

The People's Movement campaigns against any measures that further develop the EU into a federal state and to defend and enhance popular sovereignty, democracy and social justice in Ireland.

Referenda on EU Constitution – the present situation

The European Council adopted the final text of the Constitutional Treaty on 18 June 2004. The Treaty was signed on 29 October 2004. Starting on this date, the member states had, in principle, two years for its ratification, with the ratification process varying from member state to member state depending upon whether direct democracy (via a popular referendum) or parliamentary democracy is favoured.

Spanish voters approved the treaty in a consultative referendum on 20 February. In a referendum held on 29 May, French voters rejected the terms of the treaty with a 'no' vote of 55.6%. Dutch voters followed suit in a consultative vote on 1 June, with 61.8% of the turnout voting against the treaty.

Two weeks after the failed referenda on the EU Constitution in France and the Netherlands, the EU summit decided that the referenda would be put on hold in countries that had chosen to put the ratification of the treaty to a public vote. The Constitution can take effect only if all twenty-five member states ratify it. To date, fourteen nations have ratified the document: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Country	Will there be a referendum?	When / What is the state of play	Major EU-related referenda
Austria	No	Ratified by national parliament. Lower house voted in favour of ratification on 11 May by 181 votes to 1. Upper house completed ratification process on 25 May. Eighth country to ratify Treaty.	1994 - EU membership
Belgium	No	Ratified on 8 February 2006 by Belgium's regional parliaments. Fourteenth member state to ratify the Treaty.	
Cyprus	No	Ratified by Parliament on 30 June 2005. Eleventh nation to ratify the Treaty.	
Czech Republic	On hold	Plans to hold a referendum in June 2006 alongside the national general election have been postponed indefinitely following the French and Dutch 'no' votes.	June 2003 - EU membership
Denmark	On hold	Referendum scheduled for 27 September 2005 has been cancelled following 'no' votes in France & the Netherlands.	1972 - EC membership 1986 - Single European Act 1992 - Treaty of Maastricht 1993 - Treaty of Maastricht (with opt-outs) 1998 - Treaty of Amsterdam 2000 - EMU membership
Estonia	No	Will seek ratification through parliament later this year.	September 2003 - EU membership
Finland	No	Ratification through parliament has been provisionally scheduled for late 2005 - early 2006.	1994 - EU membership
France	Yes - second country to hold a referendum.	29 May 2005 Outcome of referendum: 55% 'no' 45% 'yes'. Voter participation: 70%. Treaty rejected.	1972 - EC enlargement 1992 - Treaty of Maastricht
Germany	No	Approved by German parliament's lower house, the Bundestag on 12 May and German parliament's second chamber, the Bundesrat on 27 May. Ninth country to ratify the Treaty.	

Greece	No	Ratified by parliament on 19 April 2005 by 268 votes to 17. Fifth country to ratify the Treaty.	Tradition of ratifying treaties by parliament
Hungary	No	Ratified by parliament on 20 December 2004. Second country to ratify the Treaty.	April 2003 - EU membership
Ireland	On hold	A binding referendum provisionally scheduled for October 2005 has been postponed indefinitely after the results of the French and Dutch referenda.	1972 - EC membership 1987 - Single European Act 1992 - Treaty of Maastricht 1998 - Treaty of Amsterdam 2001 - Treaty of Nice 2002 - Treaty of Nice
Italy	No	Lower chamber ratified the Constitution in January 2005. The senate completed approval by a substantial majority of 217 votes to 16 on 6 April 2005. Fourth country to ratify the Treaty.	
Latvia	No	Ratified by parliament on 1 June 2005. Tenth country to ratify the Treaty.	September 2003 - EU membership
Lithuania	No	Ratified by parliament on 11 November 2004. First country to ratify the Treaty.	May 2003 - EU membership
Luxembourg	Yes - fourth country to hold a referendum.	10 July 2005 Outcome of referendum: 56.5% 'yes', 43.5% 'no'. Thirteenth country to ratify the Treaty.	
Malta	No	Ratified by the Maltese parliament on 6 July 2005. Twelfth country to ratify the Treaty.	March 2003 - EU membership
Netherlands	Yes - third country to hold a referendum	1 June 2005 Outcome of referendum: 61.8% 'no', 38.2% 'yes'. Voter participation: 62%. Treaty rejected in a consultative vote.	

Poland	On hold	Original plans for a referendum on 9 October 2005 to coincide with the Presidential election have been suspended. On 5 July the Polish lower house voted against taking a decision on how to ratify the Constitution.	June 2003 - EU membership
Portugal	On hold	Original plans to hold a referendum on 9 October 2005 to coincide with local elections have been suspended following failed referenda in France and the Netherlands.	
Slovak Republic	No	Ratified by parliament on 11 May 2005 by 116 votes to 27 with 4 abstentions. Sixth country to ratify the treaty.	May 2003 - EU membership
Slovenia	No	Ratified by parliament on 1 February 2005. Third country to ratify the treaty.	March 2003 - EU membership
Spain	Yes - first country to hold a referendum	20 February 2005 Outcome of referendum: 76.73% 'yes', 17.24% 'no'. Voter participation: 42.32%. Approved by parliament's lower house on 28 April and upper house on 19 May. Seventh country to ratify the Treaty.	
Sweden	Undecided	Tradition of holding referenda only when there are splits within the parties (eg on EMU). Decision on whether to proceed with ratification process has been delayed.	1994 - EU membership 2003 - EMU membership
United Kingdom	On hold	Original plans to hold a referendum in 2006 were cancelled on June 6 following French and Dutch noes.	1975 - EC membership

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