



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*For the
West Midlands*

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Local MEP condemns delays to restoration of EU funding

Fully restoring EU funding to the West Midlands appears to be one step further away today after local MEP Philip Bradbourn received a letter from the EU Commission stating that the West Midlands region has yet to provide enough information to restore the funds.

The funding was suspended in April of this year by the EU Commission after the poor accountancy practices of the region's Regional Agencies were not improved. Philip Bradbourn, who is the Local Government Spokesman for the Conservatives in the European Parliament, wrote to the Commission last month to determine how long the West Midlands could be waiting before EU funding is restored. Today's response from the Commission indicates that the funding may not be restored for some time and that the problem lies with the region's failure to provide the relevant information needed.

Speaking from Brussels today Mr Bradbourn said:

"The Regional Agencies in the West Midlands need to get their act together and supply the EU Commission with the relevant information so they can begin to get this mess sorted out. This matter has been going on for far too long and it is my worry is that local projects could miss out on funding and be forced to cut back or even close if the funding is not fully restored soon. This whole mess needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency before local communities start to suffer."

ENDS