



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

for Shropshire

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Brussels: 0032 2283 1636
UK: 01676 530 621

Local MEP blasts Euro regionalism and integration

Shropshire Conservative MEP, Philip Bradbourn, spoke in Telford on Saturday, criticizing the continued European one-size-fits all obsession with regionalism, viewing large areas, for example the West Midlands as one entity, when there is obviously great diversity between constituencies in Shropshire, and the Black Country. He also spoke to constituents about the problems of increasing EU integration and the way this is affecting people in Shropshire.

Mr. Bradbourn said:

“ The continuing perception of arbitrary regions within the UK can only be a bad thing. Attempting to apply one set of rules or policy to an area as vast and diverse as what is now referred to as the West Midlands is problematic at best. The concerns of constituents in Telford and the rest of Shropshire obviously differ radically from those in Coventry or Birmingham, yet the EU and the current government’s policy often fails to address these differences.

This regionalism, combined with continued progression towards EU integration—not least with the potential implications of the Lisbon Treaty—means that politics is moving further and further away from local communities who, I strongly believe, are still in the best position by far to address the concerns of local people. Issues should be dealt with on the lowest possible level. Coupled with continued EU integration taking power away from National Government this is something I strongly oppose and I would like to see more power returned to local councils with whom constituents have more empathy.”

ENDS

For more information please contact Alastair Little in Brussels on 0032 2283 1636 or Paul Brannon in the UK on 01676 530 621.

