAS represents an industry whose 2018 sales turnover was € 65,4 bn, and that exports 85% of its output and, directly employs 195 000 individuals. GIFAS organizes the International Paris Air Show every two years, which is the world's premier aerospace event. The 54th Paris-Le Bourget air Show will run from 21 to 27 June 2021.

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