

One Very Determined Portuguese Man Versus The Entire European Union:

Francisco Guerreiro, The European Union, and UAP Reporting Protocol

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The phenomenon of UFOs, flying saucers, UAPs, and whatever else they may be called has popularly been considered to be events isolated in the United States. With the United States government making recent public announcements about UAPs, recent internet fads around the secrets of Area 51, and increasingly recent unexplainable sightings hitting American news, it has grown hard to imagine that any other country has also had run-ins with the unexplainable. In reality, Europe claims a longer history with UAPs than the United States does, but despite this, the European Union does not have any substantial protocol or documentation on UAPs. In the face of this, in the last three years, a storm has been kicked up by Portuguese European Parliament member Francisco Guerreiro, who has been calling for an amendment to this situation.

Guerreiro is the most notable advocate for discussions of UAPs in the European Parliament and offers the most queries and comments on European Union space legislation about the necessity of monitoring for UAPs at the continental level. In August of 2023, Guerreiro first asked the European Commission if the European Defence Agency (EDA) had any reports of UAPs and if they had any protocol for reporting these events.¹ Not much later, on 20 March 2024, Guerreiro led an assessment and debate of the European Union's handling of UAPs. One of the central reasons for doing so was to, "decrease the stigma associated with the topic inside important sectors of our society, such as civil aviation, the military, journalism, but also politics."² Later in the same conference, after a presentation given by Andre Joel, who is the

¹ Francisco Guerreiro, "UAP monitoring and reporting in the EU Space Law," *European Parliament*, August 10, 2023, Parliamentary question E-002375/2023, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002375_EN.html.

² *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament*, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5AUs1hzhc8>.

current secretary of UAP Coalitie Nederland,³ Guerreiro briefly intercepts the discussion before handing it off to the next speaker. “If you want to applaud, you can applaud,” he says. “Feel safe to applaud. It’s okay!”—he laughs—“Don’t be tense. You’re free to do whatever you want. Don’t worry.”⁴ The small insert, though seemingly inconsequential, articulates the exact reception he is trying to support. In the larger context of the social and political stigma of UAP sightings, his gentle, earnest support for positive reactions to the subject holds far more weight.

Despite increasingly prevalent calls by Guerreiro and many citizens across the European Union for UAP reporting protocol, the Union still does not have any framework for reporting UAPs. In a response to Guerreiro’s August 2023 query given by Commissioner Thierry Breton in November of the same year, it is articulated that the “[European Defence Agency (EDA)] does not have specific protocols on this matter as it falls outside the remit of EDA’s engagement with the Member States.”⁵ Breton further articulates that any events that pose a threat to European airspace fall under the jurisdiction of the lengthily titled “Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation”⁶ which, after a thorough review, has no specific language pertaining to UAPs.

Unsatisfied, Guerrerio pushed for more answers after Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced in her September 2023 State of the Union address the intention to create an EU Space Law. In a comment made to the Commission in January of 2024, Guerrerio posed that

³ UAP Coalitie Nederland, “The team,” *UAP Coalitie Nederland*, accessed April 19, 2025, <https://uapcoalitienederland.nl/en/about-us/the-team/>.

⁴ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament*.

⁵ “Answer given by Mr Breton on Behalf of the European Commission,” European Parliament, November 9, 2023, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002375-ASW_EN.html.

⁶ *European Union*, Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation, amending Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Directive 2003/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulations (EC) No 1321/2007 and (EC) No 1330/2007 Text with EEA relevance, 122 OJ L § (2014), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/376/oj/eng>.

the framework for the EU Space Law has “a gap that needs to be filled in the pillar of security. Specifically the EU, currently lacks a harmonised and scientific system for the reporting of unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP).”⁷ Once again, Breton was tasked with responding to the determined Portuguese representative. In a response that reads as nothing short of a professional “piss off,” Breton describes alternative programs that are unaffiliated with the European Union, such as France’s Group for Study and Information on Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (GEIPAN), as programs where UAP reporting would be most appropriate.⁸ With every response, the Commission grows increasingly annoyed with Guerreiro’s persistence.

Commissioner Adina-Ioana Vălean also responded to a different query of Guerreiro’s after he pushed for UAP amendments to “Regulation (EU) No 376/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the reporting, analysis and follow-up of occurrences in civil aviation,” which was the regulation cited by Breton against the need for UAP protocol.⁹ Vălean, like Breton, firmly shut down Guerreiro’s mission to work UAP protocol into European Union regulation. She rounds the issue of UAPs into issues of other aircraft, citing specific articles that are completely lacking in any language about UAPs in an effort to appease Guerreiro.¹⁰ Needless to say, Guerreiro was hardly satisfied.

Through listening to Guerreiro’s discussion of UAPs and hearing his voice, tone, and earnestness, the issue of UAPs runs far deeper than government recognition and European Union

⁷ Francisco Guerreiro, “UAP monitoring and reporting in the EU Space Law,” *European Parliament*, January 31, 2024, Parliamentary question - E-000318/2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000318_EN.html.

⁸ “Answer given by Mr Breton on Behalf of the European Commission,” *European Parliament*, April 23, 2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000318-ASW_EN.html.

⁹ Francisco Guerreiro, “Update of the EU regulation on Civil aviation to include UAP reporting,” *European Parliament*, January 31, 2024, Parliamentary question - E-000314/2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000314_EN.html.

¹⁰ “Answer given by Ms Vălean on Behalf of the European Commission,” *European Parliament*, April 11, 2024,

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000314-ASW_EN.html.

regulation. Edoardo Russo is a founding member of Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici (CISU)¹¹ and was a featured speaker in Guerreiro's 20 March 2024 European Parliament assessment of UAPs. In his speech, where he was tasked with the contextualization of UAPs in European history, Russo takes a brief tangent into the deeper significance a UAP sighting can have on an individual. "There are social side effects, which have been the object of academic studies by psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists," Russo explains. "We are left with a great number of people wondering what they— So millions of people who have a right to an answer—if there is one—but cannot find anyone officially charged to give one to them and are crushed between those telling them "you were drunk" and those believing it's just extraterrestrial visitors."¹² Russo and Guerreiro, by the end of the first thirty minutes of a two-hour conference, firmly articulate the problem with the European Union's relationship with UAPs, and it is not limited to the fact that there is no protocol or regulation in place.

UAP legislation, for Russo and Guerreiro, extends beyond protocol. For the Italian and Portuguese men, it is about bringing peace of mind to those who have seen the unexplainable. In his speech, Russo commends private organizations for working toward what the federal level will not. "It's only the private organizations—the volunteers—that take charge of these people—of their testimonies—trying to find and offer those answers to witnesses," Russo explains. Not much later, he praises the regional private organizations such as the British UFO Research Association founded in 1964, a Spanish organization of similar purpose founded in 1958, and a Danish organization founded in 1957.¹³ In addition to these, there is the French Group for Study and Information on Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (GEIPAN) that was

¹¹ Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici. "Edoardo Russo." *Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici*, February 26, 2023. <http://www.cisu.org/edoardo-russo/>.

¹² Francisco Guerreiro Multimedia, "UAP: Reporting and scientific assessment in the EU. Exchange of views in the European Parliament."

¹³ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament.*

mentioned by Breton, Russo's Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici (CISU), and Joel's UAP Coalitie Nederland.

Despite Guerriero's initial shunning by the European Commission, Europe is still on a march for a future of cooperation and a future of discussions about UAPs. Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom are the twelve European nations to declassify their military files on UAPs.¹⁴ Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United States, and Uruguay are another non-European lot to do the same.¹⁵ The stigma is breaking down, and governments are coughing up what they cannot explain.

Francisco Guerreiro no longer serves in the European Parliament, joining the Volt Europa party to further Portuguese environmental goals.¹⁶ Despite his departure from the European Parliament, his legacy remains, and he was a vital turning point for the discussion of UAPs in the European Union. Given the recency of these discussions, the outcomes are yet to be seen, but it would not be surprising to see that in the years to come, discussions are taken up once more and that Guerreiro's name becomes intrinsically embedded in these conversations.

¹⁴ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament.*

¹⁵ *UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament.*

¹⁶ Rita Penela, "Eurodeputado eleito pelo PAN anuncia filiação no Volt no final do mandato europeu," *Observador*, Accessed April 19, 2025, <https://observador.pt/2021/10/17/eurodeputado-eleito-pelo-pan-anuncia-filiacao-no-volt-no-final-do-mandato-europeu/>.

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UAP: Reporting and Scientific Assessment in the EU. Exchange of Views in the European Parliament, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5AUs1hzhc8>.