

Annual General Meeting

9 May 2009

Resolutions passed

1. That this AGM instructs the incoming executive to formulate and publicise a policy in relation to the negative effects of the EU on the Irish economy and in particular how the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty would compound such negative effects.

2. Conference condemns the provision in the Lisbon Treaty that would allow the EU to impose a tax regime on the Irish people through both direct and indirect methods and instructs the incoming Committee to lay particular emphasis on this aspect of the Treaty during the forthcoming referendum campaign.

3. That this conference considers the recent decision by Government to close down the National Forum on Europe, just months before its planned second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, a further attempt to suppress open and balanced debate on the EU. The People's Movement believe that Government proposals to replace the forum with a Joint Oireachtas Committee dominated by one political viewpoint on the Lisbon Treaty is an affront to the democratic process and displays total contempt for the process of amending our Constitution – a document our political establishment are subservient to.

The People's Movement is extremely concerned by the recent calls by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Constitution that our broadcasting legislation requiring equal coverage to the Yes and No sides in referenda should be changed. The People's Movement pledge to oppose any attempt to dilute the constitutional powers of the people of Ireland to have the final say as enshrined in Bunreacht na hÉireann and will demand that any such changes be put to the people in a referendum.

4. Conference notes that the EU commitment 'to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010' is further away than ever and calls for social justice and combating poverty to be core objectives of future European co-operation and in any new treaty negotiations.

5. Conference resolves to confirm People's Movement as a permanent EU-critical forum following the forthcoming referendum; to develop policies on various aspects of the EU on an on-going basis and to promulgate these policies as widely as possible in order to foster an EUcritical climate in Ireland.

6. This Conference notes and rejects the climate change article (Article 174) contained within the Lisbon Treaty, given that it makes no substantive changes to EU competence on climate change, that it only commits to ‘promoting measures’ and is effectively irrelevant to the vital issue of climate change.

This Conference also objects to the EU’s support for the nuclear industry as a way to tackle climate change as this would bring about an increased use of nuclear power across EU member states with all its economic, environmental, health and safety consequences.

This Conference therefore calls upon all Irish non-governmental organisations who campaign on environmental, development, social and justice issues and whose focus or interest incorporates the issue of climate change to reject the Lisbon Treaty due to its weak stance on climate change, to call publicly for a ‘No’ vote in a second referendum and to encourage their memberships and supporters to ‘Vote No’ in a second referendum.

7. This AGM notes the detrimental effect of the Laval etc. cases on workers’ rights in the EU and calls for the addition of a social protocol to the Lisbon Treaty prior to the forthcoming referendum.

8. Noting, that current estimates forecast that Ireland will experience the sharpest fall in economic growth of any industrialised country since the great depression and that unemployment will top 13% this year, rising to 17% in 2010, and that the economy is expected to contract by 14% in the three years 2008 to 2010.

Believing,

that the present policy of Ireland’s mainstream politicians will lead to economic bankruptcy and in particular that Ireland’s banks are fundamentally insolvent without continual infusions of Irish taxpayers’ money and that Irish businesses and households are being starved of credit in order to keep the banks alive at taxpayers expense.

And further believing,

that the same political elements who are pursuing policies that will lead to economic bankruptcy are also following a course that will lead to political bankruptcy as well. They are banking on a climate of fear resulting from the savage economic contraction operating to dragoon voters into voting for the Lisbon Treaty in a second referendum later this year.

Therefore resolves to actively campaign:

To expose the political bankruptcy of a 2nd referendum on the Lisbon Treaty and the economic bankruptcy of the bank bailout by showing that the Lisbon Treaty, rather than representing an alternative to the unregulated financial liberalisation that created the present crisis in fact would give neo-liberalism a quasi-constitutional status within the European Union and the bailout would put Irish taxpayers into hock indefinitely for the benefit of the Banks that were the main instrument of the crisis, the builders and developers to whom the Banks lent money and the politicians who established the administrative-political framework for the borrowing binge; and,

To seek public support for the establishment of one or more state banks to carry on the essential function of credit provision to Irish business and households, capitalised by public money as well as the currently state-guaranteed deposits in existing private banks and free of the dud and artificially inflated assets which clog up lending by these same private banks. This will free the State to withdraw its guarantee of the liabilities of all existing banks which it was folly to have agreed to last September and which was carried through by largely the same handful of politicians as also champion the reversal of last June’s decision of Irish voters on the Lisbon Treaty.

- 9.** Conference highlights the deficiencies in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and demands that the Irish government to seek a protocol to the Lisbon Treaty in order to redress these deficiencies.

- 10.** Noting the increasing Irish involvement in the evolving EU army, this meeting calls on all Irish political parties to adopt a policy of absolute military neutrality as being the most beneficent course for Ireland.

- 11.** Conference resolves to organise a campaign to repatriate control of our fisheries.

- 12.** This AGM calls on the incoming Committee to institute a system of affiliation for supporting organisations.

- 13.** This, the first AGM of People's Movement, instructs the incoming Committee to immediately begin the process of setting up a branch in Northern Ireland.

- 14.** Conference noting that successive Irish governments have ignored the will of the people expressed at referendum, this conference adopts the promotion of the principle of a popular referendum as an expression of direct democracy to be part of Peoples Movement policy.