

10 June 2008

LISBON: PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO SAY NO

The following is a final campaign statement by the People's Movement at their press conference in Dublin today. The press conference was chaired by independent TD Tony Gregory and participants included, Senator David Norris, Finian McGrath TD, Cllr Bronwen Maher, former TDs Joe Higgins & Dr. Jerry Cowley, Cllr Declan Bree, Robert Ballagh and Patricia McKenna.

Irish voters do have the right to say 'no' to the Lisbon Treaty if they wish. The threats and bullying by the powerful EU leaders is a disturbing interference in our decision making process demonstrating the lengths the political elite will go to get their own way. These threats are just that, empty threats. If we vote 'no' nothing will change, we will still be full members of the EU and will not be isolated as is claimed. This is not about being In or Out of Europe but about the type of Europe we want.

Yesterday on liveline, it was repeatedly said, "If you don't know, vote NO". The Lisbon treaty is confusing, this is not by accident, it is deliberately so as the architects have openly admitted and planned it to be.

The reason for this is simple; the political elite of Europe want to bring into force the failed EU constitution that takes Europe in a new direction without the knowledge or approval in referendums of the Peoples of Europe.

In Ireland the treaty is being sold as a necessary "tidy up" that is needed to make Europe more democratic & efficient this is a lie. This hard sell is coming from an unholy alliance of some of the most incompetent politicians in Europe and vested interests that are being

supported by public figures who have been bought and paid for through political appointments.

In recent weeks our democracy has witnessed elements of the media abandon all pretence of journalism in an open attempt to sell this constitutional treaty.

The Referendum Commission we now know has been receiving it's legal advice from a law firm that provides services to those campaigning for a YES vote while the public information campaign is being run by consultants who were appointed by a tender offered by the department of foreign affairs. Despite this the recent opinion polls have shown the people are rightly suspicious that the Lisbon treaty is a step too far, whereby too much power will be handed over to the unelected bureaucracy in Brussels. Lisbon provides the framework for moving the EU from an economic community to a political union.

This new EU is designed not for the benefit of its 490 Million people; Lisbon is designed to facilitate the privatisation of public services and the militarisation of Europe.

With panic now setting in the hard sell has turned from a con job to the bullying of the Irish people by both local and EU politicians. This referendum has exposed a democratic deficit not just in Ireland but also across the EU where the political elite and their supporters are increasingly held in contempt.

Many people cannot understand or believe that our politicians would want to give up so much of their remaining power, as this is normally an unnatural act for politicians, but for those that have run out of ideas and vision it is a completely natural act.

The Irish people are now the only people who can defend the European project and protect Irish sovereignty, a no vote will not provoke a "crisis" in Europe, a no vote provides the basis of a cure for the EU's democratic deficit, We believe that on June 12th the Irish nation will speak for the people of Europe who have been silenced and in doing so reclaim the EU for the people of Europe.

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