

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Commissioner Dimas  
DG Environment  
The European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
Brussels B1049  
Belgium

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Dear Commissioner,

I am sure you are aware that the British government is currently consulting with the public about the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport. It will come as no surprise to you, I am sure, that I am opposed to the scheme on the grounds that we need to curb the expansion of aviation in order to bring greenhouse gas emissions under control.

At this stage in the process, I wish to raise one specific issue with you - namely the possibility that the development will breach mandatory EU air quality limit values from 2010. Please would you advise on the process whereby the British government will be required to provide evidence that the expansion of Heathrow does not pose a threat to air quality standards. In addition, please advise on whether or not it is permissible for the development to be given the go ahead if it is likely that future air quality limits, ie not yet in place but known about in advance, will be breached. My primary concern is that the precautionary principle is adopted here and that the expansion of Heathrow is dependent on, among other things, a guarantee that local air quality will not be adversely affected.

I look forward to your assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.