

Jan van Aken (politician)

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Jan Paul van Aken (born 1 May 1961 in Reinbek) is a German activist for Greenpeace and a politician with the Left Party. He is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in the German Bundestag. Jan van Aken entered the 17th Bundestag in 2009 after he was listed on the Left electoral lists in Hamburg. Since June 2012 he has been a deputy chairperson of the Left Party. He was one of the eight lead candidates for the Left in the 2013 federal election and was therefore also elected to the 18th Bundestag.

Biography

After completing his Abitur in 1982, van Aken studied Biology at the University of Hamburg. During this time, he also participated in the Anti-nuclear movement. After completing his Diplom in Biology in 1989 and his doctorate in 1993, he worked as a scientist at the University of Hamburg. From 1997 to 2009 he was the resident expert on genetic engineering for the environmental organization Greenpeace. Also during this time, from 2004 until 2006, he worked as a biological weapons inspector for the United Nations. His long-standing interest in biological warfare agents had already led him in 1999 to call for their banning as part of the Sunshine Project, which was followed by the establishment of a research institute with similar objectives in 2003. After his return to Hamburg as part of his work with the UN, he joined the Left Party and became, only three years later, the lead candidate of the party in Hamburg during the 2009 German Federal election.

Jan van Aken was ordered in April 2013 by the Lüneburg District Court to pay a fine of 2,250 euros for a "public provocation to commit a crime" because he signed the "*Castor, schottern*" petition calling for the sabotage of railroads in protest against the transport of nuclear waste.^{[1][2]}

From 2009 until 2011 Jan van Aken was the deputy chairperson for the parliamentary faction of the Left Party in the Bundestag, and since 2012, he has been their foreign policy spokesperson.

Footnotes

- Hamburger Abendblatt: "Lüneburger Gericht verurteilt Bundestagsmitglied Jan van Aken" (<http://www.abendblatt.de/region/article115158021/Lueneburger-Gericht-verurteilt-Bundestagsmitglied-Jan-van-Aken.html>). Retrieved 2013-04-10.
- taz: "Verurteilt wegen "Schotter"-Aufrufs" (<http://www.taz.de/Linke-Abgeordneter-Jan-van-Aken/!114298/>). Retrieved 2013-04-10.

Jan van Aken



Jan van Aken, 2013

Member of the Landtag of North Rhine-Westphalia

Incumbent

Assumed office
2009

Personal details

Born	May 1, 1961 Reinbek, Germany
Nationality	German
Political party	Die Linke

External links

- Profile on the Bundestag homepage (http://www.bundestag.de/bundestag/abgeordnete18/biografien/A/aken_jan.html)
- Personal Homepage (<http://www.jan-van-aken.de/>)
- Profile on Representative Watch website (http://www.abgeordnetenwatch.de/jan_van_aken-575-37447.html)
- Profile on the Left website (<http://www.die-linke.de/partei/organe/parteiivorstand/parteiivorstand20122014/mitglieder/akenjanvanstellvertreterparteivorsitzender/>)

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Jan van Aken speaking with Milcah Lalam, the leader of the Sudanese NGO *RECONCILE Peace Institute* in 2010



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