

New jobs in our Green economic future

The EU will bring forward proposals to create new jobs in the 'green' industry sector in 2014, backed with €13bn to fund the necessary training, Jean heard at an event she hosted with TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady, EU Commissioner for Employment László Andor and Andrew Raingold of the sustainable business organisation The Aldersgate Group.

The conference, which was entitled 'Building Our Green Economic Future', heard thousands of manufacturing jobs in the UK are already being lost as a direct result of Government failure to invest in 'green' industry in the UK.

"With jobs being lost in traditional industries, we need to ensure the jobs building the new technology designed to boost sustainability come to the UK," said Jean.

"At the same time, we must create thousands of jobs improving insulation and energy-efficiency in London homes: as well as boosting employment by 'greening' the economy, we'd be cutting fuel bills and keeping people warmer."

Jean has received MEPs' backing for a package of measures aimed at ensuring access to care for the most vulnerable isn't reduced as a result of any EU bailouts.



▲ Jean Lambert MEP

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▲ Jean with László Andor and Frances O'Grady.

Defending Human Rights

The EU has long been a champion of human rights – and MEPs have presented their latest Human Rights Award to Pakistani girls' education champion Malala Yousafzai.

Jean joined a cross-party group of Euro-MPs to nominate 16-year-old Malala for the Sakharov Prize, now in its 25th year, after she was shot by Taliban fighters for campaigning against a ban on girls attending school in her home province.

Jean said: "Malala is an inspiration to us all – and this prize is well-deserved."

"This award is a real step forward in entrenching the importance of investing in girls in the work of the EU."



▲ Jean with Malala Yousafzai.

Keeping your personal data private – and public services public

Green MEPs have called for talks over a proposed trade deal between the EU and US – the so-called TTIP – to be suspended, over revelations that US spies are routinely monitoring EU citizens' emails and phone calls.

Jean said the TTIP could also pave the way for NHS privatisation: "There are good reasons to oppose TTIP – the threat to public services is one of them – but even its supporters cannot continue with 'business-as-usual' in the face of the shocking revelations about US spying."

Jean has also worked to secure MEPs' agreement to tough new rules protecting personal data in the EU – particularly that personal data can only be collected with the consent of the individual concerned and that all EU citizens should have a 'right to erase' data about them – to really give back control of privacy to millions of computer users.

Tackling Climate Change

Jean has been working at EU level to tackle climate change, by pushing for a new target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by 'fixing' the EU's 'broken' carbon trading mechanism for business, and by helping the EU reach a unified, strong, negotiating position in international climate change treaty discussions.

She also called on Russian authorities to release Greenpeace activists imprisoned



▲ Jean at a Greenpeace protest in Islington.

for nearly three months last year for taking direct action against oil drilling in the Arctic and met family members of the detained Londoners.

The latest report from the world's top scientists is pretty clear – climate change is caused by human activity, and its devastating impacts are already being felt, especially in poorer countries: though, as recent floods around the Thames Estuary have proved, London is not immune.

Jean recently chaired an event at the European Parliament's Westminster offices hosted by the Green European Foundation to explore ways the UK could increase its share of energy from renewable sources – and visited community energy projects in Haringey and Brixton.

Read more about Jean's work on Climate Change at jeanlambertmep.org.uk/climate

Working for Animals

Green MEPs have been working hard to keep animal protection issues high on the EU's agenda: successfully campaigning for better welfare standards and protection of endangered ocean species in a rewrite of the EU's farming and fishing rules.

Jean has also worked to promote new rules – backed by over a million EU citizens – to outlaw vivisection completely, to challenge the UK badger cull, and to maintain the current ban on the sale of genetically modified animal products.

In related news, the World Trade Organisation has upheld a Green-spearheaded EU ban on the import of seal fur from Canada and Norway, arguing that 'moral grounds' were good grounds for a ban.

To read more about Jean's work on animal protection, or to get involved, visit jeanlambertmep.org.uk/animals

Fighting Fracking

Jean has called for a complete ban on 'fracking' ahead of plans for experimental drilling for shale gas and oil in South London: backing EU law requiring communities to be consulted as part of any planning process.

She said: "Residents of Croydon, Orpington, Lambeth and Streatham are being told that fracking will benefit the local economy and will play a key role in promoting UK energy security in future.

"But really fracking is in the interests of big business, not communities, which are better served by locally-owned renewable energy installations."

Greens have pushed the EU to adopt rules requiring strict cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 – rules which can't be met if we allow energy companies free reign to drill into our precious green spaces here in London.



▲ Fracking rig.



▲ Jean with clean air campaigners Chris Smith and Simon Birkett.

Cleaning up the air we breathe

Jean took to the streets of East London with residents and campaigners to see for herself some of the UK's air pollution hotspots.

In London each year air pollution causes 4,000 premature deaths – mainly caused by diesel fumes: more than alcohol or obesity.

The EU designated last year the 'Year of Air', and published new rules to clean up

our air by conforming to World Health Organisation limits on exhaust fume pollution. The new laws – which will need to be agreed by MEPs next year – will save Londoners' lives, said Jean, and will force the UK Government and the Mayor of London to start taking the issue seriously.

To read more about Jean's work on air pollution, or to read copies of her leaflet, visit jeanlambertmep.org.uk/air