



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

for the
West Midlands

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Euro MP sponsors demonstration of new airport body scanner

Local MEP, Philip Bradbourn, has today hosted the demonstration of a new, state of the art body scanner at the European Parliament in Brussels. The trial of the new scanner comes in the wake of Mr. Bradbourn's fervent opposition to previous technologies which used other methods to produce naked images of passengers and their children, something seen as an unacceptable peep show. The new scanners which use, amongst other things, infra-red technology which produces a highly detailed outline image and which does not infringe on public decency can be successfully utilised to identify any particular prohibited items of which a passenger may be in possession..

Following the initial debate surrounding new body scanner technologies that began in the European Parliament 18 months ago, Mr. Bradbourn is yet again questioning why the European Commission did not object to the proposed trial of intrusive and disproportionate technology when it is clear that equally effective, less intrusive alternatives are available.

Speaking from Brussels, Mr Bradbourn said:

"After the concerns I have held regarding the use of new body scanning technology in airports, I am pleased to see that alternatives are available to the intrusive and indecent full body scan technology which essentially turns airport security into a humiliating peep show for the travelling public. Now that we know that there are feasible alternatives to technologies which infringe the privacy and sense of decency of my constituents, I will now be calling on the European Commission to seek full trials of the alternative equipment prior to any decisions on the introduction of these systems.

I also want the UK and other national authorities to cease trials of the naked image systems forthwith and for proper public consultation of all alternatives to take place."

ENDS

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