



21st August, 2009

MEP commends prototype to reduce exhaust emissions

MEP Simon Busuttil this morning visited Engineer Marco Cremona's invention aimed to remove particulate matter (PMs) from exhaust emissions of commercial vehicles, such as trucks and buses.

The prototype, an electrostatic-filter which is being tested on an old bus engine, was built by a university student, Christopher Borg, under Cremona's guidance. The invention has been tested and delivered good results.

Explaining his invention, Ing Cremona said that the next challenge would be that of reducing the physical size of the filter so that it could be fitted into the exhaust pipes of the vehicles. In turn, the equipment could obviate the need for vehicle owners to invest in new vehicles in order to reach emission standards.

The electrostatic filter uses some of the electricity charge of the vehicle's battery to produce a very high static voltage to attract soot particles in the exhaust which stick to collecting plates, thereby ridding the exhaust from the harmful fine combustion dust.

Further development will lead to the availability of a commercially product that will result in a marked reduction in exhaust emissions from heavy vehicles and an improvement in air quality in Malta and abroad.

"We are all too familiar with black exhaust fumes belching out of buses and trucks. This invention could help us reach EU air quality standards and reduce public health risks." Dr Busuttil said.

Busuttil commended Ing Cremona and Mr Borg for their efforts in contributing concretely to improve our current state of ambient air, through the reduction of an emission source classified as the second most serious contributor for air pollution.

Over the past years, Simon Busuttil has been spearheading a campaign - STOP THE DUST – to improve air quality by controlling dust emissions from the construction industry.

Simon Busuttil is a member in the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament which receives numerous complaints from Maltese citizens on air quality and dust emissions.

.....

Office of Simon Busuttil MEP

Kevin Mizzi in Valletta: (356) 21228585