



# News Report

## from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*For the  
West Midlands*

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### **Airport body-scanners slammed again**

Local Conservative MEP Philip Bradbourn addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg today, expressing his continued opposition to the compulsory use of full body scanners in UK airports. Mr. Bradbourn emphasised that the event which has prompted the widespread introduction of this technology—the attempted bombing of a plane in America on Christmas Day 2009—has been widely attributed by experts, and US President Barack Obama, to the failure to efficiently share intelligence, rather than shortcomings in existing airport security practices.

Speaking from the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Mr. Bradbourn said:

**“The widespread introduction of full body scanning technology is a knee-jerk reaction to the attempted terrorist act in America on Christmas Day 2009. Having raised this issue several times in the European Parliament, I am of the view that any measure which increases security for my constituents in airports must be welcomed. However, it must also be proportional to the actual threat posed by terrorism, and it must under all circumstances, allow individuals to maintain standards of personal dignity, which this technology prevents.**

**The events on Christmas Day were not down to poor security, but poor coordination between intelligence agencies, with some experts emphasising that the type of explosive used would not have even been detected using a full body scanner. Improved intelligence sharing practices, and regrettably, a proper system of passenger profiling is now necessary in order to sufficiently protect air travellers.”**

**ENDS**

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