

Midlands Region

5 August 2008

Speaking at a meeting in Mullingar on Tuesday, Mags Glennon, chairperson of Midlands Region People's Movement, said that local TD 'Mary O'Rourke was elected to represent the will of the people of Westmeath – not to subvert it!' Mags was referring to remarks made by Mrs O'Rourke last week in the course of which she pointed out that the Lisbon Treaty would have to be 'passed in some other fashion because a referendum won't work'. 'The implication is clear', continued Mags, 'the people's verdict is not being accepted and so our elected "representatives" like Mrs O'Rourke will now seek a way of circumventing it'.

Some likely methods were outlined by Mrs O'Rourke in an interview she gave on RTÉ's 'Drivetime'. Foremost was ratification by the Dáil, saying that 'there was nothing undemocratic about parliaments doing it'; and secondly a challenge to the Crotty judgment – the mechanism that triggered the Lisbon referendum – when she posed the question 'I wonder if there is any mechanism whereby this matter (the Crotty judgment) could be put aside?'

Ms Glennon pointed out that 'Mary O'Rourke is prepared to use any means to subvert the decision of the people of Westmeath to reject the Lisbon Treaty, forgetting that power resides in the people and that in a democratic society parliament and parliamentary representatives should reflect that will. It is a sad day for democracy, but amply demonstrates the arrogance of those who would purport to know better.'

'The Midland Region of the People's Movement rejects any attempt to subvert the decision of June 12th and will actively campaign both locally and nationally to resist this profoundly undemocratic development', Mags concluded.

[END]

Contacts:

Mags Glennon: Magsglennon@hotmail.com; 087-6711130.

June Kelly: june_kelly_2@hotmail.com; 086-1963134.

Joe Reynolds: Joerenols@hotmail.com