

20/02/2008

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTE DEMONSTRATES E.U. INSTITUTIONS'
DISRESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY**

Former Green Party MEP Patricia McKenna has express outrage at today's vote in the European Parliament to ignore the outcome of the Irish referendum.

By a huge majority (499 to 129) European MEPs, including Irish MEP Proinsias De Rossa, rejected a motion calling for the European Parliament to respect the outcome of the referendum in Ireland.

Ms. McKenna said: 'Today's decision by such a vast majority of MEPs to ignore the outcome of the Irish referendum displays total disregard for the principles of democracy and the democratic process itself. This is one of the best examples yet of how democracy and the rights of EU citizens are ignored in order to facilitate the agenda of the powerful elite in Europe. I find it frightening that members of the European Parliament who are elected by the people to serve the people voted today voted to ignore the fundamental rights of those same people.'

It is ironic that most supporters of the Lisbon Treaty are using the Charter of Fundamental Rights as justification for supporting the Treaty, however those very same people are willing to trample one of the most basic fundamental rights of citizens into the ground in order to get their own way. The right to a free and fair vote and the right to have your vote respected are paramount to any so-called democracy.

Today's vote, which demonstrates the growing contempt within EU institutions for basic democratic principles, is clear proof that voting Yes to the Lisbon Treaty will not strengthen but in fact weaken European democracy.'

[ENDS]

For further Information

Patricia McKenna – 087 2427049

Frank Keoghan – 087 2308330