

14 June 2008

LISBON TREATY IS DEAD – TAOISEACH MUST RESPECT THE RESULT OF REFERENDUM

Yesterday our Taoiseach Brian Cowen said “the will of the people as expressed at the ballot box is sovereign. The Government accepts and respects the verdict of the Irish people”. We call on him to keep his word and do exactly that. But unfortunately, there appear to be conflicting messages coming from Mr. Cowen. Although he claims in the Irish media that he will respect our decision, he is reported in the international media sending out a very different message.

Euronews yesterday reported Commission President José Manuel Barroso as saying “The 27 member states signed the treaty. This is a joint responsibility, so I believe we should not rush to conclusions. The 27 heads of state and governments will now meet next week, to see how to proceed, but as far as I understood from my conversation with Prime Minister Cowen, he also believes the treaty is not dead. I believe the treaty is alive. And we should now try to find a solution.”

If the Taoiseach refuses to make it clear to the other heads of state that the Treaty is dead, implicit in that refusal is that we will re-run the referendum. This is unacceptable.

Claims that the other 26 member states will agree a new arrangement without Ireland are nothing more than empty threats designed to put pressure on Ireland. There is no possibility of a 26-state agreement unless Brian Cowen and the government give the other EU heads of state the signal that they can do so and that they, the Irish government, will agree to this hijacking of the EU. Such a scenario is impossible without the consent of all 27 member states.

Taoiseach Brian, Cowen has a choice; he can respect the decision of the Irish people by telling the other EU heads of state that the Irish people have rejected the Treaty and it is

therefore dead and there is no point in proceeding with the ratification process as all 27 member states must agree before it can be accepted. Or he can turn his back on his own people, dismiss their decision and tell the other member states to proceed with the ratification process as if nothing had happened. This would be a great betrayal of the people. He must respect the Constitution.

[ENDS]

For further Information

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