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Supporters of the Lisbon Treaty have no strong arguments to justify its adoption – McKenna

Former Green Party MEP and chairperson of the People's Movement, Patricia McKenna, has claimed that supporters of the Lisbon Treaty have no strong arguments to justify its adoption. Speaking at the MacGill Summer School on 'Lisbon Yes or No? Implications for the Irish Economy?' Ms McKenna said: 'Supporters of the Lisbon Treaty are relying on an environment of fear and emotional reaction concerning our economy. However, this economic argument of fear, which is basically the sole argument of the Yes side, will as the debate continues be exposed as one of the weakest reasons to support the Lisbon Treaty'. She said: 'It is clear that the very deregulated economic model upon which Lisbon is based is responsible for the current international financial collapse – which is why the Lisbon Treaty, founded on this failed economic approach, will be rejected once again by Irish voters in October'.

She went on to say: 'Implying that rejection of Lisbon will affect our inward investment is yet another scare tactic that has no basis in reality. Britain which is recognised as the most Eurosceptic member state in the EU has not suffered as a result of that image and it has not stopped investors there nor the beginnings of economic recovery. Irish voters are not anti-Europe or Eurosceptic, despite attempts by the Yes side to portray us as such. We recognise that Lisbon is not in the interests of a true democratic and accountable EU and will in fact hinder our struggle to achieve such an EU.'

'The disingenuous scare-mongering implying that our economic problems are even partly due to rejecting Lisbon does no service to the debate and will, as the campaign progresses, be exposed for the psychological intimidation that it is.'

'The economic consequences of Lisbon have not changed. The treaty will have implications for many aspects of policy which will impact on our economy at some point in time. These include giving the EU exclusive power as regards rules on foreign direct investment, giving the EU Court of Justice the power to order the harmonisation of national indirect taxes, giving the EU power to impose Europe-wide taxes directly for the first time without need for further treaties or referenda and copper fasten the Laval and related judgments of the EU Court of Justice which put the competition rules of the EU market above the rights of trade unions. No amount of political assurance can change the legal reality of the Lisbon Treaty once it comes into force' concluded McKenna.

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