



High-level Reception jointly hosted by the European Helicopter Association
and the British Helicopter Association.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS - CHOLMONDELEY ROOM - July 19th. 2025

Speech – Thierry Couderc (UFH) - Vice-chair of EHA

The solidarity between the EHA and the BHA is justified by the need to demonstrate our convergence of positions on the major issues affecting the helicopter sector worldwide, beyond the evolution of political and diplomatic relations.

There are some challenges indeed.

An example can show this. There is a problem in Europe and the United Kingdom with the population thinking that helicopters are "toys for the rich people" while in France, for example, and it's the same throughout Europe, only 8% of helicopter flights are private, site seeing, and business. The vast majority are firefighting, air ambulance, and aerial work flights, not to mention flight tests induced by the European leadership of helicopter manufacturers. But getting the message across about the value that helicopters bring is a real challenge. Moreover, we all know that continuous training is a key factor in the safety, and therefore efficiency, of the helicopter industry.

So you know the motto of the French Helicopter Association?

Pour vous aider un jour, il faut qu'il puisse voler tout les jour.

To help you one day, it must be able to fly every day.

Making this admitted is a daily challenge. It is a global matter of communication that needs we demonstrate professionalism and the top level of air safety.

To achieve this effectively, the sharing of expertise, goodwill, and data for the best of vertical aviation in Europe and beyond is of prime importance.

This solidarity must be evident, particularly regarding the strategy to be adopted to face flight safety challenges, the energy transition, the introduction of new vertical mobility options, and the impact of administrative and fiscal constraints on the competitiveness, and above all on the efficiency of our industry.

It is essential to clearly express this convergence of views and interests on both sides of the Channel, certainly to the respective members of the BHA and continental European associations, but especially to political powers, administrative authorities, media and public opinion.

