

17 June 2010

**People's Movement to hold lunchtime protest at
European Commission offices, Molesworth Street,
Friday, June 18th, 1.15 – 1.45 p.m.**

Calling for support for the protest, Patricia McKenna, the chair of the People's Movement, said those who managed to clamp the undemocratic Lisbon Treaty onto the people of this country also seriously limited the capacity of an Irish government to take independent measures to tackle the cancer of unemployment.

In a statement she asked: 'Where are the Lisbon jobs? 46,200 more people have become unemployed since the government and main opposition parties bullied and bamboozled the country into a Yes vote in last year's second referendum on the same Lisbon Treaty that they had rejected the previous year.

The pro-Lisbon promise from Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour, the employers and the leadership of the trade union movement was jobs and economic recovery.

Instead, economic output is in chronic decline, the labour force is contracting and the tide of emigration is building up again.

On top of the loss of jobs, the majority of the population has been saddled with a range of other burdens.

These include: wage and salary cuts, bank bailouts and bank guarantees amounting to at least €100 billion, tax hikes and levies on those still at work, cuts to social welfare and education services, threats of water charges and domestic rates, the erosion of savings, investments and pensions, negative equity and hikes in mortgage repayments for home owners.

The EU has given Ireland until 2013 to get the debt to GDP ratio down to 3% and the government is making savage across the board cuts to achieve this.

Most economists agree that it will take a generation to fix the financial mess at the banks and government finances. Deflating the economy with more taxes and cut backs can only lead to more economic and social carnage.

Now today's EU summit in Brussels will discuss measures that will likely further tighten the screw.

The Lisbon Treaty provides for measures to impose "budgetary discipline" on euro-

zone members.

Among the measures already discussed are pre-vetting of national budgets by Brussels before they are put to national parliaments for parliamentary approval, tougher scrutiny for countries like Ireland that are running high levels of public debt, and sanctions such as fines or loss of voting rights for breaches of the Growth and Stability Pact.

The so-called 2020 EU strategy for long-term sustainable growth will not seriously address Ireland's serious economic crisis. It will not bring jobs.

It is impossible for a Government to formulate a coherent progressive response to our economic crisis without also taking a clear stand on ongoing threats to what is left of our national democracy.

Each of the treaties from the Single European Act through to the Lisbon Treaty has led to a progressive reduction in the ability of the peoples of the EU member states to decide their own laws and develop policies that suit their particular social and economic needs.

Loss of sovereignty has negative economic effects as well as negative democratic ones.'

Statement ends

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