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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Airbus SE-WC & Airbus UK Consultative Forum (UKCF), Brexit Statement: United Against Hard Brexit**

The Airbus European Works Council (SEWC), which represents trade unions from 17 countries, is united in opposing a no deal 'Hard Brexit' and welcomes the commitment from Airbus that UK reps will continue to be recognised after Brexit.

Airbus directly employs over 14,000 workers across the UK. In June (22) the Company publicly warned of the severe disruption that would result from the UK crashing out of the EU without a transitional period and the impact this could have on future investment.

In the last six months before Brexit, the first priority of the SEWC has been to ensure UK members' interests are protected in any Brexit contingency plans.

The SEWC welcomes the commitment by Airbus to guarantee that the UK's elected trade union representatives will continue to be recognised on the SEWC, with full voting rights. This sets an important precedent for the aerospace industry that the collective voice of UK workers will continue to be heard post-Brexit.

If the UK leaves the European Union without a deal, and therefore UK aerospace is no longer covered by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) the impact would be immediate paralysis. This would mean components and major sub –assemblies manufactured in Filton and Broughton would not be covered by the regulatory body and therefore could not be fitted into aircraft in the Toulouse, Hamburg, and Seville final assembly lines.

The Airbus SEWC and the UK Consultative Forum recall and repeat the need to protect Airbus employees' employment contracts along with their related working rights, both for Airbus staff in the UK and for those seconded to work on the European continent. The freedom of movement of Airbus employees, and their know-how, has made a major contribution to the success and development of Airbus in each European country, in particular the UK. Maintaining these employment conditions is vital in order to safeguard Airbus' continued existence, and to guarantee and commit to future investments.

Similarly the technical papers unveiled by the Department for Exiting the EU revealed the immediate threat to working rights posed by a 'no deal', especially EWCs and information & consultation rights which are underpinned by European law.

The SEWC said: ***“The UK Government need to understand what’s at stake here. Leaving the EU without a deal means components made in the UK simply could not be fitted into European aircraft. That means production comes to a standstill and 14,000 workers face an uncertain future.*”**

***“The AIRBUS UK Consultative Forum and the AIRBUS SE-WC, which is made up of all the employee representatives from across Europe, are united in opposition to a hard Brexit and any attack on working rights or representation which would result from no deal.*”**

***“We are open to working with the company on contingency plans that can protect jobs and our members’ rights across the UK and we welcome the commitment to recognise UK reps on the EWC after Brexit.”*”**

The AIRBUS SEWC & The AIRBUS UK CF believe all options must remain open to preventing a No Deal outcome.

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