



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*For the
West Midlands*

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Local MEP slams further increases in air-travel duty

Conservative MEP for the West Midlands, Philip Bradbourn, has spoken out against proposals to further increase the duty being imposed on air-travellers.

The first of two increases in Air Passenger Duty (APD) has come into effect today under a new four-tier banding system based on the distance from London to the destination's capital city. The tax for fliers travelling in economy class will rise from £10 to £11 on short-haul flights, from £40 to £45 or £50 on medium-haul flights, and from £40 to £55 on long-haul flights. The increases are set to increase even further and more dramatically by November 2010.

The tax, originally purported to be an environmental measure is set to drastically penalise the average flier and holidaymakers throughout the region, adding a further financial burden during already difficult financial times.

Speaking from the European Parliament in Brussels today, Mr Bradbourn said:

“ This is yet again, an example of stealth taxation and deception by the Government. Presenting an increase in tax as a measure to combat environmental damage, when even environmental groups openly believe the new duty increases are misguided and misleading is beyond preposterous.

These increases in Air Passenger Duty will be damaging for travel, tourism and business, and will impose further costs on my constituents at a time when we should be doing all we can to encourage leisure travel, international commerce, and consumer spending. ”

ENDS

For more information please contact Paul Brannon in the UK on 01676 530 621 or Alastair Little in Brussels on 00 322 284 7407