



EPAN

31st Jan 2025

EPAN STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER TRAGEDY, CONDEMNS POTUS'S REMARKS

LEIPZIG, GERMANY - The European Pride in Aviation Network (EPAN) extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the passengers and crew members involved in the tragic Potomac River accident. Our thoughts remain with those affected by this devastating event.

EPAN strongly condemns the reckless and disrespectful remarks made by the President of the United States regarding this tragedy. Such words not only dishonor the lives lost but also endanger the dedicated professionals working tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our skies.

“The aviation industry thrives on the dedication and expertise of its workforce,” said Antonio Alhama, President of EPAN. “Instead of divisive rhetoric, we need leadership that acknowledges the challenges our industry faces—especially as we work toward building a safer and more inclusive aviation sector.”

The aviation industry continues to grapple with significant workforce challenges, including the recruitment, retention, and advancement of a diverse talent pool. These barriers limit career opportunities, impact profitability, and squander valuable skills. With workforce shortages projected to intensify in the coming decades, addressing these issues is not just a matter of fairness—it is an economic and operational necessity.

Skilled professionals will remain the backbone of aviation. Without a concerted effort to attract and retain a workforce that reflects the diversity of society, the industry risks losing talent to sectors that offer greater inclusivity and belonging.

EPAN proudly stands alongside our sister organizations, including the National Gay Pilots Association (NGPA) and the Aviation Pride UK (APUK), in the ongoing fight for equity and fairness in aviation. Together, we remain committed to fostering an industry that is safer, more diverse, and more sustainable for generations to come.

EPAN is committed to championing diversity and inclusion in the aviation industry. As proud partners of the US organization NGPA, founded in 1990 and welcoming over 5,000 members, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other identity, feels valued and supported. Our members enjoy a plethora of benefits, including access to a supportive social community, networking opportunities, professional mentoring, resilience development programs, exclusive events across Europe, and industry discounts.

For more information about EPAN and our initiatives, please visit www.prideinaviation.org



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European Pride in Aviation Network

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