

**25 November 2008**

### **Behind the scenes plotting on Lisbon Treaty a grave concern**

‘The level of plotting at national and international level to ensure ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, thus thwarting the decision of the Irish people, must be a matter of grave concern for any true democrat’ says leading No campaigner, former Green Party MEP, Patricia McKenna.

Following reports in the French publication *L'Express* that Paris ‘is more and more confident that it will be possible to make the Irish vote again on the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009’ leading No campaigners here in Ireland have expressed concern. McKenna, chairperson of the People’s Movement, said ‘the comments expressed by the French President Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday that “Germany and France are on the same line, we support the Treaty of Lisbon. We will make all efforts to obtain the Treaty of Lisbon, we have agreed on a common language on the right way forward for our Irish friends” indicates a deliberate conspiracy, regrettably facilitated by our own government, against those Irish people who voted No to the Lisbon Treaty.’

The French Presidency is expected to present a ‘road map’ for ratification of the Lisbon Treaty at the European Council of 11 to 12 December. An Elysée source told *L'Express* that ‘It will take the form of a declaration ... which will contain guarantees which could be given to the Irish people to reassure them that the Lisbon Treaty has nothing to do with abortion, that it won't threaten neutrality and won't do anything on tax.’ The same source said that a re-vote on the Treaty could happen before the European elections, which take place in June next year.

It has also been reported that Taoiseach Brian Cowen will travel to Helsinki and Stockholm later this week for talks on a possible road map for the Lisbon Treaty.

Ms McKenna said: ‘It is extremely disappointing that our political leaders are travelling the length and breadth of Europe at taxpayers’ expense to thwart the decision of many of those

very same taxpayers.’ She said, ‘This road map is nothing more than a cleverly timetabled plan designed by marketing experts to ensure that the government get the result they want next time around on the exact same rejected treaty.’

Apparently the Czech president, Vaclav Klaus, has signalled that he will not sign the Lisbon Treaty unless it is ratified by Ireland, even if the Czech Constitutional Court rules that it is in line with Czech law in a decision expected later today. In an interview yesterday, Mr. Klaus stated that, ‘Simply, no change can occur without Ireland changing its position’.

‘It is deeply disturbing that the only political figure willing to show respect for the decision of the Irish people is a right-wing conservative politician. This does not augur well for the calibre of the political establishment right across the EU. Those left-wing politicians who in the past campaigned for democracy and the rights of citizens should hang their heads in shame’ concluded McKenna.

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For further information:

Patricia McKenna (chairperson) – 087 2427049

Frank Keoghan (secretary) – 087 2308330