Speech by Mayor Henriette Reker on occasion of the International EASA FAA Aviation Safety Conference on 12 June 2019

Ladies and gentlemen,

I heartily welcome you to the International Aviation Safety Conference 2019 here in Cologne. I would like to thank the EASA and the FAA for initiating this conference. Germany is of massive interest to the aviation sector. Studies show that one-fifth of the worldwide added value for the aviation industry is generated in Germany. Cologne as the 4th largest city in Germany – aiming to be the digital capital of our country – is a technology-oriented location with a strong history of innovation. And Cologne is extremely attractive for the aviation industry. Let me give you some examples why this is true: First and foremost Cologne has always played an important role in aviation history.

The former Butzweilerhof airfield was the airline hub of Western Europe in the first half of the 20th century. To this day, our city is interconnected with aeronautics in manifold ways.

Secondly the investment into Research & Development by the aviation industry is clearly higher than that of the

electronics, automotive or chemical sector. Take EASA as an example. In the course of 15 years, EASA has become an important international and highly renowned building block of our city's industrial profile.

And as a third positive aspect I would like to point out, that the three international airports Cologne-Bonn, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt are crucial for an optimal access to and from the centrally situated Cologne. These airline hubs can all be reached from downtown Cologne within one hour.

The Cologne-based distribution centres of FedEx, UPS and DHL have contributed to making Cologne Bonn airport Germany's third-largest airfreight hub. At the same time, Cologne is a central location particularly for low-cost carriers. Passenger numbers have increased to roughly 13 million over the past years. Eurowings and Germanwings are among the major drivers of this development.

Another example for top-level research conducted in cooperation between science and industry is located at the Linder Höhe at Cologne-Porz. Both the headquarters of the German Aerospace Center DLR and the European Astronaut Center EAC of the European Space Agency ESA are spread out over an

area comprising 55 hectares. All European astronauts are prepared for their space missions at the EAC. I bet you know our space ambassador Alexander Gerst. Moreover, astronauts of our international partners USA, Russia and Japan are familiarised with the European modules of the International Space Station here.

The European Transsonic Windtunnel ETW, Europe's most advanced test facility is in the immediate vicinity. This is where the international aviation industry tests the aerodynamic properties of their latest developments. Yet another reason, why Cologne is attractive for the aviation sector? The HBK5 – the high-pressure combustor test facility on the DLR grounds. Approximately 120 million euros were invested into the installation.

DLR is also a principal institution in the field of space research in Cologne, covering areas from mars exploration to ISS missions. Besides space flight management, DLR's Cologne location also includes the Institute of Aerospace Medicine and the :envihab research centre (the word is a composite of environment and habitat).

In addition to infrastructure and research facilities, we also offer a great level of education on aviation and aerospace topics here in Cologne.

The Cologne industrial profile also includes research institutions of the University of Cologne. Allow me to mention the renowned Institute of Air Law, Space Law and Cyber Law or the department of astrophysics of the Physical Institute, which is participating in the development of the Extremely Large Telescope currently being constructed in the Chilean Atacama Desert. There is a reason why insiders like to call us: Houston on the Rhine. As a cultural location and a city of artists, Cologne furthermore offers an excellent quality of living. Our citizens are open-minded and multicultural. Our industry and economy are growing. I would suggest you use your time in Cologne to experience the atmosphere. I am very much convinced that Cologne will inspire you.