



## JOINT STATEMENT

### **European social partners request dedicated EU support and priority funding for the creation of a genuine network of safe and secure truck parking areas (SSTPAs) in Europe**

- The professional road freight transport and logistics industry is the backbone of modern mobility and supply chains, serving European citizens and customers efficiently anytime, anywhere, and moving our societies and economies where they want to be.
- Professional drivers are road transport's main asset, and we strive to make the road transport industry a great place to work for all.
- Yet, today in Europe long distance driving has become a real challenge. Drivers' security has deteriorated to a point where one out of four drivers has been victim of a violence or attack. The comfort of drivers, when spending their rest at road side facilities is equally below acceptable standards. And worst - Europe needs 400'000 parking spaces but only 300'000 are available, and only a fraction of these are equipped with basic service and security levels, which professional drivers deserve when taking their legally mandatory rest.
- It does not come as a surprise therefore that availability of safe and secure truck parking areas across Europe, where to stop and rest, has climbed to the top of drivers' basic needs' list, but also of companies, customers and indeed all stakeholders. The lack of convenient safe and secure rest areas has also become one of the main reasons for drivers leaving the profession, and an unsurmountable barrier for the sector to engage women and younger and more diversified work force.
- This situation affects not just professional drivers and their companies. It is a problem for society and Europe as a whole. It affects safety on European roads, the daily delivery of products and groceries to shops, the everyday life and mobility of European citizens.
- The European Commission has recently finalised a study, which contains concrete proposals to create a genuine EU-wide network of safe and secure truck parking areas (SSTPAs) in Europe, including an EU-parking standard to which truck parking areas should be raised up to, to ensure safe and decent rest for drivers at the road side.
- It is now high time to act at all levels – from local to national and European – by ways of support, funding and policies, to make a breakthrough, already during the next EU legislature and funding period, in establishing the core of the future EU-wide network of safe and secure truck parking areas (SSTPAs) across all EU Member States and along the key EU transport corridors. It is imperative to improve security, sustainability and safety of European mobility chains, and, through that, the welfare and wellbeing of European citizens.
- Special attention is also needed to ensure the involvement and support, from the very beginning, of the political, investment and security community, such as public and private

investors, and security forces, in order to guarantee sustainable funding and functioning of SSTPAs across Europe.

EU's road transport social partners, IRU and ETF, therefore:

- Invite EU Member States' Governments, regional and local authorities, to place building safe and secure truck parking areas, as part of a genuine European network, high on their policy, security and infrastructure-building short and long-term planning, whilst at the same time supporting and assisting initiatives and projects submitted by public and private investors, including within the framework of national or EU funded projects;
- Invite the European Parliament, Council and Commission to:
  - make building safe and secure truck parking areas in Europe a core EU policy and funding priority, adopting the EU parking standard by law, whilst at the same time incentivising and supporting Member States' and private sector's own investments into SSTPAs;
  - create the foundations for a sustainable multi-year SSTPAs funding, by the creation of a dedicated mechanism, including via incentives and mark-ups, created within the future Eurovignette Directive;
- Invite the European Commission to:
  - establish a multi-year strategy plan, including a funding plan, and a Europe-wide monitoring system, to ensure the coordination and creation of the core of the future STPPAs network in Europe already during the next legislature and funding period;
  - ensure priority funding for the creation and upgrading of SSTPAs in Europe, by making use of all available EU and Member States' funding programmes, such as the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and the European Cohesion Funds, by clearly prioritising funding and co-funding of SSTPAs;
- Invite the European Investment Bank (EIB) to develop, in partnership with the European Commission, a financial support toolkit of funding and co-funding instruments, including micro-financing tools, to support and incentivise public and private bodies and investors to invest into the creation of SSTPAs in Europe, including by transport and logistics companies themselves, and large and small and medium-sized companies from the road transport service sectors.
- Strongly recommend to their members, trade unions and trade associations at national level in all EU Member States, to take the initiative to jointly promote the creation of SSTPAs in their own countries, starting with the main transport corridors, including by creating alliances and partnerships with relevant public and private partners and in particular regional and local authorities, including police authorities and infrastructure building agencies and companies.

IRU and ETF invite all public and private stakeholders to join their appeal and support making the creation of SSTPAs in Europe a policy and funding priority during the next EU legislature and funding period.