

# Support from Academia for ACARE's Role: Shaping the Future of Aviation Together

Support Letter from the PEGASUS Network

May 2024

As representatives of PEGASUS, a consortium comprising 31 of Europe's most prominent and prestigious Universities and “Grandes Écoles” (Higher Education Institutions: HEI) in the aerospace sector, we write to emphasize the critical importance of collaborative efforts in tackling the social, societal, and environmental challenges posed by climate change within the civil aviation sector, particularly in light of the ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The European Green Deal underscores the urgent need for coordinated action and cooperation among all stakeholders involved in the air transport system. ACARE plays a pivotal role in advancing this objective by convening diverse stakeholders, fostering open dialogue, and shaping a common vision for the future of aviation, exemplified by initiatives such as "Fly the Green Deal – Europe’s Vision for Sustainable Aviation."

We firmly believe that maintaining a platform like ACARE is essential for engaging with the European Commission on critical societal, environmental, and industrial issues related to the aviation sector. As leading academic institutions in Europe, we recognize the vital role that HEI play across the spectrum of education, research, and innovation & knowledge transfer in shaping the future of aviation.

Moreover, we are acutely aware of the concerns and aspirations of our students regarding these pressing challenges and the future of our planet. As Professors and Researchers, we are committed to equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to address these complex issues.

Our collaboration extends beyond academia to include partnerships with other research laboratories and industry stakeholders, underscoring the interconnectedness of the entire ecosystem in achieving the goals set forth by the European Commission.

Despite tight timelines, we emphasize the indispensable role of fundamental research at low Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) in exploring diverse solutions and avoiding premature closure on potential avenues of inquiry. It is imperative to maintain an open-minded approach to research and innovation to effectively address the multifaceted challenges ahead.

As the exclusive consortium representing 31 leading HEI in Europe's aerospace sector, PEGASUS uniquely attracts and cultivates top-tier students and researchers essential for addressing tomorrow's challenges. Without these talents, the future of Europe's aerospace industry, a global stronghold, is at significant risk.

In conclusion, we affirm that PEGASUS stands as the sole representative structure for higher education institutions in Europe within the aerospace domain. We are committed to working closely with ACARE and other stakeholders to align our efforts and contribute meaningfully to the realization of a sustainable aviation future.



Prof. Emmanuel Zenou

Chairman of the PEGASUS Network

