



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*for the
West Midlands*

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First Blood to Conservatives in battle over Working Time Directive

A local Conservative MEP has been instrumental in stopping an attempt to end the opt-out, under the European Working Time Directive, for self-employed drivers.

Socialists brought forward an amendment to reject the Commission's proposal to retain the opt-out. The amendment was defeated in Committee, after a tense re-count, by just one vote -- 25 to 24.

Our local haulage industry, the Federation of Small Business and other concerned groups recognised that the proposed extension of the Working Time Directive would have imposed major new costs and inflexibilities on the haulage and distribution industry, while making little difference to safety - the main excuse for the proposed extension of the Directive.

While the proposal could still come back at the full Parliamentary stage, last night's decision represents a major victory for common sense.

Speaking from Brussels today, Philip Bradbourn MEP , a leading member of the Parliament's Transport Committee said:

“This initial step in blocking yet more ludicrous legislation is a positive one and one which is very important to me and to my constituents. This law would have imposed unreasonable costs, inflexibility and even more red-tape to self-employed individuals and their businesses. At a time of global recession where money is tight for everybody, we should be encouraging people to work hard and expand their businesses, not imposing even more regulation over how many hours they can work. I will continue to oppose this directive should any attempt be made to re-introduce this clause in the regulation.”

ENDS

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