

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 117) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Question Time (Rule 116) <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority Written Question (Rule 117 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>

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SUBJECT: Review or abrogation of liquids and body scanners rules
(please specify)

TEXT:

The European Parliament, in its report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union adopted on 12 December 2012, has called on "the Commission and the Member States to abrogate or review the rules on liquids and body scanners" and urged "the Commission to bring infringement proceedings against those Member States violating EU regulations protecting citizens' fundamental rights on the matter". A few weeks later, media reported about the decision by the US Transportation Security Administration to cancel its \$5 million contract with full-body scanner maker Rapiscan Systems using backscatter x-ray technology over its failure to deliver software to protect the privacy of passengers.

Can the Commission clarify:

- if technology has been developed to screen liquids in airports as requested by the EP and whether the EU regulations have been respected by Member States and notably the deadlines foreseen in Annex to Regulation (EU) 297/2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 272/2009: of 29 April 2011 for the screening of liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) obtained at a third country airport or on board an aircraft of a non-Community air carrier; and 29 April 2013 for the screening of all liquids, aerosols and gels;
- why the Commission deleted the deadline of 29 April 2011 via Regulation (U) No 720/2011[1] of 22 July 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No 272/2009 as regards the phasing-in of the screening of liquids, aerosols and gels at EU airports;
- why the Commission decided to delete the deadline of 29 April 2013 and replace it with a gradual lifting of restrictions;
- why the Commission did not publish its assessment of the situation in respect of the screening of liquids, aerosols and gels at EU airports, COM (2012)404 of 18.7.2012;
- if body scanners used in the EU are respectful of privacy and data protection, both in terms of hardware and of software programmes;
- if body scanners similar to those withdrawn in the US have been or are still used in the EU and if so how many, in which Member States and in which airports;
- if all Member States apply the EU rule of allowing to opt out body scanners and opt for a pat down body search and if not, which do and which don't;
- if the Commission is willing to investigate if the Regulation is being applied in full in all airports, for there are signs that not all airports offer the option of a pat-down instead of passing through a scanner;
- if the Commission intends to follow up the EP request to review or abrogate the rules on liquids and body scanners and to bring infringement proceedings against those Member States violating EU rules and fundamental rights in this field?

Signature(s):

Date: 29.01.2013


