(English version)

Question for written answer E-001308/25
to the Commission
Tomas Tobé (PPE)
(28 March 2025)

Subject: Implementation of safe and secure parking areas

In 2022, the Transported Asset Protection Association estimated that 26 000 cases of attacks against trucks occur every year in Germany alone. This equates to one attack every 20 minutes. Not only does this cost businesses more than EUR 2 billion annually, but it also creates an unsafe work environment for truck drivers across Europe. ([1]) Moreover, there is no indication that the situation has improved since 2022 — quite the opposite.

The Trans-European Transport Network Regulation demands safe and secure parking areas for trucks every 150 km along the network, with an implementation deadline of 2040. ([2]) In the confirmation hearing, Commissioner Tzitzikostas stated that these parking areas would be delivered even earlier than the 2040 deadline.

In the light of this:

1. How does the Commission plan to ensure sufficient safe and secure parking areas before the 2040 deadline?

2. What advantages does the Commission see in public-private partnerships to speed up the implementation of these parking areas?

3. Since taking office, what measures has the Commission taken to increase the number of safe and secure parking areas?

Submitted: 28.3.2025

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 May 2025)

Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 ([1]) introduced the obligation for the Member States to ensure, by 31 December 2040, the development of safe and secure parking areas (SSPAs) certified in accordance with EU standards along the roads of the core and extended core trans-European transport network (TEN-T), with an average maximum distance of 150 kilometres between two SSPAs.

The Commission supports the Member States in their efforts to build more SSPAs, notably by providing funding under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

For the realisation of projects across the EU, CEF Transport made available EUR 250 million each in 2022 and 2023, and EUR 320 million for the call for proposals of 2024, supporting both the creation of new SSPAs and the upgrade of existing parking areas in line with EU safety and security standards.

Since 2022, when the Commission adopted the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1012 ([2]), 35 SSPAs have been built and certified in the EU, providing 4 943 parking spots. Furthermore, the realisation of 49 CEF projects is currently ongoing, with 4 614 parking places in SSPAs expected to be added.

The Commission recognises numerous advantages in public-private partnerships (PPPs) for accelerating the implementation of SSPAs.

Firstly, PPPs can alleviate the financial burden on governments while introducing expertise and innovative technologies, thereby enhancing project efficiency and quality.

Secondly, by transferring certain risks to private partners, PPPs ensure more reliable and timely project delivery. Lastly, leveraging private financing reduces the reliance on public funds, thus expediting the development process and fostering economic growth.

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1 [1]https://tapaemea.org/intelligence/germany-spotlight/.

2 [2]Article 31(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 Jun 2024 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013, OJ L, 2024/1679, 28.6.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj.

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (OJ L 2024/1679, 28.6.2024).

([2]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1012 of 7 April 2022 supplementing Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the establishment of standards detailing the level of service and security of safe and secure parking areas and to the procedures for their certification (OJ L 170, 28.6.2022, p. 27).