

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.

## Lisbon would further militarise the EU!

The Treaty of Lisbon requires EU member-states “to progressively improve their military capabilities” (Treaty on European Union, article 42.3). It introduces a “start-up fund” for common foreign policy and military operations, to be financed by member-states outside the Union budget and to be set up by qualified majority voting (TEU, article 41.3). It contains an article (42.7) that the current Slovenian EU presidency has acknowledged is a “mutual defence clause.” The president of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, also referred to this in a speech on the Lisbon Treaty on 4 December 2007, saying of the treaty: “It will introduce a mutual defence clause.”

The wording of this clause is very similar to NATO's mutual defence commitment: “If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all means in their power.” This is a new departure for the European Union and would commit all member-states, including Ireland.

This commitment to an EU “mutual defence” under Lisbon needs to be distinguished from the obligation to participate in an EU “common defence,” i.e. a common EU army with joint EU officers on the lines of the present Franco-German brigade, which the Treaty on European Union (article 42.2) states that the “progressive framing of a common Union defence policy will lead to.”

Irish participation in such a common EU army would seem to be precluded by the Irish constitutional amendment that was adopted in 2002 to enable the Nice Treaty to be ratified (the 26th Amendment of the Constitution Act). The Government is taking this out of the Constitution and putting it back in again by means of the 28th Amendment of the Constitution Bill, presumably to give Irish voters the impression that it is doing something new to meet public concerns over this aspect of the treaty.

The Lisbon Treaty would also allow sub-groups of member-states to make more binding military commitments to one another with a view to “the most demanding missions” on behalf of the European Union, without a requirement of a United Nations mandate for such missions (TEU, articles 42.6 and 46).

**Patrons:** Robert Ballagh, Ald. Declan Bree, Cllr Neil Clarke, Raymond Deane, Cllr Betty Doran, Tony Gregory TD, Rev. Terence P. McCaughey, Finian McGrath TD, Prof. John Maguire, Cllr Bronwen Maher, Dervla Murphy, Joe Noonan, Cllr Chris O'Leary.

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.

## Lisbon would further militarise the EU!

The Treaty of Lisbon requires EU member-states “to progressively improve their military capabilities” (Treaty on European Union, article 42.3). It introduces a “start-up fund” for common foreign policy and military operations, to be financed by member-states outside the Union budget and to be set up by qualified majority voting (TEU, article 41.3). It contains an article (42.7) that the current Slovenian EU presidency has acknowledged is a “mutual defence clause.” The president of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, also referred to this in a speech on the Lisbon Treaty on 4 December 2007, saying of the treaty: “It will introduce a mutual defence clause.”

The wording of this clause is very similar to NATO's mutual defence commitment: “If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all means in their power.” This is a new departure for the European Union and would commit all member-states, including Ireland.

This commitment to an EU “mutual defence” under Lisbon needs to be distinguished from the obligation to participate in an EU “common defence,” i.e. a common EU army with joint EU officers on the lines of the present Franco-German brigade, which the Treaty on European Union (article 42.2) states that the “progressive framing of a common Union defence policy will lead to.”

Irish participation in such a common EU army would seem to be precluded by the Irish constitutional amendment that was adopted in 2002 to enable the Nice Treaty to be ratified (the 26th Amendment of the Constitution Act). The Government is taking this out of the Constitution and putting it back in again by means of the 28th Amendment of the Constitution Bill, presumably to give Irish voters the impression that it is doing something new to meet public concerns over this aspect of the treaty.

The Lisbon Treaty would also allow sub-groups of member-states to make more binding military commitments to one another with a view to “the most demanding missions” on behalf of the European Union, without a requirement of a United Nations mandate for such missions (TEU, articles 42.6 and 46).

**Patrons:** Robert Ballagh, Ald. Declan Bree, Cllr Neil Clarke, Raymond Deane, Cllr Betty Doran, Tony Gregory TD, Rev. Terence P. McCaughey, Finian McGrath TD, Prof. John Maguire, Cllr Bronwen Maher, Dervla Murphy, Joe Noonan, Cllr Chris O'Leary.