



**Press statement**

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**8 October 2008**

### **People's Movement establishes branch in north Kildare**

Local members and supporters of the People's Movement met in the Glenroyal Hotel on 8 October to discuss the latest developments on the rejected Lisbon Treaty and the increasingly blatant manoeuvres by senior Government and opposition spokespersons to foist a Lisbon II on the Irish electorate.

Eoghan O'Neill, who chaired the meeting, stated that as a young person he was drawn to the People's Movement campaign because it "was run by volunteers giving up their free time to help get the message of the out there, not out of self interest or that we in some way wished to doom ourselves into economic crisis by voting no, on the contrary it was about protecting the ordinary Irish Citizen and worker from what could effectively be a race to the bottom for the millions and millions of workers throughout Europe." He concluded his opening address with: "We will need to organise and educate the electorate of the surrounding area to protect our democratic vote".

Following a detailed discussion, the meeting agreed to act on Eoghan's proposal. It was agreed to established a local branch and to campaign actively to encourage residents to send a clear message to local public representatives that the people's verdict of 12 June should be fully honoured.

The meeting was then addressed by Frank Keoghan, National Secretary of the People's Movement, in place of Patricia McKenna who could not attend due to a family bereavement. Firstly, he congratulated the meeting on its decision and assured members that the People's Movement "will actively campaign by using legal and political means to resist the profoundly undemocratic attempts of the Government and establishment political parties to foist another Lisbon referendum". He then detailed how "deceitful" the Brussels elite and high-ranking Irish Government ministers were in promoting Lisbon last June, in the full knowledge that, if carried, the Treaty:

would have given this legally new Union a State Constitution which would have been identical in its legal effects to the EU Constitution that French and Dutch voters rejected in their 2005 referendums.

would have fundamentally changed the EU by creating a constitutionally and legally new EU, while retaining the same name, the "Union". This legally new EU would be separate from and legally superior to its Member States, just as the USA is separate from and legally superior to its constituent states, each of which retains its own constitution.

This new EU could sign treaties with other States in all areas of its competence and conduct itself as a State in the international community. It would also speak at the United Nations on the agreed foreign policy positions of its Member States.

He concluded by declaring “We contend that the Lisbon Treaty is an attempt to construct a highly centralised European Federation artificially, from the top down, out of Europe's many nations, peoples and States, without their free consent and knowledge.”

The meeting concluded by congratulating Frank for his efforts with the People's Movement in helping to deliver the No vote and by arranging an early date to lay out a programme of local activities for the new branch.

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**The People's Movement campaigns against any measures that further develop the EU into a federal super-state and works to defend and enhance popular sovereignty, democracy and social justice in Ireland. Visit <http://www.people.ie>**