

For immediate release: Monday 18th May 2009

Contact: Sarah Ludford +44 7711 553587 or Rachel Hamburger +44 (0)20 7288 2526 Mobile +44 (0) 7841534466

Government refuses EU money for London jobs – Ludford

The government has prevented the creation of hundreds of jobs in London. It has refused to allow English regions including the capital to apply for a windfall £630m of EU regional funding.

When the EU extended the deadline for regions to apply for unused money from the European Regional Development Fund, the government failed to take up the offer for England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were able to apply in their own right.

Sarah Ludford MEP, number 1 London euro-candidate for the Liberal Democrats, said:

“Londoners have missed out on £32 million of EU support for regeneration, businesses and eco-projects due to the Labour government’s obstruction. This jeopardises the continuation of projects creating much-needed jobs in the capital.”

“It is shocking that this decision comes when families and individuals across London are being hit hard by the recession and credit crunch. They have been refused the opportunity to benefit from extra EU money.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors: see pages 2-3

Notes to Editors:

The European Regional Development Fund finances economic regeneration projects. It covers 50% of a project, and the rest has to come from a public agency or private firm. In London the money is distributed by the London Development Agency.

Projects potentially standing to benefit from deadline extension

Region	Region/Sub Region	Unclaimed amounts (EUR)	Unclaimed amounts (£)	Jobs that could have been created (before counting match funds)
London	Objective 2 London	34,797,519	30,656,614	
London	Stockwell	1,771,788	1,560,945	
LONDON TOTAL		36,569,307	32,217,559	548

Projects that have benefited from ERDF funding since 2000

Region	Area	Funding	Project Details
London	Stockwell and Larkhall	£7m	Alongside £8m match funding, a community-led regeneration scheme created 16 new jobs, improved almost 3000m of public space and assisted 11 new businesses
London	Lee Valley, Thames Gateway and West London	£160m	Including the extension of the Lee Valley Riverside Walk and the Lee Valley Industrial Estates Programme which is providing the Upper Lee with the means to retain growth businesses by improving the availability, desirability and accessibility of premises for SMEs in target areas.
London	North East London	£430,000	Business Use of Renewable Energy Technology project which created 10 jobs and helped local companies obtain energy from renewable sources.
London	Dalston	£564,000	Dalston Culture House as part of the regeneration of the Bradbury Street area of Dalston
London	Bethnal Green	£231,200	Four Corners are creating a centre for film and photography to support creative growth clusters in Hoxton and Spitalfields.

London	Stonebridge	£255,993	As part of a £2.7m project to build a new pavilion for young people living in Stonebridge and including office and training rooms.
--------	-------------	----------	--

-----Inline Attachment Follows-----

--

Printed (dispatched) by credativ Limited, Suite 2 Bloxam Court, Corporation Street, Rugby CV21 2DU. Published and promoted by and on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, 4 Cowley Street, London, SW1P 3NB, (020) 7222 7999.