

**Question for written answer E-000913/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Abrogation or review of 'liquids and body scanners' rules

The European Parliament, in its report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union adopted on 12 December 2012, 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, the media reported the decision by the US Transportation Security Administration to cancel its USD 5 million contract with full-body scanner maker Rapiscan Systems, which employs backscatter x-ray technology, owing to its failure to deliver software to protect the privacy of passengers. Can the Commission clarify:

- if technology has been developed to screen liquids at airports, as requested by Parliament, and whether the EU regulations have been respected by the Member States, including the deadlines set – in the 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 of 29 April 2013 for the screening of all liquids, aerosols and gels;
- why, via Regulation (EU) No 720/2011 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, it deleted the deadline of 29 April 2011;
- why it decided to delete the deadline of 29 April 2013 and replace it with a gradual lifting of restrictions;
- why it has not published its assessment of the situation in respect of the screening of liquids, aerosols and gels at EU airports – COM(2012)0404 of 18 July 2012;
- if the body scanners used in the EU conform to privacy and data protection rules, in terms both of their hardware and of their software programmes;
- if body scanners similar to those withdrawn in the US have been – or still are – used in the EU, and if so how many, in which Member States and at which airports;
- if all Member States apply the EU rule of allowing one to opt out from a body scan and opt for a pat-down body search, and if not, which do and which do not;
- if the Commission is willing to investigate whether the relevant Regulation is being applied in full at all airports, for there are signs that not all airports offer the option of a pat-down search instead of passing through a scanner;
- if it intends to follow up the EP's request to abrogate or review the rules on liquids and body scanners and to bring infringement proceedings against those Member States which violate EU rules and fundamental rights in this field?