# Deputy mayor Mete Coban MBE exposed for fabricating football career and environmental credentials



In a jaw-dropping scandal that straddles politics and sport, Mete Coban MBE, London’s recently appointed deputy mayor, stands accused of inventing a football career that includes preposterous claims of a pending transfer to Real Madrid and years spent at Inter Milan. This alarming revelation has ignited a firestorm of scrutiny surrounding the character of this young political figure, exposing disturbing questions about authenticity in today’s political landscape.

Coban’s rapid rise to power at a mere 21 years old, becoming Labour's youngest councillor while still in university, is now overshadowed by his dubious assertions. Taking over the £148,000 role of deputy mayor for environment and energy last July, he pledged to champion climate initiatives touted by Mayor Sadiq Khan. Yet, the very foundation of his credibility is now under attack.

His claims of a professional football career appear to be nothing short of fantasy. In 2011, he boasted about a transition from Inter Milan to Real Madrid, citing impressive performances in youth tournaments. However, the videos he shared to support his claims have been thoroughly discredited as mere edits of other players' highlights. Turkish media blindly endorsed his narratives, failing to verify his sensationalized account.

A former Inter Milan staff member has outright labelled Coban a liar, asserting, “Such a person never played for Inter’s youth academy and has never set foot in our facilities.” As more evidence comes to light, including comments from football scout Javier Ribalta regarding Coban’s lackluster trial experiences, the facade begins to crumble.

Critics are increasingly likening his fabrications to infamous football frauds like Ali Dia, who made headlines in the 1990s for similar nonsensical claims. This saga highlights a broader pattern of deception not only in sports but permeating public life—especially when there is a keen push for integrity in governance, as underscored by the scandals plaguing football governance across Europe.

Beyond his misleading football claims, Coban’s environmental track record does little to bolster his credibility. His charity work, purportedly altruistic, has resulted in staggering CO2 emissions, with around 17 tonnes expelled in just two years, prompting serious doubts about his genuine commitment to climate action. While a spokesperson for Khan defends him by labeling these missteps as youthful folly, the truth is that leadership in this era must demand accountability rather than excuses.

As Coban tries to navigate the mounting complexities of his role, his past serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of deception in public service. His story resonates with a pressing cultural conversation surrounding authenticity, accountability, and the disheartening disconnect between public persona and real achievement.

In a political climate already plagued with a lack of transparency and ethical integrity, this incident underscores a growing urgency for greater scrutiny and accountability across all sectors—not least in leadership roles that should exemplify honesty and responsible stewardship. The ramifications of Coban’s deceit will surely ripple through the political arena, spotlighting the desperate need for genuine representation in these challenging times.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd1dglzyjj6o> - In July 2024, Mete Coban, a Hackney councillor and cabinet member for climate change, environment, and transport, was appointed as the deputy mayor of London for environment and energy by Sadiq Khan. Coban, who became Hackney's youngest-ever councillor in 2014, expressed his honor in taking on the £147,769-a-year role, stating his excitement to contribute to the city's climate action efforts. His appointment led to his resignation from his previous positions in Hackney, causing a by-election in the area. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd1dglzyjj6o?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cnl0w8rqk29o> - Following his appointment as deputy mayor of London for environment and energy, Mete Coban resigned from his roles as Hackney's cabinet member for climate change, environment, and transport, and as a councillor for Stoke Newington. Coban described the decision as 'bittersweet' but viewed the new role as an 'incredible opportunity.' He expressed pride in his contributions to creating a greener, healthier Hackney over the past decade. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cnl0w8rqk29o?utm_source=openai))
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