



# News Report

## from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*For the  
West Midlands*

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### **Euro MP speaks out against Big Brother back-seat driver**

Conservative MEP for the West Midlands, Philip Bradbourn, is outraged that a three-year study commissioned by the European Commission's transport arm has again recommended the mandatory installation of black boxes in all cars which will record 20 types of data even after numerous objections to such proposals have been previously made.

The project could see information such as speed, destination, driving direction and more transmitted to a central monitoring centre over mobile phone networks as frequently as every few seconds so that somebody can constantly keep track of a driver's every move. EU officials believe that the spy-boxes will significantly reduce road accidents and congestion, however it is far more likely that they will be used to implement "Pay-As-You-Drive" road charges.

Mr Bradbourn, a leading member of the Transport Committee in the European Parliament, believes that these 'spy in the car' surveillance devices are another step towards a society of total surveillance and Government monitoring.

Speaking from Brussels this morning, Mr. Bradbourn said:

**" I am astonished and outraged that these proposals have reared their ugly heads once again after consistent objection within European Union Member States and by motoring organisations and government departments nationwide. I first raised this issue two years ago and again before the European Elections in June of this year and there remains wide-spread opposition to the introduction of these unnecessary surveillance devices.**

**Motoring groups rightly have concerns about privacy and legal issues, let alone pragmatic issues surrounding who would be responsible for paying to have these boxes installed and whether they would allow a back-door for the Government to introduce pay-as-you-drive motoring.**

**These black box recorders have no place within cars and I personally believe that their potential use as both surveillance and road charging systems are yet another affront to our civil liberties."**

**ENDS**

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