

“Jean Lambert has been, throughout this Parliamentary term, at the forefront of practically every major initiative to support workers rights. Whether it has been strong social services, equal access to healthcare coverage or shorter and safer working hours, Jean has consistently championed working peoples’ concerns.

She has also actively campaigned for a European Union that is not afraid to promote quality public services. The European Parliament, and working people, need representatives like Jean”.

Brian Synnott
*Communication and Campaigns Officer
European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)*



Jean Lambert is London’s Green Party MEP and a member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee in the European Parliament. She plays an integral role in improving workers’ rights and creating better conditions for work across Europe. Jean has worked with numerous trade unions on a wide range of campaigns.

Green Party 

For more information please visit
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Workers’ Rights

“Workers’ Rights need defending and strengthening and I will continue to demand progress both in the UK and across Europe.”



Jean Lambert MEP

London’s Green Party Member of the
European Parliament



Workers' Rights



Working time

For many years Jean has fought to end the UK's opt-out from the EU Working Time Directive. As a piece of health and safety legislation, the Directive aims to prevent accidents caused by tired workers, both inside and outside the workplace, and protect their health in general, as well as to offer workers the right to a better work-life balance.

Jean helped secure majority support for Parliament's recent vote to end the opt-out, but a final position has to be reached with Council. Jean's publications on the Directive have helped communicate the health and safety issues, such as stress, increased accident risk and links to obesity and heavy drinking associated with long working hours.



"We need far-reaching responses to the economic crisis and climate change, but these must respect workers and their rights."

Jean Lambert MEP

Right: Jean signs EPSU's Public Service Pledge



"London is blighted by low pay and long hours working. All workers deserve a decent living wage and a healthy work-life balance."

Jean Lambert MEP

Living wage

Jean continues to support campaigns for a Living Wage to be paid to all workers: in London this is currently £7.45 per hour. She has also pressed the European Commission to ensure EU rules support Living Wage policies.

Many people work longer hours to compensate for a low level of basic pay and Jean believes low wages must be tackled together with working time to address poverty, inequality and stress.

Agency workers

Jean is a strong advocate for equal pay for equal work. She garnered support in the Parliament for the Agency Workers Directive, which entitles temporary workers to the same pay and benefits as permanent staff. Although the UK Government won a concession blocking equal benefits before 12 weeks of employment, the adoption of this Directive has signalled a major step forward for the rights of temporary workers.

Posting of Workers Directive

Jean has supported the right to free movement within the EU and her work to improve the legal right to social security entitlements for those living or working in another EU country is important for all. She has criticised recent European Court rulings which Jean believes have given more power to the market than to workers. She is supporting calls for the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive so that it cannot be used to undercut national labour standards and agreements.

Green work and skills

Jean's recent report *Green Work: Employment and skills - the climate change challenge*, explores the huge potential for job creation in new green industries like wind and solar power. The UK skills gap in sectors such as renewable energy means that Britain is far behind other EU countries like Germany in the creation of high quality green jobs. Jean is calling for investment in training to better equip UK workers for new green jobs.

The report also highlights the importance of training to help improve the environmental performance of existing industries and workplaces. Jean has called for a comprehensive EU-level programme to provide workers with green skills. She is also supporting the ITUC's "Just Transition" proposals, so that changes are managed fairly.

Green Reps

Working closely with the ETUC, Jean has called for Trade Union Green Reps to have legal rights and recognition similar to Health and Safety Reps. Jean's *Green Work* report highlights the contribution they can make to improve environmental practices in organisations; she proposed a motion to this effect at the Green Party conference, which was unanimously supported.

Jean sponsored a Written Declaration in the European Parliament calling for the legal recognition of Green workplace reps across Europe. Over 100 MEPs signed it, although some London MEPs did not give their support.

Below: Jean supporting green industry in East London

