

## **There is no “right to work” in the European Union**

In this state, jobs are being lost at the rate of 6,417 per month, or 1,481 per week. 89,000 people are in long-term unemployment. Insolvencies are 25 per higher than this time last year.

This represents the deepest and swiftest collapse of a modern western economy since the Great Depression.

What can an Irish Government do to tackle this national disaster when it has no control over our rate of interest or our currency exchange rate?

In the euro zone, Ireland has lost the classic economic tools of all independent governments that seek to advance their people's welfare.

So that is why the investment and the “Lisbon” jobs promised last October by Fianna Fáil, the Green Party, Fine Gael, the Labour Party and their cronies in business organisations and the trade unions never materialised.

These promises were nothing more than a political con to engineer a Yes to Lisbon vote.

Now Government and opposition are engaged in a different type of con. They are trying to pretend that this country can deal with the economic crisis without addressing its membership of the euro zone and ultimately its membership of the European Union.

The concept of “Social Europe” has been more about selling the EU project than about addressing issues such as the “right to work.”

There is no “right to work” enshrined in any of the treaties of the European Union, from the Treaty of Rome to the Lisbon Treaty.

The Rome Treaty established the European Economic Community on the classic “free” market principles of “free movement of goods, persons, services and capital.” It did not guarantee a “right to work.”

The relevant article of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is article 15. This does not mention a “right to work” either.

The thrust of the EU integration process is to erode as much of the democracy and independence as states like Ireland possess.

Two-thirds of our laws are enacted by the European Union, with the Irish people having only a minor say in determining them. How does this square with any claim to “the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies”?

We have lost the right to sign trade treaties with other states, and have a legal obligation to work towards a common foreign and security policy. Is this “the unfettered control of Irish destinies”?

How independent is a country that has a legal obligation to progressively improve its “military capabilities”? How sovereign is our parliament when it must “contribute actively to the good functioning of the Union”?

How free are Irish citizens, owing as we do obedience to the laws of the EU and loyalty to its authority, over and above our obligations as citizens of Ireland, in the event of any conflict between the two?

Having to obey laws made mostly by others means being ruled by others. It is the opposite of a country being independent, sovereign, and democratic.

Read *People's News* at [www.people.ie](http://www.people.ie).