

How different are Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and Labour?

Remember the promises that all three made in order to engineer a Yes vote in the second Lisbon referendum? It would be “jobs and investment all the way!”

Where are the jobs now?

Not in Ireland for the 400,000 unemployed—maybe in some other country for the 50,000+ young people who will have to emigrate this year. Remember the EU-IMF stitch-up of last November? Under it, Irish banks get money to pay back European banks that had gambled by lending to them for the “Celtic Tiger” boom—and lost. So we bail out the banks.

How did we get into this state?

In 1999 Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Labour Party were enthusiasts for joining the euro. Result: Ireland halved its interest rates, thereby fuelling the borrowing binge that bankrupted the banks. So they all share the blame for the disastrous decision that is the principal cause of our present crisis.

Second most disastrous decision

This was the guarantee of the bank debts by Fianna Fáil, the Green Party and Fine Gael when there was no legal obligation for such a measure, nor for taking €15 billion out of our National Pension Reserve Fund to give to the banks for nothing. Now we’re paying the price.

PEOPLE’S MOVEMENT
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Would a new Fine Gael-Labour Government make a difference?

No. Logically there are only two courses open to a new Government:

- Pay off the debt with policies that stimulate real economic growth—impossible under the regime imposed on us by the European Union, European Central Bank, and International Monetary Fund. In the meantime we are condemned to austerity and hardship, in the interests of a parasitic clique of Irish and European bankers and financiers.
- Default, leave the euro zone, and re-establish national monetary independence.

The question for the new Government is how much pain it is prepared to inflict on the Irish people to keep the discredited euro project in existence.

The question for us is how much we are prepared to put up with before we say,

“We can’t pay, and we won’t pay.”

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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.

Patrons: Robert Ballagh, Cllr Declan Bree, Cllr Catherine Connolly, Raymond Deane, Rev. Terence P. McCaughey, Prof. John Maguire, Dervla Murphy, Joe Noonan, Cllr Seosamh Ó Cuaig, Cllr Chris O’Leary, Cllr Cieran Perry, Cllr Thomas Pringle.

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