



# Green Party MEPs working for



## Public Services

*Green Party MEPs are fighting to prevent Britain's public services from being forced open to international competition and privatisation. They are also challenging EU trade policies which seek to open up public services throughout the developing world.*

*Caroline Lucas MEP has led the campaign in the European Parliament to reverse the EU's policies in this field, and to demand much greater transparency and democracy in these negotiations. Jean Lambert MEP – as part of the Social Europe Campaign – has demanded that any new EU Constitution must guarantee the protection of public services. For Greens, public services must come before corporate profit.*



*Jean meets fire-fighters in support of their dispute with the Government.*

**JEAN LAMBERT** Green Party MEP, London    **CAROLINE LUCAS** Green Party MEP, South East England



The Greens | European Free Alliance  
in the European Parliament

Green Party   
Real Progress

# Green Party MEPs – speaking out

For more information  
on your Green MEPs  
and their work visit

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Right: Caroline Lucas campaigning against the  
GATS Agreement in Oxford.

Below: Jean Lambert demonstrates outside the  
Department of Trade and Industry during the  
GATS negotiations.

## General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)

- Green MEPs have opposed the GATS agreement which, under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation, seeks to force open service sectors across the world to much greater international competition.
- Green Party MEPs submitted a response to the Government's GATS consultation demanding that the process be opened up to greater transparency and democracy.
- Both MEPs have spoken on GATS at national demonstrations and organised meetings with external groups including nursing organisations and the TUC.
- Caroline Lucas has consistently demanded that the Trade Commissioner, Pascal Lamy, makes the negotiation process more open and democratic.
- Jean Lambert published a report on GATS explaining the likely negative impact on public services and emphasizing how women will be particularly affected, thereby mobilising local action.

## Working Time and temporary agency workers

- Green Party MEPs have challenged the UK Government's opt-out of the Working Time Directive as it leads to abuse of the system.
- Public services are major users of temporary agency workers. Jean Lambert, as lead Green on the issue in the Employment Committee, is pushing for legislation to increase employment rights for temporary agency staff.

## Public services

- Jean Lambert has been working with organisations such as Royal Mail, the Communications Workers Union and community action groups against the liberalisation of postal services.
- In her response to Postcomm's Consultation on opening Royal Mail's delivery to private competition, Jean Lambert highlighted the risks to labour standards and universal service.
- Green Party MEPs from across the EU voted against proposals – known as the Second Railway Package – for far-reaching liberalisation of European passenger railways.



## Working with the Unions

- Green Party MEPs have been working closely with trade unions to defend and strengthen public services, speaking at key conferences, including UNISON's national conference.
- Jean has introduced spokespersons from the Public and Commercial Services Union, the Fire Brigades Union, Commercial Workers Union and National Union of Journalists to Green Party conference.
- Jean Lambert has worked with the European Trades Unions to raise the profile of social inclusion and workers rights in the draft EU constitution.

