

15 May 2008

MEP De Rossa under attack for failing to support Irish Lisbon vote

Dublin MEP, **Proinsias De Rossa** came under strong attack at the National Forum on Europe in Dublin Castle today for his failure earlier this year to support the Irish people's decision in the forthcoming referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

Groups campaigning for a No vote on the Lisbon Treaty challenged Mr De Rossa to explain his decision to vote against a proposal calling for respect of the outcome of the Irish referendum. In February this year the European Parliament voted by a huge majority – 499 to 129 MEPs, including Proinsias De Rossa – to reject an amendment to a report on the Lisbon Treaty stating that *'The European Parliament undertakes to respect the outcome of the referendum in Ireland'*.

The former Green Party MEP **Patricia McKenna** said today, "As a member of the European Parliament for ten years I was shocked that so many MEPs voted to ignore the outcome of the Irish referendum. It demonstrated a gross disrespect for democracy and was a slap in the face to the people who elected Mr De Rossa to the European Parliament. The excuses given by Mr De Rossa are illogical and don't stand up to scrutiny."

McKenna said "Voting to ignore the outcome of the Irish referendum displays a total disregard for the principles of democracy and the democratic process itself and is one of the best examples yet of how democracy and the rights of EU citizens are being 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 to ignore the fundamental rights of those same people.

It is ironic, that most supports 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.

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

[ENDS]

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