

Jean Lambert MEP
8G107, European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
Brussels 1047

12th October 2009

Commissioner Stavros Dimas
Commissioner for the Environment
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
Brussels 1048

Dear Commissioner Dimas,

I am writing to express my grave concern at the news that the United Kingdom has made a formal application for a time extension for Greater London to comply with EU limit values for dangerous airborne particles (PM10). I urge the Commission to reject this application in order to send a strong signal to the UK and other Member States that intentions to comply with air quality limit values need to be backed by substantive policies and meaningful action.

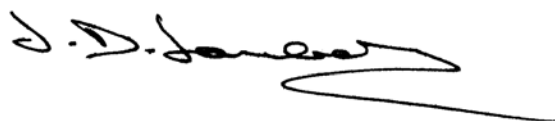
As you are aware, the Mayor of London published his 'Draft Air Quality Strategy' (AQS)¹ on Monday 5th October, however, unfortunately many of the measures proposed in the strategy for addressing transport emissions are unlikely to produce the necessary results.

The strategy reveals that a number of projects remain unfunded and thus highly un-credible (see page 16 of the AQS). Phase 3 of the London Low Emission Zone initiative, which was due to commence in October 2010 has been postponed until 2012 as have proposed measures aimed at reducing the negative impact of London's taxi fleet on the city's air quality (see page 42 of the AQS). The Mayor has also repeatedly stated that the Western Extension of the Congestion Charge will be removed by the end of 2010 with only vague measures being outlined as to how the negative air quality impacts of this move will be mitigated.

From the AQS it is clear that the UK does not have a credible plan to fully comply with EU limit values for PM10 by 11 June 2011 as required by EU law if a time extension is to be obtained. I therefore urge the Commission to seriously consider rejecting the UK's application for a time extension and to begin legal action in order to enforce limit values in the UK.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lambert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jean Lambert MEP.

¹ http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=23879