

3 October 2009

**People voted for economic recovery and jobs –
not for the Lisbon Treaty**

Today's result was inevitable: people voted not for the Lisbon Treaty but for economic recovery, jobs and EU membership. The posters and billboards of the 'Yes' side, 'ruin or recovery', tapped into the genuine fears of the voters, but the only promise the 'Yes' side can deliver – EU membership – was never an issue in the first place. Those on the 'Yes' side now have a responsibility to deliver on jobs and economic recovery. They cannot make promises and then turn their backs on the voters once they cast their vote.

The 'Yes' vote was not a vote of support for the Lisbon Treaty and the new Europe it establishes, but instead a vote for economic recovery, jobs and stability. The fears and insecurities of voters were skillfully tapped into by an illegally over-funded 'Yes' campaign to ensure that people voted not out of certainty but out of fear. The slogans on the posters back up this fact – 'Yes for Recovery', 'Yes for Jobs', 'We Need Europe', 'We Belong in Europe' – not one poster or slogan urged a 'Yes' vote on the basis of what was in the Lisbon Treaty. In the last referendum 862,415 people voted against the treaty; this time around it would appear that the number who voted against has not declined dramatically. In the face of an unprecedented fraudulent and undemocratic referendum campaign such a high 'No' vote is quite impressive. It demonstrates that if the campaign had been fair and democratic then the result would definitely have been a 'No'.

The 'Yes' campaign, which outspent the 'No' side by at least a factor of ten to one, was funded illegally by the EU Commission, the political groups in the Brussels Parliament, and even by the government itself.

The so-called 'independent' Referendum Commission became a tool for the 'Yes' side. The Referendum Commission failed to carry out its main function – to explain the constitutional amendment to the voters – and its advertising campaign on radio and TV right up to and including polling day flies in the face of our prohibition on political advertising.

This referendum, which saw virtually all the political parties and politicians lining up on one side against hundreds of thousands of Irish citizens, demonstrates the need for political change in this state. The cozy consensus of the political parties who have refused to represent their people has exposed a massive democratic void, whereby many Irish citizens are without proper representation in this State. This void has to be filled by new political forces untarnished by corruption, greed, and the ideology of 'power for power's sake'.

Patricia McKenna, chairperson of the People's Movement, said: 'I would like to thank all those people who gave freely of their time and resources to fight for a better Europe without any promises of pay-backs. We will not give up; the fight on the Lisbon Treaty is not over. The People's Movement intend to take the campaign back to the other EU member states and encourage legal challenges based on the German Constitutional Court verdict.'

In June this year the German Constitutional Court made a radical criticism of the Lisbon Treaty. The court went so far as to suggest that ratifications of the Lisbon Treaty in different countries might be unconstitutional unless they are accompanied by national rules on parliamentary approval of various modes of implementation of the Treaty, and laws that safeguard the possibility of voters changing the laws that govern them through elections to their national parliaments.

'That German court verdict is an open invitation to encourage similar court cases in all countries where parliamentary procedures for controlling the executive's handling of EU affairs under Lisbon have not been introduced or are too weak. The People's Movement will be working with like-minded groups throughout Europe over the coming months to help initiate such court challenges as a means of safeguarding the idea of democracy in Europe.'

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