

The Banner Tow

Tipôle enters the office of an Aviation company, somewhere in the Netherlands.....

T: Good morning, Madam.

O: Good morning, Sir, what can I do you for?

T: Yes, can I order a banner tow flight please?

O: Sure, here is a list of tariffs and regulations. And here is an additional list of regulations by the European Union.

T: Well, I don't have a difficult text to display. I would like to display FUCK COPENHAGEN for one hour over Hilversum, Amersfoort, Utrecht, and Naarden.

O: The text might be a problem because people might feel offended. The routing is fine, but I have to check the text with Brussels.

T: With Brussels?

O: New regulations—welcome to the brave new world. (sound of horn) Oh, I've received a reject message by the automated validation program. Defamatory language and a direct insult to the 2009 United Nations Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. I'm sorry, you need to change the text.

T: How about CO₂ THE GAS OF LIFE.

O: I'll try this one..... (sound of horn) Rejected again. Scientifically unsubstantiated, ruled a threat to the planet by the EPA and Climate research unit of the East Anglia University.

T: Well, I think I understand the game here. Try this one, CUT CO₂ SAVE THE PLANET.

O: Ok, here we go.... (DING DONG) Accepted, the charge is 849 Euro's and 49 cents.

T: Well, let's try another one first. Can you try OBAMA CARED GRANNY'S SCARED

O: Political type are you? Ok, I put it in... (sound of horn) Reject, Obama is the One. Only positive spin allowed. (Are you a racist or something?)

T: It's a good thing they don't know who is making the requests.

O: Don't be too sure about that. We had a camera installed the day the Lisbon Treaty went in to effect. You can smile, you're on camera in some Brussels datacenter hard disk.

T: Let's try this one, GREEN JOBS, GRAVE DIGGERS?

O: I hate to sound prophetic but (sound of horn) rejected due to defamation of the environmentalists who try to save the planet from humanity.

T: I have an idea, since we are doing business with artificial intelligence try this one. FCUK COPENHAGEN.

O: Here we go, and... (DING DONG) accepted, the charge is 443 Euros and 1 cent.



T: There is no comment this time?

O: No, the system thinks it is one of those modern commercial ways of advertising intended to encourage youth and annoy the elder generation. When do you want the banner up?

T: Make it Sunday, December 12th between one and two.

O: (sound of horn) I'm sorry, Sir, but we are not allowed to fly on Sundays for environmental reasons.

T: Where did the horn come from this time?

O: The automatic speech recognition system that is installed next to the Camera. December first, Sir?

T: (whispering) Ok, let's make it Saturday. (sound of horn) What now?

O: Let me see, oh yes, the weather forecast is below minimum for banner towing on Saturday. As a matter of fact, the weather is socked in until December 19th.

T: But the conference ends on the 18th. I have to get it up before then.

O: (flips the master switch of the electricity) Ok, we can talk now. I'm totally fed up with this crap. Let's go to the hangar and make the banner. I'll offer you this one at cost. Care to come along?

Take off in 30 minutes.

--Tipôle Poèt