

If we Vote **NO** nothing changes!

- * Ireland will not be thrown out of the EU
- * Farm payments will not cease
- * The Germans will not take back our motorways
- * The world will not end

Embarrassed Irish politicians will merely have to go to Brussels and report that the Irish people refused to behave in the expected sheep-like manner and actually voted 'No'.

In fact to **Vote NO** in an informed and concerned manner says a lot more for the intelligence of Irish voters and their respect for democracy.

Ireland is the only EU state out of 27 where the people have a vote on the Lisbon Treaty. The decision we make will impact on ourselves, our families, our communities - and 500 million of our fellow European Citizens!

More information on the Peoples Movement and the Lisbon Treaty at:

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PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
GLUISEACHT AN PHOBAIL



The Peoples 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, Alderman Declan Bree, Cllr Neil Clarke, Raymond Deane, Cllr Betty Doran, Tony Gregory TD, Prof. John Maguire, Cllr Bronwen Maher, Rev. Terence P. McCaughey, Finian McGrath TD, Patricia McKenna, Dervla Murphy, Joe Noonan.

Take a Stand - Demand a Better Deal!

Vote **No** to
the Lisbon Treaty

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What will the Lisbon Treaty Mean for Rural Ireland?



The government that we as a nation elected - just one year ago - now treat the people like idiots and refuse to supply us with facts regarding a treaty which **WILL** be our last chance to make our voice count on issues which will affect how we govern ourselves.

They refuse even to give us sight of the actual treaty, a copy of which *should* be delivered to every home in the state.

Politicians on the 'Yes to Lisbon' side constantly argue that we voted to join the EEC in 1973 and since then agriculture in Ireland has received 40 billion euros from the EU.

In fact what the Irish people voted for then was a European ECONOMIC Community, not a huge bureaucratic superstate building up its own army to intervene in world politics.

In 1973 there were 300,000 farmers in Ireland. 35 years later there are just over 100,000. Small mixed family farms have all but disappeared and only a lucky few can make an income and raise a family solely from the land.

Please dispose of this leaflet carefully, do not litter. Or pass it on to another voter. Thank You.

EU 'Democracy' and World Trade

Already the interests of world trade and the EU has seen the total and complete destruction of the Irish sugar industry - workers and farmers dismissed as surplus to requirements in the rush for profits. The Irish government did not save the sugar industry, why should we believe that our beef or dairy farms are safe in their hands?

The World Trade talks - with British EU Commissioner Peter Mandelson representing the interests of the EU - is currently attempting to dismantle the Common Agricultural Policy.

If the WTO proposals are passed the EU will be flooded with cheap, low or non tariff meat, dairy products and poultry from throughout the world. The implications for the incomes of Irish producers are obvious, but there are also health and safety risks, as well as concerns for the rights of landless labourers and workers in the producing states.

Article 10a of the Lisbon Treaty calls for a world economy and the end of all restrictions on international trade. The Treaty gives the European Central Bank the task of maintaining 'price stability'.

The main factor resulting in price inflation are food prices, hence the need for an uncontrolled free international market to ensure the lowest price for foodstuffs. Economic projections like these favour commodity brokers and corporate ranchers, not the actual food producers at local level. They will

lead to a further flight from the land and a loss of up to 50,000 jobs in the animal feedstuff and food processing sectors.

This is why it does not matter if the Agriculture Minister creates some 'Yes' spin as a result of meeting with Mandelson and presenting a fudge to get farmers behind the 'Lisbon Agenda'.

What matters is that the seeds of the future EU destruction of Irish agriculture are sown within the Lisbon Treaty itself and the only way to delay it is to Vote No.

Genetically Modified Foods

In 1999 Austria imposed a national ban on the importation and production of GM maize. The European Commission attempted to challenge the ban on the basis of an existing Directive. In 2006 the Commission sought to overturn the ban on importation only.

At the Environmental Council meeting in December last year Austria sought to defend their position, but lost a Qualified Majority Vote and now faces the prospect of having their national import ban - supported by the Austrian people - lifted by the European Commission.



Irish Law or EU Directive?

Over 80% of Ireland's domestic laws now come from the EU, the Dail just rubber stamps decisions already made in Brussels.

A good example is the recent debate about the **water charges** forced on schools, which is an EU imposed extra tax. The Irish government admitted that they are powerless to stop the ridiculous situation where schools have to pay for their water, like commercial businesses.

Farmers already have to pay for water for agricultural use and everyone will have to pay domestic water charges by 2010. Politicians and councils are attempting to keep this under wraps due to the upcoming local elections in 2009. It should be made a major issue in those elections, but it will be fobbed off as being an EU Directive that cannot be opposed.

We have also seen the effective **banning of family turf cutting** on bogs, again due to an 'EU Habitat Directive'. 2008 will be the last year turf will be permitted to be cut on many bogs in the Midlands and the West. This ban relates to small family owned turf banks, not to the massive industrial peat harvesting of Bord Na Mona. Families will be put the extra expense - and much greater environmental damage - of using imported oil, coal or other fuels. This same Directive also bans the grazing of sheep in certain mountain and hill areas.

There have been several calls on the Irish government to provide extra funding for **rural Post Offices** to ensure these essential public services remain open. However Protocol 6 of the Lisbon Treaty mandates the EU to ensure that "competition is not distorted" in the open market. This gives the EU a mandate to remove "distortions" from the provision of services. Such "distortions" could include state aid, public funds, protective markets, health, environmental and workers' rights regulations and state "monopolies". This means that the postal system - and many other public services - cannot be protected for the public good.

The Lisbon Treaty gives 105 additional powers to the EU on issues such as international relations, security, trade and economic policy. In 68 of these areas Ireland will lose our right to stop laws not in our national interest (the 'veto'). Lisbon cuts our voting strength on the Council of Ministers by more than half and ends Ireland's automatic right to a Commissioner.

This could have very serious consequences in the future. We should refuse to give the EU a blank cheque on the future of our families and our country.