



Press Statement

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TAOISEACH MISREPRESENTING GREEN PARTY POSITION ON LISBON TREATY

Former Green Party MEP Patricia McKenna has accused the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, of misrepresentation regarding the Green Party's position on the Lisbon Treaty.

Ms McKenna was reacting to a statement by Mr Ahern at last night's launch in Dublin of the 2008 Bruce Shaw Handbook, a guide to the construction and property industry, when the Taoiseach urged his audience of business people: 'Please advise your staff of all political persuasions that all sensible political parties in this country – which are Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour, the Greens, who are joining us for the first time in voting for Europe, the Progressive Democrats – are all for it'.

McKenna said: 'To claim that the Green Party is in favour of the Lisbon Treaty is utterly false and misleading and Mr Ahern knows this quite well. Green Party members, despite massive pressure from Government, did not vote to adopt a policy in favour of the Lisbon Treaty. While Mr Ahern may have succeeded in getting Greens in the Dáil and Seanad on side, the party has no official position and is not as he says "for it". It would appear that stretching the truth and distorting reality has become a compulsive habit for the Taoiseach. He has been allowed to run rings around the truth for so long that it has now become a way of life for him.'

She went on to say: 'The Taoiseach's derogatory reference to those campaigning against the Lisbon Treaty as "loo-las" is an indication that he is unwilling and unable to debate the issue and instead resorts to abuse. His reference to the Green Party as one of the "sensible political parties" illustrates his assumption that if you agree with him you are sensible but if you disagree then you are a "loo-la"'.

'Many long-time Green Party members and activists including myself are actively campaigning for a No vote and Mr Ahern will just have to accept the fact that not all Green

Party members or supporters are going to roll over and obey him. We will actively campaign for what we believe is right and in the best interests of an open, democratic and demilitarized Europe' she concluded.

[ENDS]

For further Information

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