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**European Commission must stop trying to influence the Irish vote –
McKenna**

The People's Movement is questioning the role of the European Commission in the current Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty. Chairperson of the movement, former MEP Patricia McKenna, said today: "Margot Wallstrom, European Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, which is basically the EU term for PR, has come to Ireland in relation to the referendum. She assures us that she is not here to lecture and that the referendum is our own decision. But what exactly she is doing here then?"

McKenna asked: "Is she simply here to oversee us making the correct decision, for it seems that the question of Lisbon is a question where only one answer will be accepted by the government, both at home and in the Hague, Paris and Brussels?"

She said: "Wallstrom, who is the vice-president of the Commission, claims that the Lisbon Treaty was designed to strengthen the democratic control over the EU's increasing number of decisions. Such claims of democracy are somewhat ironic considering that this propaganda spin is coming from someone who, without even one single vote from a European citizen, holds the second most senior position in the EU." McKenna went on to say: "The real tragedy is that Wallstrom, unlike other commissioners, is actually very popular in her home country, Sweden, and might actually be elected by the people if the commissioner from each member-state was elected democratically. Why does she not then fight for the proper democratic reforms that the EU so desperately needs?"

McKenna said: "It is absolutely not the place of the European Commission to interfere with national referendums, especially not when a 'Yes' vote would transfer so much power from the national parliaments to the Commission. It should be clear to any reasonable democrat that the Commissioners, paid from taxpayers' money from all over Europe, should stay out of our referendum."

"The Lisbon Treaty is bad for Ireland, bad for Europe and bad for democracy. We must keep rejecting it until the elite in Brussels finally get the message and start work on a treaty that can be passed by voters in every member state. We need a treaty that would finally put an end to the democratic deficit of the EU and ensure efficient solutions to cross-border issues without the heavy influence of trans-national corporations. A treaty that would set up the framework for fair cooperation between states instead of sneaking in an unwanted, increasingly militarized, federal state dominated by a few large countries."

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