



The European Commission is going to open its next call for funding of truck parking areas in September: get ready on time

At the Connecting Europe Days in Lyon at the end of June, the EU Commissioner for Transport, Mrs Adina Valean, announced the next call for funding for safe and secure truck parking areas (SSTPAs), which is expected to be launched in September this year.

The expected amount would possibly be of the same magnitude as last year (EUR 100 mln for the general envelope and EUR 150 mln for the cohesion envelope, under the Connecting Europe Facility, CEF).

Thus another opportunity opens for interested investors, such as truck parking areas, but also road transport companies, to apply for EU co-funding, which, in the case of the cohesion countries (EU Member States from the Central and Eastern Europe) can reach up to 85% of the eligible costs.

The funding is indeed unprecedented, yet, the first and foremost lesson from the first call last year is twofold:

- a) First, an insufficient number of investors were made aware of the possibility to obtain funding, which led to a lower than expected number of applications; and
- b) Second, the low quality of certain applications and/or the lack of sufficient preparation.

As a matter of fact, of the EUR 250 million made available last year, only € 76 million were allocated to selected proposals.

This also means that only 30% of the available funding was allocated, and the remaining 70% unused. This is indeed a pity for the entire road transport sector, where a severe lack of truck parking areas has been a chronic problem for decades, leading to a previously unheard of driver shortage, affecting in particular long-distance drivers.

ESPORG, the voice of the truck parking community, therefore invites its public and private partners to engage in a wide promotional campaign in the upcoming months, in all EU Member States, with the objective of informing all potential investors and interested companies about the available funding.

In addition, projects have to be carefully prepared, in partnership with trustworthy and experienced experts, who know how to put together a comprehensive high quality dossier.

In summary:

1. An applicant needs professionals to help with the application. The process is complicated and has to be organised quickly. The next call opens in September and is due in January 2023, which means if an applicant has not started yet, they are already running behind schedule.
2. ESPORG, has a lot of feedback regarding the maturity of projects - almost half of the admissible proposals were not selected because the projects simply weren't mature enough.
3. Related to maturity - one needs to have building permits ready or at least have already applied for them when a proposal is to be submitted.
4. ESPORG can advise interested public and private partners.

In addition, ESPORG is planning to organise, in September-October this year, a series of roadshows, visiting EU Member States and meeting interested public and private



stakeholders, with the objective to brief them about the EU funding and the related procedures.

Should you be interested, please contact the ESPORG Secretariat (d.penasse@esporg.eu, christy.ha@esporg.eu or f.maas@esporg.eu) for more information, including about the CEF Funding.

See more about ESPORG at <https://www.esporg.eu/home/english/>.