

Ms Adina Vălean
Commissioner for Transport
European Commission
Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 13 July 2022

For an optimal use of EU funding for safe and secure truck parking areas in Europe

Dear Commissioner,

Allow us to begin by expressing our gratitude to the European Commission and to you personally for the long-standing relentless support for the building and upgrading of safe and secure truck parking areas in Europe, to resolutely improve the working and rest conditions of the almost 5 million professional drivers in Europe.

The just adopted EU truck parking standards, but also the unprecedented EU co-funding announced last year, make us believe that we are on the eve of a radical improvement of comfort, safety and security of professional truck drivers in Europe, with an expected co-investment of almost EUR 1.5 billion European and investors' money into safe and secure truck parking areas across Europe, which could result in the creation of some 60-70 000 high quality safe and secure truck parking spots in the coming 5-7 years - a ten-fold increase from the current levels.

Unfortunately, the results of the recent calls for applications have shown a number of inefficiencies and shortcomings, which, if not urgently addressed, would undermine the full and efficient use of the available EU funding, compromising the expected improvement of drivers' working and rest conditions.

We see four areas which need to be urgently addressed in a partnership between the European Commission services and the industry:

- a) firstly, a dedicated joint large promotional campaign should be urgently organized to reach all interested parties across Europe and drastically increase the number of good applications for EU co-funding;
- b) secondly, the quality of the applications must be radically improved, via targeted trainings and advisory services, to be provided to interested applicants, by the industry itself;
- c) in addition, targeted modifications of the selection criteria should be urgently introduced, such as the inclusion of the comprehensive network in the eligibility criteria.
- d) Promoting synergies between TEN-T and TEN-E by enabling additional co-funding opportunities for high-capacity charging stations and in general for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure for HGV on SSTPAs.



The objective would be, possibly already at the second funding round in September this year, but importantly in the next funding round in September 2023, to radically increase the number and improve the quality of applications, so that the entire amount of EU funding available for SSTPAs is allocated to projects both under the general and cohesion envelopes.

In addition, and in order to guarantee a full use of the available EU funding for SSTPAs, we kindly invite the European Commission to re-allocate the non-utilised amounts from the 2021 call and the expected non-utilised amounts from the upcoming 2022 call in September, for two new rounds of calls, to be carried out in 2024 and 2025.

We are strongly committed to work together on these issues and believe that in time, i.e. within 1-2 years, such measures could unlock the full potential of the sector to the benefit of EU's economy and society, while at the same time the EU SSTPAs standard will be acknowledged as the leading global truck parking standard, which could be widely followed and implemented in countries and regions well beyond the EU.

We hope you will be able to support these joint industry proposals and we would appreciate if a meeting could be organized with you to present to you and to your services the details of these joint proposals.

For CLECAT:

Nicolette van der Jagt, Director General

For ESPORG:

Dirk Penasse, General Manager

For UETR:

Marco Digioia, Secretary General

For ACEA:

Thomas Fabian, Director Commercial Vehicles