



▲ Jean Lambert MEP

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Fighting London's dirty air

Dangerous airborne particles known as PM10 have exceeded legal 'safe' limits at Neasden Lane, Brent for over 35 days this year, breaching EU air quality standards which could put thousands of lives at risk.

Under EU law, PM10 levels must not go over a certain level more than 35 times per calendar year. Neasden Lane is the first place in London to break this limit in 2012, yet 15 places across London have already exceeded the safe levels on 17 days or more, including Marylebone Road. Jean has condemned the London Mayor for failing to tackle air pollution and has asked the European Commission to stand firm on the UK's blatant and consistent breaches of EU air quality law.

Jean said: *"Citizen's health must come first, and the Commission now needs to show that there are real consequences when Member States including the UK don't comply with crucial legislation necessary to tackle this invisible health crisis."*

Demanding accessible transport for all

The London Underground has a total of 270 stations yet only 63 are step-free from street to platform. For older and disabled passengers as well as those with pushchairs, this means having to run a gauntlet of escalators, stairs and uneven surfaces just to reach the train.



Jean joined Green London Assembly Member, Jenny Jones, and local Green campaigners at Stockwell tube station to demand that the Mayor of London take positive action to make the city's transport network accessible for all. Jean and Jenny are calling for at least one third of the tube network to be step-free, requiring a minimum of 23 stations to be upgraded.

Jean said: *"If London wants to continue to be seen as a progressive and welcoming city, a major part of its transport system cannot remain out of bounds for so many."*

◀ Jean with Jenny Jones and Green campaigners outside Stockwell tube station

Meeting Aung San Suu Kyi

Jean recently visited Burma as part of the European Parliament's first ever delegation to the country. The EU has had diplomatic and trade sanctions in place since the 1990 election victory secured by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy was overturned by the ruling military junta.

The Parliamentary group met with the Burmese President as well as Ministers, MPs and members of the opposition. Since Jean's visit, the EU has decided to suspend sanctions to allow for the resumption of foreign investment and much needed aid and development money.



▲ Jean meeting Aung San Suu Kyi during the European Parliament's historic trip to Burma

Supporting London's local businesses

Jean visited Finchley High Road to hear from recession-hit local businesses about how recent changes to the high street imposed by Barnet Council are hampering trade. Jean, along with local Green activists, met with shopkeepers to discuss how their situation could be improved.

Improving the local economy was also the subject of a recent Brussels conference held by the European Parliament Greens/EFA Group as part of their ongoing work on the Green New Deal.

"Thriving local high streets are important socially as well as providing local employment and services; they should be supported, not weakened." Jean said.



▲ Jean with Green campaigner AM Poppy and local market trader in North London



▲ Jean addressing the audience at Senate House at the University of London

Tackling climate change

Jean hosted her inaugural Spring Lecture at Senate House, University of London, which highlighted the devastating and far reaching implications of climate change.

Jean, the Chair of the European Parliament South Asia delegation, was joined by a panel of speakers with expertise on the scientific, development and economic elements of climate change, who discussed potential responses to the crisis.

"The poorest and most vulnerable are the first victims of climate change. From South Asia to London, we all have a responsibility to take action which will prevent global warming and protect communities." Jean said.

View highlights from the Spring Lecture at:
www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/climate

Calling for an end to capital punishment

Jean has written to the UK Indian High Commission urging the Government of India to put in place an immediate moratorium on capital punishment as a step towards the ultimate aim of abolishing the death penalty for all crimes.

Jean, alongside Keith Taylor, Green MEP for the South East, also called on the authorities to repeal the death sentence imposed on Balwant Singh Rajoana; a Sikh convicted for the assassination of a former Government Minister. This sentence has since been commuted.

"India has an influential role in helping to end the death penalty globally, and I urge the Government to immediately put in place an official moratorium on executions." Jean said.

Standing up for mental health

Jean recently co-chaired a meeting for the European Parliament All-Party Group on Mental Health, which discussed the need for better treatment and support for young people battling with mental health conditions. Up to 50 per cent of

mental health problems develop during adolescence, yet all too often, young people experience frequent and lengthy delays in receiving treatment despite the known importance of early intervention.

"While the EU funds important research there is also a need to ensure the results are used. This is challenge for public health, education and social services." Jean said.