International Regulation of Non-Military Drones

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The increasing civilian use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs) is not yet associated with a comprehensive regulatory framework, however new rules are rapidly emerging which aim to address this shortfall. This insightful book offers a thorough examination of the most up-to-date developments, and considers potential ways to address the various concerns surrounding the use of UASs in relation to safety, security, privacy and liability.

‘International Regulation of Non-Military Drones is a much-needed and highly valuable contribution to the burgeoning field of international drone law. The book is an indispensable resource for policymakers, academicians, and industry stakeholders involved in the ongoing debate over how best to regulate these powerful new technologies.’

‘The authors’ consolidated experience in the field of international and European air law and aviation safety regulation is the value added to the book, which addresses topics such as technical aviation regulation and public law, security, liability, privacy and data protection.’
– Salvatore Sciacchitano, The Aviation Space Journal

‘This book is a most welcome contribution and excellent resource to technical professionals and jurists, as well as simply aviation enthusiasts, for anyone willing to enter the complex and fascinating world of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs) and the extraordinary innovative potential and social benefit that can be gained from their use for civilian purposes.

The two authors, of renowned and indisputable reputation, qualification and authority, rise to their challenge with great skill. They analyse and comment in an admirable and organized progression, all critical aspects of the civil use of UASs, which are addressed through a comprehensive approach and developed topically, including safety and security issues, operations, liability, insurance, privacy and data protection.

It is my belief, as a regulator, that this book represents an outstanding basis to build on further debate and comprehension of an evolving and pioneering area such as the civil use of UASs and move towards its social acceptance and international standardisation.’
– Alessio Quaranta, Director General, Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC)

‘The civil use of drones, in this book also referred to as Unmanned Aircraft Systems, has received significant attention from an operational perspective. Operators are discovering the multifaceted potential of these craft both for civil and military use.

The authors, Anna Masutti and Filippo Tomasello, are prominent experts and authors in the field of international and European air law and should be praised for picking up the challenge to approach the civil use of drones from an impressive variety of angles. Their effort should all the more be respected because many of the questions which affect such operations are either in statu nascendi or they are not yet regulated at all. Hence this work forms an important and essential contribution not only to the establishment of the status quo of domestic, European and international regulation but also as a source of inspiration for legislators, policymakers, academics and stakeholders on how to shape a new regulatory environment.’
– Pablo Mendes de Leon, Professor of Air and Space law and Head of Department/executive director of the Centre of Air and Space Law, University of London
The work of Anna Masutti and Filippo Tomasello sheds light on the fascinating subject of non-military drones, which are generating both excitement and concerns about how they should be regulated.

The possibilities that “unmanned aviation” opens up in various fields, including the environmental dimension, are the subject of careful legal and technical analysis by the authors, who assess in a very comprehensive way the current situation, while at the same time exploring the various legal solutions available for regulators. It is of course obvious that the European Union has a leading role to play in this context.

This is an essential read for anyone wishing to understand how to develop an effective regulatory approach when confronted with an emerging new phenomenon, which puts into question more traditional models. Both Mr. Tomasello and Mrs. Masutti are world recognized experts who approach this subject on the basis of an original methodology which draws on the most recent debates and events in this field.

I strongly recommend this brilliant book for those who want to understand the challenges of the future and deal with them through a pragmatic and at the same time rigorous European legal approach.’