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UK Green MEPs and their Parliamentary Committees

Much of the Parliament's work is carried out in its committees, where Commission proposals for new legislation are studied so they may then be voted on by the whole Parliament. Every proposal is considered by at least one committee which appoints one of its members as 'rapporteur' to draw up a report on it. Following consultation and lobbying and the tabling of amendments, the reports are voted on by the whole Parliament in Strasbourg. Most MEPs are members of at least two formal committees. In addition there are Inter-Groups which are cross party informal groups of MEPs set up to promote particular issues. The Parliament also maintains contact with most governments in the rest of the world, and MEPs sit on delegations to particular countries.

The Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament

The Greens/European Free Alliance is the fourth largest political group in the Parliament, comprising 35 Greens and 10 MEPs from the EFA which includes Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party. There are Greens from 11 of the EU member states, with France, Germany and the Netherlands electing the highest number of Green MEPs.

Greens in National Parliaments

Greens now sit in the national parliaments of nearly every country in the EU, and are in government coalitions in Germany, France, and Belgium. The Finnish Greens recently left their government coalition, after the government decided to introduce a new programme of nuclear reactors. In its last election Ireland increased its number of MPs to six. The UK has elected two Green MEPs, one Green member of the Scottish Parliament and three Members of the Greater London Authority. However, despite demonstrable support from voters for our policies, the UK's aberrant system of voting has so far barred Greens from the House of Commons.

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Caroline Lucas

- Full member of the Trade, Industry, Energy and Research Committee where she was the lead Green pressing the Parliament to oppose further globalisation of trade by the World Trade Organisation.
- Substitute member of the Committee for Regional Policy and Transport where she drew up a report on aviation and the environment, and one about reducing the negative impacts of transport on public health.
- Vice-President of the Parliament's delegation to the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries.
- Vice-President of the Temporary Committee of Inquiry into Foot and Mouth.
- Vice-President of the Animal Welfare Inter-group.
- Member of the Peace and Consumer Inter-Groups.

Jean Lambert

- Vice-President of the Green/EFA Group in the European Parliament.
- Full member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee where she's worked, among other things, on social security and social inclusion.
- Full member of the Petitions Committee, where she wrote reports on access to information and public participation.
- Substitute member of Civil Liberties Committee, where she is the lead Green on asylum and immigration issues.
- Member of Peace, Antiracism and Trade Union Inter-Groups.
- Member of the Parliament's delegation to Malta.

The UK Greens *in the European Parliament*

Jean Lambert



Jean Lambert MEP for London

This is the third Annual Report from the UK Greens in the European Parliament. The report is just one of the ways Greens try to practice an accountable form of politics. Here we show how our work has been developing during our third year in office. We describe what we've done, how we did it, why we did it, and why it matters that the Green voice is heard in the corridors of power in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Caroline Lucas



Caroline Lucas MEP for the South East



This year in the Parliament has seen our profile increase significantly. For example, Jean was elected **Vice-President of the Greens/EFA Group** in January and Caroline was made **Vice-President of the Temporary Committee of Inquiry into Foot and Mouth** in the Parliament.

This development has enabled us to push our work forward into new areas, as well as allowing us to consolidate our work in established areas such as Peace and Human Rights, Environment and Sustainability, Asylum and Immigration, Agriculture and Food, Employment, Civil Liberties and Social Justice, International Trade and Development, Transport and Health, and Animal Welfare.

This year has been marked by the tremors that shook the world after the devastation of September 11th and much of our work has taken place in the aftershock. Other significant events have been the Foot and Mouth crisis in the UK, the UK Government's decision to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow and the continued segregation and expulsion of refugees and asylum

seekers across the EU Member States.

Our work through all of this has been supported and informed by our friends and colleagues in the NGO world and in the Community Groups in our constituencies and in other organisations. We look forward to deepening existing relationships and developing new ones.

There is still a great knowledge gap in the UK about what the European Union actually means for us. The discussion is too often reduced to membership of the Single Currency and nothing else, and the EU's labyrinth of complex institutions is often a hurdle to a better understanding. This report demonstrates that the EU has important implications for many policy areas in the UK and other member states.

The Greens/EFA group, as the fourth largest group in the Parliament, is a significant force which aims to ensure that the EU's emerging social and economic agenda has the environment and social justice at its heart.

Caroline Lucas MEP in the year 2001 – 2002

“He turned evasion and ambiguity into a new art form.”

Caroline’s verdict on the performance of former Agriculture minister Nick Brown at the European Parliament’s Committee Hearing – a verdict that found its way into both the Daily Mirror’s Soundbites section, and in the Sunday Times’ Talking Heads

Food and Agriculture

Agriculture and Food have been issues at the top of Caroline’s agenda this year. In January she was appointed **Vice President of the European Parliament’s Temporary Committee on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**, which is examining how FMD was handled in the different member states, analysing how EU law was interpreted and implemented, and exploring the issues surrounding vaccination. It will deliver its final report in November.

Caroline has spoken out about early attempts to manipulate the activities of the Committee – and in particular the decision not to make several of its meetings in the UK public meetings. However, she firmly believes the Committee has a vital role to play in finding answers to some of the key questions which the government – by refusing to hold a full public inquiry in this country – would rather avoid.



Caroline and Mr Gordon Wilmote in front of his field in Knowstone, Devon, where the army fired at his cattle to slaughter them, causing huge distress to animals and farmers. The cattle had been clear for 21 days and had a court order protecting them.

Caroline is presented with two dossiers of ‘Personal Accounts of the Effects of the Handling of the 2001 Foot and Mouth Outbreak’ by the people of the Royal Forest of Dean and surrounding Areas’.



Caroline visits Ash Moor Pit, Devon, accompanied by a huge and unnecessary group of security personnel. Originally created for the burial of FMD animals, (in spite of environmental assessments showing significant geological dangers) but never used; now costs £20,000 a week to patrol.

In particular, she has focussed on why there was such a campaign of misinformation about vaccination; why the government’s policy of contiguous culling went ahead, since it was both scientifically unjustified and probably illegal; why the government’s contingency plan was shrouded in secrecy, and why so much control was kept in London, instead of trusting the experience of local vets and farmers.

At the end of May, she made a three-day visit to the South West, where she met farmers and rural business people whose livelihoods have been shattered by the crisis. Heartfelt accounts of how MAFF bullied and intimidated farmers into having their animals slaughtered led her to conclude: *“What we are talking about here is not just about an animal disease that got out of control. We’re talking about the systematic abuse of people’s basic human rights”* – a statement which appeared on the front page of the local papers the following day.

Following on from the success of her report last year **Stopping the Great Food Swap**, she has been developing further her work on the relocalisation of the food chain. She was a keynote speaker at the **Food Writers Guild**, recently gave one of the **BBC Wales Regeneration Lectures** on the same subject at Cardiff University, and was guest speaker at the Conference organised by the **Family Farmers’ Association**. She has also had many meetings with NGOs and farmers and institutes, including the **Elm Farm Research Centre**, as well as discussions about the future of the Common Agricultural Policy with Germany’s Green Party Agriculture Minister, Renate Künast.



Transport and Health

Caroline produced her second Report for the **Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism** this year, focussing on **The Impacts of Transport on Health**. The report builds on evidence that transport is now the dominant source of noise and air pollution in urban areas. It proposes two concrete measures: the first, the introduction of Health Impact Assessments for transport projects and policies, is probably the single most important initiative which could help integrate transport and health policies, and help to minimise the negative impacts of transport on health. The second, the promotion of cycling and walking, would make a major contribution towards maximising the potentially positive effects of transport policy on health. In February 2002 the European Parliament voted in support of the Report, which will start the process towards the introduction of Health Impact Assessments for large EU transport projects from 2003.

In the Western World, physical inactivity is the second most important risk factor for health, after tobacco smoking. Half an hour of moderate physical activity per day (e.g. walking or cycling) would lead to a 50% reduction in the risk of heart disease, adult diabetes and obesity.

WHO

Close to 90% of the urban population are still exposed to excess ambient levels of particulate matter, NO₂, benzene and ozone, causing respiratory malfunctions, cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

WHO, 1999

In the UK today 1.4 million children receive treatment for asthma, which is caused by poor air quality and pollution from cars.

The Report received widespread media coverage, including the front page of the **Independent on Sunday**, since it coincided with the IoS revelations that car pollution plays a direct role in increasing the number of asthma sufferers. Caroline is quoted as saying: *“There can be no more doubt that car fumes cause asthma, and no further excuse for inaction. If we continue as at present, our children will pay with their health and, increasingly, with their lives.”*

Caroline was also actively supporting transport and health issues during the European Parliament’s **Green Week**, where she spoke at a number of seminars.

Transport in the SE

Transport issues continue to take up much of Caroline’s time in her constituency. The issue of **Bar End Park-and-Ride in Winchester** is a case in point. When the M3 was built over Twyford Down, the government – then Conservative – promised that land would be given in compensation for the lost rolling Hampshire chalkland. The area proposed was a stretch of the former Winchester Bypass. It was not adequate compensation, but nature wrought an amazing transformation: the old A33 has become a meadow and even a home to rare species. Its former life as a highway means that it is flat and accessible even to the less mobile. Now Hampshire County Council want to turn the land into a park-and-ride scheme.

Caroline has argued that this seriously undermines the credibility of a government’s promises. Furthermore, no Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out. Caroline has asked Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom to order the Council to carry out this assessment, especially since research has shown that park-and-ride schemes can lead to increases in traffic.

Once again, land is being offered in compensation, but the area proposed is far less accessible than the site of the park-and-ride. Caroline has written to Environment Minister Michael Meacher to invite him to visit the site to see this for himself. Unfortunately he has declined, so we await a decision from Commissioner Wallstrom and the outcome of a judicial review.

Meanwhile, the Public Inquiry into the plan for a deep-sea container port at **Dibden Bay** opened in November last year. Caroline’s office worked with Friends of the Earth





Caroline and Richard Mallender of the Brighton Green Party inspect Preston Park Station, Brighton, a prime example of the run-down state of public transport.

to organise a press conference on the opening day that showed the range of environmental and community groups opposed to the scheme. Organisations that joined Caroline on the platform included the RSPB, Council for National Parks, Residents Against Dibden Bay Port, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Solent Protection Society, the Ramblers Association, and A36 Corridor Alliance. Caroline will be giving evidence to the Enquiry later this year, and her office is planning a series of events to further publicise the threat that the port poses to this beautiful area.

South Coast Multimodal Study

Worthing is one of the locations along the south coast that will be affected by the outcome of a study looking at transport problems along the coast between Southampton, Hampshire, and Ashford, Kent. Caroline's office has contributed to the study, advocating better public transport and changes to the ways in which we plan our communities – initiatives which would reduce the need to travel in the first place. She got a lot of local media coverage as a result of a press release on this, especially with local radio stations. One factor that the Study has to take into account is the creation of the South Downs National Park. Caroline's team has fed into the consultation process, urging for a greater area of land to be included within the park and for a directly-elected park board, ensuring that the electorate had a direct input in the running of the park.



Caroline at Shoreham airport with Green Party campaigner Moyra Martin.

Aviation

Following up the work she started with her Report on the **Environmental Impacts of Aviation** in the Parliament's Transport Committee, Caroline has continued to campaign to reduce the growth and impact of aviation. In particular, she has spoken out against the decision in favour of Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport, and has been a vocal critic of plans to site further runways in the South East.

Further, Caroline visited Shoreham, where she talked with campaigners who are opposing any potential expansion of **Shoreham airport**.

If a plane crashed into Sellafield it would release 44 times as much radioactivity as the Chernobyl disaster, and could cause more than 2 million cancers.

Rob Edwards, New Scientist, 13 October 2001

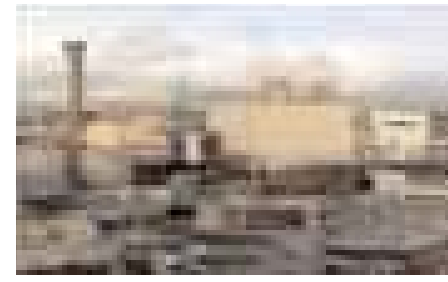
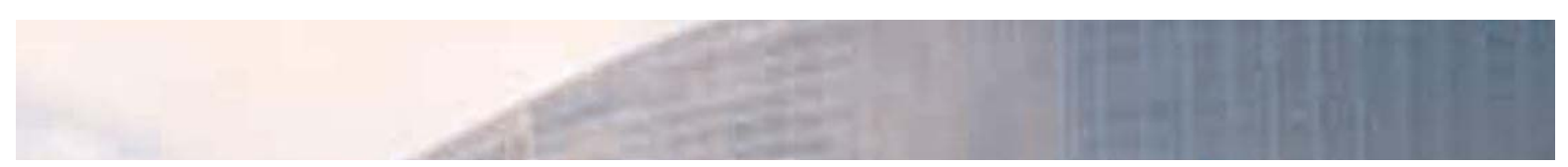


Caroline speaking at Anti-War demonstration, Trafalgar Square, 18 November 2001

Working for Peace

The aftermath of September 11th, coupled with the ever-escalating crisis in the Middle East and the horrifying news that President Bush is planning a new generation of nuclear weapons to use as first strike weapons, as well as the ongoing US plans for a missile defence shield, together mean that the need to challenge the false belief that peace will come about through war is more urgent than ever.

Caroline has spent much of the past months campaigning against the escalation of violence by speaking out at anti-war marches in London that have



Mox nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Sellafield



Caroline being arrested at Faslane

“Mr. President, it is hard to overstate the importance of urgent action at Johannesburg. It has been estimated that if we continue with our current production and consumption patterns, we will soon need an extra 3 planets, simply to provide the resources and absorb the wastes. We don’t have 3 planets - we have just one, and it’s already showing signs of major degradation. Johannesburg has got to deliver results.”

Caroline speaking during the Parliamentary Plenary, 30 May 2002

“The Commission rightly identifies what it calls a global governance gap, with global market forces running far ahead of the ability of institutional mechanisms to contain them. And yet the measures, which the Commission proposes to close that gap, are woefully insufficient. “

Caroline speaking during the Parliamentary Plenary, 30 May 2002

been attended by thousands of people; by taking part in various peace platforms and by witnessing the launch of the **European Network on Peace and Human Rights**. She has consistently made the case that injustice and insecurity are linked: *“We will only be more secure when poverty and injustice are eradicated. Until we understand the violence of our economic policies, our military policies, and our foreign policies, we will continue to foster the conditions that make terrorism possible.”*

The escalating war on terrorism also means that nuclear power stations such as **Sellafield** pose new and unacceptable risks. Caroline has made the case that they are a ‘ticking timebomb’ in the making and thus a potential target for terrorist aircraft. During a debate in the Strasbourg plenary she presented the key points of the Greens/EFA resolution, which calls for all nuclear facilities to be shut down as rapidly as possible, and in the meantime to install no fly zones and off-shore exclusion zones.

This issue is all the more controversial, given that the Mox nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Sellafield was quietly given the go-ahead in the immediate aftermath of September 11. Mox’s opening will mean even more dangerous nuclear transport, particularly long-distance movement between the UK and Japan.

In November 2001 Caroline was asked to stand Trial following her arrest for committing a ‘breach of the peace’ at the Faslane Peace camp, where she demonstrated peacefully against the UK’s possession of nuclear missiles. She was found guilty, and asked to pay £150. Following her unsuccessful appeal to the Scottish High Court against the verdict, she plans to try to take the case to the European Court, where she will argue her right to freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Sustainable Development – Rio Plus Ten

Caroline has been actively involved in the EU’s preparatory process for the forthcoming **World Summit for Sustainable Development**, which will take place in Johannesburg, ten years on from the Rio Earth Summit. She has been deeply critical of the European Commission’s position to date, which has been characterised by a lack of ambition, coupled with a blind faith in the capacity of free trade to deliver development objectives.

As the author of the **Trade Committee’s Opinion on the Commission’s proposals**, Caroline has called on the Commission to develop a stronger, more ambitious and targeted position with action plans and timetables for implementation. In particular, she called for the Commission’s disproportionate emphasis on free trade and investment to be balanced by binding frameworks for corporate accountability.

In a separate Opinion for the Trade Committee on **Corporate Social Responsibility** Caroline had also called for the Commission to bring forward a directive within three years which would require companies to carry out annual mandatory reporting on social and environmental performance.

She has also authored an Opinion on the **Commission’s Strategy for Integrated Product Policy**, in which she proposed revisions to the VAT regime and changes to WTO rules to facilitate the greening of public procurement policies.

As **Vice President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly**, Caroline has continued to promote development issues. She is also a co-founder of a new Parliamentary group, the **Friends of the United Nations**, which aims to promote the role of a reformed UN in world affairs. She has also spoken out at a UN-organised mass lobby of Parliament to raise the importance of sustainable development.

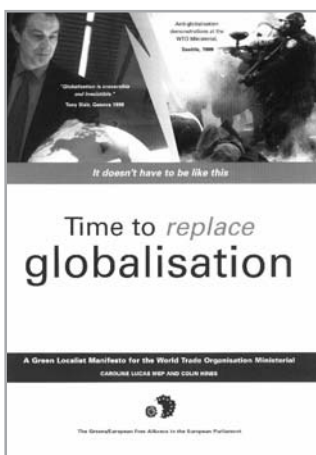
Globalisation and trade

Caroline has continued to be active on the issues of globalisation and trade. In September 2001 she attended the World Trade Organisation's **Ministerial Conference in Doha** as a member of the EU's official delegation, armed with her new report, written with Colin Hines, **Time to replace Globalisation**. The report outlines a detailed set of alternative world trade rules, designed to replace the WTO's programme of ever more open markets in ever more ruthless competition with each other, with a post-globalisation alternative in order to achieve genuine sustainability.

She was a vocal critic of the Doha meeting, which saw many developing country delegations bullied and arm-twisted into accepting major new trade commitments before many of them felt ready to do so. She has written extensively about this, with articles in both the **Guardian** and the **Observer**.

In January, she travelled to Porto Alegre in Brazil – in her capacity as parliamentarian and activist – to take part in the second World Social Forum, which was held in parallel to the World Economic Forum and provided a vital opportunity to discuss real alternatives to economic globalisation with thousands of people from across the globe.

Caroline has spoken on these issues at meetings both in the UK and in the European Parliament, including at a large conference, **From Rio to Johannesburg via Doha**, organised by Friends of the Earth Europe and the Heinrich Boll Foundation. She also co-hosted a major conference on **Sustainable Development** organised by the Greens/EFA Group in the Parliament, at which the International Forum on Globalisation presented their proposals for change. In May she was invited to speak at a **WTO Symposium** alongside Director General Mike Moore about the importance of greater democracy and transparency at the WTO, and in July she is co-hosting a conference at the European Parliament with WWF, that will highlight the need for Sustainability Impact Assessments to be carried out on EU trade policy.



Localisation is not a new idea. "I sympathise, therefore, with those who would minimise, rather than those who would maximise, economic entanglement between nations. Ideas, knowledge, art, hospitality, travel – these are the things, which should of their nature be international. But let goods be homespun whenever it is reasonable and conveniently possible, and above all, let finance be primarily national."

John Maynard Keynes, 1933

Caroline speaking at the 'From Rio to Johannesburg via Doha' Hearing, 17 April 2002





Caroline chairing the Hearing 'From Genoa to Laeken: Impacts and Implications' in Strasbourg, 11 December 2001. Pictured here, with witnesses Regine Müller of Volx Karawanne, Austria, and Mark Covell, Indymedia journalist from the UK.

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety"

Benjamin Franklin, 1759

The longer-term consequences of PFIs and PPPs are likely to include: erosion of democratic accountability linked to a continued lack of transparency and disclosure, marginalisation of key issues of social justice and equality and increase in costs to the public.

Dexter Whitfield, Public Management Policy Association Review, No. 16, February 2002

An animal dies in a European laboratory every three seconds.

BUAV website, 2002

In Russia in 2001 39,111 baby seals were killed for their fur. By May 2002 the number had already reached 45,000.

IFAW Russia, 2002

She is actively supporting the joint **NGO Trade Justice Movement**, and has given a number of talks on it throughout the SE region, as well as speaking at a **Trade Justice Mass Lobby of Parliament**, organised by Christian Aid.

Human Rights

Peaceful pro-democracy, anti-globalisation protests continue to grow, in spite of attempts to crack down on liberty in the name of security.

Following the violent death of one protester in Genoa as well as the hospitalisation of many others, Caroline chaired a Hearing at Strasbourg entitled **From Genoa to Laeken: Impacts and Implications**, which bore witness to the events of the Genoa G8 Summit, including allegations of serious human rights abuses, and asked to what extent these events constituted 'a serious and persistent breach by a Member State of EU principles'.

One of the protestors, Mark 'Sky' Covell, who was brutally beaten by police, has submitted a Petition to the European Parliament, which is awaiting processing by the Petitions Committee.



Private Finance Initiatives

Private Finance Initiatives (PFIs) and **Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)** are continuing to worry many people who fear they will spell disaster for public services in the UK. Caroline has been in correspondence with the Commission and the Council over concerns that the PFI process itself appears to be rigged through a process of the 'preferred bidder', who is selected prior to the negotiation of the official contract. The official contract often turns out to be more expensive than the preferred bidder's initial estimates – but by that time, it is too late – and yet more taxpayers' money is spent in subsidising the private sector. Caroline is making the case that this process constitutes an infringement of EU legislation on public procurement.

Animal Welfare

As one of the **Vice-Presidents of the Animal Welfare Intergroup**, Caroline has continued to campaign on a number of key animal welfare issues. For example, the continued slaughter of baby seals in Russia is of major concern to many of her constituents and Caroline has written to President Putin (in Russian!), to the Commission and President Prodi, and to the UK Government as well as to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, urging them to put pressure on President Putin to stop blocking the anti-cruelty legislation that has already been passed by the upper and lower houses of the Russian parliament. She also gave a presentation to her colleagues



Folkstone campaign group European Animal Welfare, lobbying outside Westminster.



Caroline outside the Parliament at a BUAV (British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection) action to raise awareness about the Cosmetics Directive. 4 June 2002.

Every year the UK discards 100,000 tons of fridges and freezers. They remain unprocessed to date.

'Prospects for household appliances', Centre for Sustainable Consumption, 2000.

Each year 5 to 6 million laptop computers and 15 million personal computers (PCs) are bought while 1.5 million laptops and 5 million PCs are thrown away.

In 1998 6 million tons of general electronic waste was generated in the EU. The estimate for the year 2004 is 7.4 million. That is the equivalent of 20 kilos per person per year.

European Commission's Ecolabel Factsheets

at the Animal Welfare Intergroup meeting in December, highlighting the urgent need to put an end to this cruelty.

As Vice-president of the Animal Welfare Group, Caroline has been actively campaigning for a positive outcome of the **Cosmetics Directive** which is currently in the process of being negotiated. The Directive is now in its second reading. It asks for the reintroduction of the marketing ban on products containing ingredients tested on animals, which was deleted in the previous reading. Further, it demands an immediate ban on animal testing for finished products, for ingredients where alternative test methods have been validated and for ingredients from 31 December 2004. Caroline fought hard in the Trade Committee to counter suggestions that an EU marketing ban should be dropped because of fears of a challenge at the WTO. "There is a clear precedent for such a ban for animal welfare reasons based on the US ban on the import of dog and cat fur. And even if it did come to the WTO, I can think of no better test case to demonstrate those areas where global trade rules should not take precedence over moral and ethical concerns."

On 11 June the Parliament voted in favour for a ban on both the testing and marketing of cosmetics tested on animals. But she warned that the Council and Commission must reject any lobbying from the cosmetics industry to weaken the Parliament's position.

WEEE – Waste from Electronic and Electrical Equipment



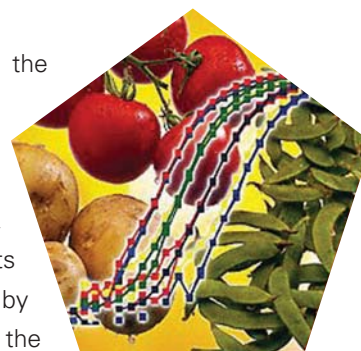
Caroline has done a lot of interviews with national and local radios on the proposed EC Directive on **Waste from Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE)**, which aims to prevent waste of electronic and electrical equipment, promote re-use, recycling and recovery of such waste, and minimise risks and impact to the environment associated with treatment and disposal of end-of-life electronic and

electrical equipment. Caroline said that "this will be a milestone in European environmental legislation which finally seriously addresses the problem of ever-rising quantities of electronic and electrical waste. It will give manufacturers a strong incentive to make them design more environmentally friendly products that are cheaper to recycle or dispose of."

She has also warned the Government that they need to start preparing for the introduction of the Directive now. "The very last thing we need is another 'fridge mountain' fiasco, caused by the Government's failure to prepare for the introduction of an EU directive which specified that old fridges must be crushed in special closed units, which capture the CFCs in liquid form so they can be burned and destroyed. The fact that the UK has not yet built any of these units has meant that the fridge mountain is growing by about 6,500 fridges a day."

GMOs

Caroline warmly welcomed a recent vote in the Environment Committee on strengthening labelling and traceability in genetically modified organisms in food and feed. It followed up on many of the Green/EFA Group's demands, including mandatory labelling for GM products irrespective of whether they can be identified by analytical methods or not. It further adopted the proposal to extend traceability and labelling to



products derived from animals which have been fed with GM feed. It also rejected the Commission's proposal to introduce a 1% threshold for the contamination of conventional products with unauthorised GMOs. The reports go to plenary in July and it is expected to be a very close vote. It will then require a Council Common position, which is not expected before the end of the year.

Mobile Phones

Alongside several other MEPs Caroline has submitted a written Declaration on the risks of exposure to electromagnetic fields from radio frequency antennae and mobile telephones. It calls on the European Institutions to produce public awareness raising information on the possible health risks of using mobile telephones, especially their use by young children. It further calls for research to be undertaken in order that citizens can make informed decisions about the use of mobile telephones and that the EU and Member States can adopt informed legislation regarding the siting of masts, especially in densely populated areas and, in particular, near schools. Finally, it calls for clear, visible safety warnings to accompany mobile telephones and related equipment. The Declaration is currently open for MEPs to sign. If the majority of MEPs sign it, it will be officially recorded in the minutes of the Parliamentary proceedings and can be used to trigger a Parliamentary Debate.

Greenfield Development

Caroline took to the streets in Worthing to protest against an 875-home development that would affect ancient woodlands. The group gathered signatures for a petition opposing the development. She said : *"This issue has struck a chord with residents: people were queuing up to sign the petition. This development will lead to a green way becoming a main road. Another important point is that there is no guaranteed funding for the facilities for this estate."* Yet at the same time as greenfield sites are threatened by development, empty homes stand idle. One estimate is that there are seven empty homes for every homeless household in England. *"The Green Party advocates that use of court orders with proper safeguards and rights of appeal to bring empty properties into use."*



Sustainable Cities Seminar on traffic and transport policy

“In September 2002, representatives from a huge range of organisations will gather in Johannesburg to review how well the vision adopted by the first Earth Summit 10 years ago has been realised. This second Summit gives us another chance to decide how we can create a sustainable future for the planet: how we can manage our resources wisely and fairly and how we involve people in the decisions that affect their lives.”

Jean on the World Summit for Sustainable Development 2002

Sustainable Cities Seminars

Sustainable development has been defined as ‘development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ (Brundtland 1987). As our populations become increasingly urban, the ability of cities to expand and develop is ever more important. In order to reflect on London’s progress in this area and develop ideas on how to make improvements, Jean organised a series of seminars from February to April 2002 to discuss some of the most important areas:

- **Reducing Green House Gases**
- **Waste Minimisation - the real challenge**
- **Urban Planning**
- **Traffic, Transport and Air Quality**

The seminars brought together local experts (e.g. Nick Fairholme from **Transport for London** on congestion charges; Julie Hill from **Green Alliance** on waste; Henry Oliver from **CPRE** on Planning), European experts (Isabelle Dussutour from the EU’s **POLIS** programme on transport; Julia Ling from the EU Commission’s Environment Directorate General on planning) and Green experts from other European cities (Charlotta Hedvik from **Stockholm**; Pekka Sauri from **Helsinki**; Annemiek Rijckenberg from **Utrecht**; Eric Quiquet from **Lille City Council**). Each seminar included a visit for the speakers in the afternoon to an example of ‘best practice’ in London. The urban planning speakers, for example, visited the **BedZed** project in south London, an impressive housing and workplace development based on concepts of sustainability, which Jean had visited on an earlier Green Tour, organised by the council. The seminars attracted audiences including local Green Party members, representatives of specialist organisations and other interested parties.

At each meeting the range of experience among the different speakers provided an invaluable overview of the topic. Hearing the successes and failures of different projects and strategies from other cities was inspiring and useful for local practitioners who gained new ideas and information. It was also interesting to gain an insight into the political debates surrounding different issues in other cities from the Green representatives.

This work on urban sustainability in London ties in with other activities Jean has been undertaking at the local, national and European levels (see ‘Sustainability’ section).

Public Consultation and Planning

Jean has done a range of work this year related to issues of planning and democratic decision-making, and has been able to make fruitful links between her work in the European Parliament and at home on this issue.

In response to the **UK Government’s Planning Green Paper**, Jean commissioned a report from the **Environmental Law Foundation** to submit to the Government consultation process. The report analysed whether the Government’s proposed planning reforms comply with the UK’s obligations under EU and international law in relation to community participation. The report finds that the Government’s

“The most frequent complaint made about the planning system by the people at grassroots level is that you can never question the need for the project, only the details. Getting Parliament to decide does not solve that problem: it simply takes us back to the centuries when Parliament decided on the development of which canals and which railways for which companies.”

Jean on the Government’s Planning White Paper

proposals to remove public enquiries would result in less public participation in the planning process, not more, and recommends that the Government deal with these shortfalls. It also reveals areas where the proposals fail to meet obligations under EU Directives regarding public participation and provision of information.

This picked up on an Opinion Jean drew up for the **Petitions Committee** in the autumn of 2001, on public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment. In this Opinion she called for as wide a range of people as possible to be allowed to contribute during planning consultations, and also argued that as smaller groups or individuals do not have the same financial resources as large interest groups, this can result in an imbalance of power which must be addressed. Her Opinion helped lead to Parliamentary support for a greater say for the public in planning permission decisions, and for the alignment of Community law with the **Aarhus Convention**.

At the local level, Jean spoke in March about the impact of EU environmental legislation at a **Redbridge Community Development Agency** conference on sustainable development. She has been vocal on various projects, including **Heathrow Terminal 5**, and has worked closely with local community groups and residents over the past year to fight against plans for a new **Arsenal Stadium** in Islington. Having commissioned her own research into the implications of the proposed development for the public transport system and made formal objections to the planning applications, she addressed over 500 members of the local community to make the case for rejection of the plans. Over the past year, Jean has repeatedly lobbied the Transport Minister on the issue as the campaign continues.

Jean made a formal complaint to the European Commission drawing to their attention to another contested development, at **Spitalfields Market**. She argued that Tower Hamlets Council failed to make a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), a condition of the planning consent, although it is a legal requirement under EU law for certain developments

Jean has also submitted a number of questions to the Commission regarding contested developments in the **Canary Islands**, such as a tourist development project which contravenes a number of EU Directives. She visited the Islands in May with Inger Schörling (Greens, Sweden) to look at the impact of various proposed developments and to support the Canary Island Greens during the Spanish Presidency.

Funding Allocation for Projects and Public Consultation

Last year, Jean continued to support the campaign against the building of a hydroelectric dam in Turkey. The **Ilisu Dam** project threatens to displace thousands of people from their homeland. Early this year, the campaign had dual success. Balfour Beatty joined other major companies involved and pulled out under public pressure. Also, the campaign brought to the public’s attention that the Government had no robust ethical filter behind its selection process for projects to receive **Export Credit Guarantees** (ECGs).

“No other country in Europe would commission a scheme which would evict tens of thousands of people from their homes. The British Government should refuse to underwrite any project that has not been thoroughly assessed for its impact on the environment and the rights of the people most involved.”

Jean on the Ilisu dam project

“My particular perspective concerning asylum, having had contact with many asylum seekers and refugees over the years, is that the EU has an obligation to provide adequate protection to those who need it. For me, it is morally unjustifiable to pursue ‘fortress Europe’ policies which go against the spirit of international agreements and attempt to restrict access firstly to asylum procedures and then to refugee status.”

Jean in an article for the
Parliament Magazine,
March 2002

Since January, Jean has continued to emphasise, with those groups involved in the campaign, the need for such a filter to exist before any project is selected for ECGs. She joined Friends of the Earth, Corner House and the Kurdish Human Rights Project at the House of Commons, speaking on the lessons for export credit reform, corporate governance and regional stability. Following this, Jean was filmed by BBC digital as part of a documentary on the Ilisu dam campaign.

In the spring, the Minister for Trade and Industry formerly announced the opening of a consultation into the ECG **Business Principles** at a meeting with NGOs. Jean welcomes this consultation and looks forward to contributing towards it. She is also working with other European NGOs to deal with the issue at EU level.

Asylum and Immigration

Jean has continued to develop her parliamentary and community work on asylum and immigration over the past year, which has been particularly important given the increasingly emotional debates in the press about the issue and new heavy-handed measures from the government. Jean is the European Parliament’s **Rapporteur** for what will be the linchpin of the EU’s **Common Asylum System**, the **Directive on the qualification of refugee and international protection status** and the rights attendant to each status. The Directive will define who is eligible for refugee status and what rights and benefits they receive with the status, and Jean is using her position as Rapporteur to help ensure that Parliament adopts as humane approach as possible towards refugees.

Jean has also written an Opinion for the **Employment and Social Affairs Committee** on conditions for entry and residence of third country nationals for purposes of employment. This was adopted in May with a comfortable majority, and will be integrated into the **Civil Liberties Committee’s** report. Last autumn she also drew up an Opinion for the same committee on the common immigration policy, in which she stressed that there is a need for workers of all skill levels, not just the highly skilled, and more flexible immigration policies. Jean continues as the **Green/EFA Group’s spokesperson on asylum and immigration**, and is regularly asked by the print and broadcast media to contribute on these issues.

Jean has used these opportunities to build up stronger links with community groups across London, spending one of her ‘constituency weeks’ consulting relevant groups on asylum and refugee issues in order to feed the information into her report. She is now widely known due to her work on the subject and the **UNHCR**, the **Refugee Council**, and others have all been in contact regarding her report. Around the issues of immigration and third country nationals she has made very useful links with organisations that the Greens have previously not had much contact with such as the **Confederation of British Industry and the London Skills Centre**, as well as the **Commission for Racial Equality** and NGOs like the **Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants**. She has also worked with many of these groups on the **UK Nationality, Asylum and Immigration Bill**.

Letters and articles from Jean about her work in this area have been printed in several local and national journals. London radio stations have also picked up on her

Jean meeting Kurdish and Turkish groups at the Halkevi Community Centre Constituency Week.

call for better protection for women asylum seekers. Jean said, *“London’s diversity owes much of its richness to having been a historic home for those fleeing persecution over the centuries. I am working hard to defend this tradition for those who continue to suffer persecution and will do in the future.”*

Jean has been on a number of platforms on asylum and immigration issues, including a **Conference to defend asylum seekers** in Manchester in March. She will be working with various organisations in London during **Refugee Week** (17-23 June). Jean regularly responds to political developments speaking out for example against Blunkett’s call for the closure of **Sangatte**. Following on from her visit to the controversial Sangatte refugee centre near Calais in the autumn, Jean collaborated with four other Green MEPs, at the request of a local support group, to produce a leaflet in seven languages explaining how to claim asylum in France for use at the centre and elsewhere.

Citizenship, Diversity and Human Rights

The controversial film **Injustice**, by London film-maker Ken Fero, follows the campaigns for justice of a number of families who have had a family member die at the hands of the police in the UK. Injustice received a huge amount of publicity in the UK last year following police threats of legal action to cinemas planning to screen the film. This year Jean organised a screening of the film in the European Parliament (attended by the film-maker and relatives of victims shown in the film) with a discussion to raise issues of **police and human rights in Europe**.

The meeting focussed on the need to improve the accountability of European police forces and other possible ways to deal with police problems, receiving significant coverage in the UK and French press. This has become an issue of increasing importance with the development of police and judicial co-operation within the EU. Jean has already been involved in raising some of the questions about common minimum standards through supporting a petition lodged after the police violence at the **G8 Summit in Genoa**. Jean aims to follow up on the Injustice event with a further meeting involving police representatives later in the year.

Jean’s work on human rights issues this year has also included a recent visit to **Slovakia** in order to discuss issues surrounding the situation of **Roma communities** there. She has continued to work with Kurdish groups in London such as the **HADEP Solidarity** campaign and in March spoke to a crowd of over 10,000 people at the Kurdish New Year celebration in Finsbury Park. This June, Jean travelled to **Padua** to speak at the **Italian National Gay Pride Conference** on the role of the EU in promoting human rights in third countries. She has also met with representatives of the **Freedom and Justice for Samar and Jawad** campaign.

In May, Jean was invited to be honorary guest speaker at the **Indian High Commission**. She also was a prize-giver at the **World Punjabi Congress** conference in London, organised by the Punjabi Adabi Cultural Sangat.

Green Party members from around the country convened in Birmingham in March for a meeting organised by Jean to discuss **anti-racism** issues and how the Green Party should address them. The agenda included a review of this year’s events in



Jean at the post-screening discussion of Injustice in the European parliament with the film-maker and relatives of the victims shown in the films.

“When police officers act criminally, they are rarely investigated or punished for their behaviour. This is unacceptable – we have to ensure the police take responsibility for their actions and are not exempt from judicial systems.”

Jean on the showing of Injustice, March 2002

“One of my priorities as a Green member of the world’s only international Parliament is to fight intolerance and discrimination wherever this exists. In drawing attention to the problems facing the Roma before Slovakia is allowed to join the European Union, I hope that our delegation can bring pressure to bear on the Slovakia government to improve its record in this area.”

Jean on her trip to Slovakia, May 2002

Bradford and Oldham, challenges for community development, the role of the BNP, links with ethnic minorities, and how best to respond to national policies. In April, Jean took part in a seminar run by the Institute of Citizenship entitled **Living Together: Towards a Tolerant Europe**, exploring the development of European society in the context of increased multiculturalism. She also maintains her links with various community groups in London, speaking for example at a meeting held in January by the **Muslim Communities of Waltham Forest** to discuss issues facing Muslims in the UK today.

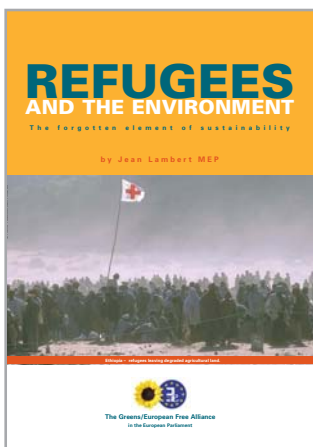
The changed political landscape since the tragic terrorist attacks on September 11th is having worrying implications for human rights and civil liberties, and is being used as a means of implementing bad legislation. Jean has been strongly critical of increasingly tough measures on asylum and immigration, restrictions on civil liberties and reduced judicial safeguards at national and European level which are being justified as part of the fight against the ‘war against terrorism’. These include a **European Arrest Warrant** which Jean and the Green/EFA Group opposed without the necessary safeguards, and she also represented the Group last autumn in coming to an agreement on a proposal aiming to freeze terrorist assets. More recently, she has spoken at a Group event to discuss a strategy on a worrying proposal for a **EU-USA extradition agreement**, which up to now has been ruled out in Europe due to capital punishment being practised in the USA.

Jean has also continued to follow the problems of the **Western Sahara** through Parliament’s Inter-Group, continuing the struggle to hold the long-promised UN referendum. Migration through and from the country is now proving a problem in the Canaries and Jean and Inger Schörling met with a representative of Polisario there to discuss the continuing injustice.

Recently we have seen evidence of the rise of the extreme right across Europe, which takes the form in particular of intolerance towards minority groups and immigrants. Finding an appropriate response to this is something the Greens have to do. The role for a positive leadership is particularly clear. This kind of positive leadership is what Jean aims to provide throughout her work, a leadership which shows that there is fundamental equality.

Refugees and the environment: the forgotten element of sustainability

Jean has recently produced a report **Refugees and the Environment** analysing the relationship between migration and the environment. The report looks at the way we perceive asylum seekers and questions our perception of so-called ‘economic migrants’, showing that in fact many of these people can more accurately be referred to as environmental refugees. It argues that we can no longer afford to ignore the problem of the millions of people across the world who are being forced to migrate due to rapidly increasing environmental problems. Richer countries bear much of the responsibility for the problems, due to trade and investment policies, the way development funds are allocated, and their disproportionate share in the causes of climate change. These countries must accept this responsibility: both by providing



assistance to those affected and addressing the root causes.

The report puts forward the issue of environmental migration as one of the essential elements that needs to be addressed in the debate on sustainable development at the **Rio +10 Summit** in Johannesburg in August.

Sustainability

“Perhaps governments will finally be more responsive when global warming really bites and the waters of the North Sea lap around the Sizewell nuclear power stations or across the Fens.”

“There has to be a fundamental shift in economic paradigms, in the way migration is understood, in the way we comprehend the interdependence of human beings with their natural environment and with each other.”

Jean in her report “Refugees and the environment: the forgotten element of sustainability”, 2002

‘Sustainability’ continues to be a central theme to Jean’s work, and is particularly crucial in the build-up to the **World Summit on Sustainable Development** in Johannesburg this August. As well as the **Sustainable Cities Seminars** (featured on the front page) Jean has built on last year’s work towards the prioritising in Europe of environmental and social sustainability before short-term economic growth and profit. Jean pursued this theme in a plenary speech before the **Barcelona Summit** in March, where she highlighted the incompatibility of non-qualitative growth with sustainability. This theme was developed by Jean in speeches to the Reading International Solidarity Centre conference **From Reading to Johannesburg** and at the **Common Ground Spring Convention** in Cardiff in April.

In May, Jean contributed a speech to a conference in Greece entitled **The Social Face of Sustainability**. Jean’s speech, addressed to the regional authorities from across Europe represented at the conference, outlined the role that sustainability must be given in the future of Europe. Especially as consultations begin on the **European Convention**, making sustainability the central priority is key, and we are still far from achieving this. At the Green Party Spring Conference Jean held a very well-attended workshop around issues of the economy and sustainability in the context of **Local Agenda 21**.

The **Ecology Building Society**, which Jean was involved in setting up in 1981, invited Jean to be the key speaker at their AGM meeting in Wales. Jean spoke about the need to change the frameworks which hinder innovation at grassroots level and how she sees this as part of her job as an MEP.

The **Henry George Foundation** approached Jean this year to write the foreword to their new publication **Towards Sustainable Taxation**. In the foreword she reiterates that *“social justice is a key component of sustainability, as is democratic involvement”*.

Jean also participated in further protests about lack of action on climate change this year, including pickets of **ESSO** petrol stations in London and Brussels with Green Party members.

Energy and Nuclear

Last year, the Petitions Committee (of which Jean is a member) commissioned a report about the **Possible Toxic Effects from the Nuclear Reprocessing plants at Sellafield (UK) and Cap La Hague (France)**. This report, drawn up by experts, was published in October 2001. It found that the two plants did, in fact, pose significant risks to public health. The Petitions Committee (under strong pressure from Jean and



Jean pickets an Esso petrol station

“The government cannot go on ignoring the risks to the health and safety of its citizens at home. UK citizens have a right to know about the risks posed by Sellafield.”

Jean Lambert, May 2002

the Greens) decided to hold a public hearing in the European Parliament to discuss these issues further.

The hearing took place in April this year and brought together concerned citizens from all over Europe, as well as experts in the field. Prior to the hearing, Jean held a press conference in London with Nuala Ahern (Greens, Ireland), where they called on the UK government not to ignore this plea to act regarding Sellafield. Due to their efforts the issue received a significant amount of press coverage, helped by the launch of an Irish campaign against Sellafield at the same time. The report also raises a number of questions for the Commission, which Jean will be pursuing with her Irish colleague.

The promotion of renewable energy sources in London is high on the Greater London Authority’s agenda for next year. Jean is already getting involved locally and has recently taken part in a tour of the **Solar Century centre** in London. Solar Century also took part in Jean’s **Sustainable Cities seminars** in the spring. As of writing, the GLA have opened their energy strategy for London to public consultation, and Jean will be contributing a response to this (see Jean Lambert’s Year Ahead).

Social Issues

As a member of the **Employment and Social Affairs Committee**, these issues remain a constant theme in Jean’s work. Her work continues on **Regulation 1408/71** on the coordination of social security systems in Europe (for which she is Rapporteur), around which she has held numerous meetings this year. As a result of her involvement she was invited to chair an international conference on **The social security of frontier workers in Europe** last autumn to discuss the complexities of the social security arrangements for people who live on one side of a border and work on the other. Jean has also been part of Green/EFA discussions on the question of **labour migration** following the accession of countries such as Poland to the EU. She took part in an expert panel on the subject in the town of Görlitz on the German/Polish border.

This year the Parliament has been discussing a number of issues related to the **liberalisation of public services**. Jean was part of the working group deciding Green/EFA amendments on a report on the liberalisation of postal services. The Green position was the closest of any of the political groups to the Trade Unions’ position. Jean will be following up on this with further work on service liberalisation over the coming year.

Social inclusion, too, remains on Jean’s agenda. This year she continued to represent the Greens/EFA Group on a contact group between Parliament, Council and Commission on a social inclusion action programme aimed at encouraging cooperation between EU countries on the issue. She spoke on topic at the **English Anti-Poverty Network’s AGM**. In the coming year she will be commissioning research into the **UK National Action Plans** on social inclusion and employment and proposing improvements.

“These people deserve equal rights, such as pension rights and the right to vote. Is it really fair that my Swiss neighbour who has lived in London for 20 years, and raised her children here, is not allowed to vote?”

Jean on the rights of Third Country Nationals in the EU

World Peace

Last autumn, Jean spoke out on several platforms against the **war in Afghanistan**. "If we truly believe in the values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law", she said, "we cannot justify indiscriminate slaughter to bring the guilty to arbitrary justice". In October she addressed the **London Region CND** (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) conference against **National Missile Defence** at the University of Westminster. She was also a panel member at a conference organised by the **Conscience Peace Tax Campaign** in Brighton where she talked about government responses to conflict.

Jean speaking from the platform of the annual peace conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

The risk of nuclear war between **India and Pakistan** has increased dramatically over recent months. Drawing on insights gained from her experience of the **annual peace conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki** last August on the occasion of the anniversary of those devastating nuclear bombings, Jean has been working on a Green/EFA Group response to the current situation. The Group will be calling for Pakistan to commit to a non-first use policy and for EU member states to stop all arms exports to the two countries. "That trip to Japan was a powerful reminder of the destruction caused by these abominable weapons and to hear the accounts from the survivors was a truly harrowing experience – one that every political leader should hear," said Jean.

Community Links

An important aspect of Jean's work is the promotion of Equal Opportunities. This year, Jean has continued working with groups in London on this issue. The year 2003 has been designated the **European Year of Disabled Persons**. Jean has discussed this with Central Saint Martins College who are investigating the need for design education to address issues of inclusivity, in order to raise the needs of disabled users within the design process.

Jean continues to support the work of **Greater London Forum for the Elderly**, attending their AGM in the spring. More recently, she supported the **National Pensioner's Convention** in their sending of a delegation to the **World NGO Forum on Ageing** in Madrid. She has also spoken on the topic of 'Employment and older workers' to a local **Age Concern Group**.

Jean joined the Green elected representatives of the GLA at the launch of London's local election campaign. In response to an invitation from Islington Green Party, Jean spoke at the **Green Politics: Does it count?** meeting at the Queensland Multi-Media Arts Centre. She has also worked with Haringey local party to raise the issue of support for small shops and community facilities in the local area.

Finally, Jean has contributed to events organised by community groups and schools. She has addressed students in Newham on the importance of languages, and senior pupils in Camden on Green politics. Most recently, she was invited to host a **Europe Day quiz** at Langley Park School for Girls in Bromley, and enjoyed a discussion group with Sixth Form college students in Croydon.

She has also welcomed various visitors' groups from the UK to the European Parliament over the year.



Jean joins Jenny Jones from the GLA at an event organised by Islington Green Party on the future of Green Politics.

Caroline Lucas MEP – *the coming year*



The year ahead is likely to witness some key decisions about the role and composition of the European Union, with **enlargement** high on the agenda.

Caroline will continue to emphasise the importance of getting this process right, since there is a very real risk that the current process could represent little more than an extension of the free trade project eastwards, with many losers in the applicant countries themselves. The livelihoods of up to 1.5 million Polish farmers, for example, are likely to be destroyed following enlargement, since they will no longer be able to compete with more 'efficient' farmers in the West. At the end of the year, Caroline will be speaking at major conference in Poland on the **future of farming in an enlarged EU**.

At its meeting in Laeken in December 2001, the European Council convened a **Convention on the future of the European Union**. The task of the Convention is to pave the way for the next Intergovernmental Conference, and it will address some key questions, including: what do European citizens expect from the Union? How is the division of competence between the Union and the Member States to be organised? How can the Union's democratic legitimacy be ensured?

However, Caroline will continue to make the case that the Convention must address more than just technical issues. To coincide with the Laeken Summit, Caroline published a report, ***The Future of the European Union: Radical Reform or Business as Usual?*** in which she challenged EU leaders to recognise that the EU institutions are in crisis, and that any new Convention must tackle **not only process issues, but also content**. *"The protests at Gothenburg and the Irish rejection of the Nice Treaty are just two of the more recent examples of the enormous 'disconnection' between the EU institutions and its people. This is more than a simple communications problem which can be remedied by a little more transparency and consultation, as President Prodi would have us believe. It is a problem of substance, not spin, and concerns the very role and direction of the EU itself. What must be addressed is the primary, but damaging, role of the EU in driving economic globalisation via ever greater international competitiveness. This inevitably takes place at the expense of social and environmental concerns. It should therefore be no surprise that the EU is losing popular support, stirring up resentment, and inducing apathy."*

The next 12 months will also see a decision from Tony Blair about whether or not to hold a referendum on the **Single Currency**. Caroline is planning to play a key role in any referendum as part of the **No Campaign**. She will make the case that the Euro is profoundly anti-democratic, taking power further away from local communities and regions.

The outcome of the Johannesburg (Rio Plus 10) meeting in the early autumn ought to be setting the sustainability agenda for next 10 years, but the outlook looks bleak. Caroline will keep trying to push **sustainability** issues higher up the political agenda. Meanwhile in the South East, **transport** issues are likely to continue to dominate. Amongst these is aviation: the government's strategy on the future of aviation in the South East is now expected in the autumn, having been postponed several times. Caroline planning to hold conference on **Airport expansion: Options, Alternatives and Opportunities for Campaigners** to discuss how best to respond to it.

Following the Johannesburg conference, where do we go next in the Sustainability debate? The hopes for constructive change from the Summit look slim at the time of writing and the EU could have a crucial role in moving policy forward. It is increasingly important to look at the interface between economic policy, environmental protection, the social agenda and political decision-making processes. The work of the Convention within the EU provides one such opportunity for a more public debate about the future purpose and constitution of the EU. Will it accept the Johannesburg sustainability challenge? How can Green representatives help to develop public pressure?



Energy efficiency and the promotion of **renewable energy** sources is a high priority for London planners next year. The GLA have released a consultation on London's energy strategy which is due to be completed by the autumn. Jean is taking an active role in this area, not only in responding to the consultation, but also in joining her Green colleagues in the GLA in organising an Energy Conference later in the year on the future of renewables and the necessity of energy conservation.

Also by the autumn, Jean will have commissioned an evaluation of the current European Commission guidelines for the **Employment and Social Inclusion National Action Plans**, with a view to proposing changes and developing a Green action plan in consultation with a wide range of organisations.

In the European Parliament, Jean will be writing her report on the revision of **Regulation 1408/71** on the co-ordination of social security systems across Member States. This, together with the work on the extension of rights to third-country nationals and the development of equal opportunities policies, becomes increasingly important with the likely enlargement of the Union next year. Her work to support the rights and well being of **asylum seekers** will also continue through her work in the UK and in the Parliament.

The **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)** will play a big part in Jean's agenda early next year as she asks London to consider some of the implications for service delivery under the new international agreement. Jean looks forward to working more closely with the trades unions and grassroots organisations in highlighting the far-reaching implications of this agreement. This also links with the current proposals on the provision of services of general interest in the EU.

These are just a few areas that Jean will be developing in the next 12 months. Having been pushed by the Greens for years, the sustainable agenda is becoming increasingly prominent. In the coming years, the Greens in particular have a crucial role to play in moving this agenda forward in all areas of policy making.

About our UK Green MEPs and their staff

Caroline Lucas

Caroline came to Green politics from a background of active campaigning within the **peace movement**, including CND. She is a former **national press officer, co-chair** and **principal speaker** of the party, and in 1993 won the Green's second **county council seat** in the UK, serving on **Oxfordshire County Council** until 1997. Prior to election to the European Parliament, Caroline worked for 10 years for **Oxfam** conducting research and policy analysis on trade, development and environment issues. She is an acknowledged expert on globalisation, and has written extensively on trade issues. Recent publications include *Watchful in Seattle: World Trade Threats to Public Services, Food, and the Environment* (Nov 99), published in the run up to the World Trade Organisation's talks which she attended as part of a Parliament delegation; *The Euro or a Sustainable Future for Britain? A Green Critique of the Single Currency*, with Mike Woodin; *From Seattle to Nice: Challenging the Free Trade Agenda at the Heart of Enlargement* (2000), published before the European Council Meeting; and *Stopping the Great Food Swap: Relocalising Europe's Food Supply* (2001). Her latest Report is entitled *Time to Replace Globalisation* (2000). All publications can be found on her website. Caroline is also patron of the **Oxford Jubilee Debt Campaign**.

Jean Lambert

Jean has been a **Green Party** activist since joining the Party in 1977. She has held several offices including **Chair of the Executive** and **Principal Speaker**. She was an Honorary Member of the Green Group in the European Parliament on the Party's behalf from 1989-92, after the UK Greens gained 15% of the vote, but no seats, in the 1989 elections. In December 2001 she was elected **Vice-President of the Green Group in the European Parliament**. Jean was a founding member of the **Ecology Building Society** and was the first woman to chair a building society board. She is a member of the **300 Group** in the UK, an all-party campaign for more women in public decision-making. She is a member of the Council of **Charter 88**, a constitutional reform organisation campaigning for a modern democracy, and has been involved with **Make Votes Count** since its inception. Jean is an Honorary President of the Human Rights Alliance and a patron of **Europe-Roma** in the UK, as well as a member and supporter of Justice. Locally, she has been active for many years in the **Waltham Forest Race Equality Council**. Jean has published a book on Green Politics, *No Change? – No Chance!* as well as research for the European Commission on the role of women in decision-making in European Parliament Green Parties. Recently, she has published a report entitled *Refugees and the environment – the forgotten element of sustainability*, which can be found on her website. Jean has lived in East London for nearly 30 years and taught for much of that time in local secondary schools.

Support staff

It would be impossible for us to undertake our work without the support of our staff in London and Brussels and we'd like to give heartfelt thanks to our whole team:



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The Green Euro Trust

Members of the European Parliament are given fixed sums each year to finance the cost of their support staff, administrative expenses and for some specific projects. Like Westminster MPs, the funds are given to them personally to spend as they see fit within rules set by the parliament. The Green Party agreed, however, that our MEPs would be assisted by a specially set up Euro Trust which would disburse the money, and undertake the responsibilities expected of a good employer. Membership of the trust includes Jean and Caroline.

The Trust also oversees the arrangement whereby the MEPs donate 10% of their salary to Green Party funds.

Trust membership

The MEPs wish to express their thanks to the members of the Trust:

Emma Hallett (personnel),

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Doug Earl (representing the Party's Regional Council),

Tony Cooper (representing the South East Federation of Green Parties),

John Street (representing the London Federation of Green Parties).

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The London Region

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