

21 July 2008

**Sarkozy has his mind made up – time for Brian Cowen to represent his people
not EU leaders, says McKenna**

Following today's meeting with the French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, the former Green Party MEP and chairperson of the People's Movement, Patricia McKenna, said: "It is clear from today's meeting that President Sarkozy has his mind made up regarding the Lisbon Treaty and the need for Ireland to vote again". When those on the No side stated at today's meeting that the treaty was dead and we the Irish people could not be asked to vote again, the French president's response was "*There is nothing extraordinary about saying you should vote again – you did it with Nice and Danes did it also*".

Ms McKenna said today's meeting gave us a clear insight into the state of denial that exists within the minds of the EU political elite: "I found it quite astounding that President Sarkozy, who has openly admitted he will not allow his own people a vote on Lisbon because they would vote against, argued in defence of a second Irish vote that '*It is only in extreme situations that you avoid votes*'. That is some statement from a man who is afraid to consult his own people. Clearly he considers the French situation an 'extreme situation'."

"It is time for our Taoiseach Brian Cowen to instil a sense of reality into the minds of EU leaders. He must go and tell them that the decision of the Irish people is final and has to be respected, that he will not be dictated to by politician who are afraid to consult with their own people. Brian Cowen is elected to represent the views of the Irish people not the views of EU leaders. So far he has failed in his duty and today's French embassy debacle is a direct consequences of this failure." McKenna concluded.

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For further Information:

Patricia McKenna (Chairperson) – 087 2427049