

**1 October 2010**

**Picket on EU Commission offices**

Today's picket on the EU Commission offices is to highlight two anniversaries.

One year ago, fear and bogus promises led a majority of Irish voters to approve ratifying the Lisbon Treaty in a re-run referendum:

- Fear of political isolation in the EU if they did not say 'Yes' to the same treaty that they had said 'No' to the previous year.
- Belief in bogus promises of jobs and economic recovery which Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour, IBEC and the ICTU conned people into believing they would get if they only voted 'Yes'.

This is also the second anniversary of the criminally irresponsible NAMA scheme whereby Irish taxpayers have had to take on the debts of private banks, and the Irish state guarantees not just the savers and depositors in Ireland's private banks, but also guarantee the banks' creditors and bond-holders as well.

Anglo and the rest should have been allowed to go bust in accordance with the laws of the 'free market' and instead of bailing them out by 're-capitalising' them, public money should have been put into good, clean state banks set up as new legal entities to which the buildings and staff of the insolvent private banks could have been transferred.

Such state banks could have lent to private businesses and citizens.

Now we are reaping the whirlwind of these two political disasters.

The December budget will have more to do with an EU agenda than with the interests of the citizens of this state.

Ireland's status as a mere province of Brussels was copper-fastened by Lisbon, now government and opposition must adhere to the EU agenda for member state budgets.

The onslaught on the people will be the same, whoever is in government.

The two anniversaries remind us of the moral and political bankruptcy of Ireland's main political parties.

There is a vacuum in Irish politics as there is in many other EU countries where political 'debate' is nothing more than a charade.

How long will this vacuum remain unfilled in Ireland and elsewhere?

**Ends**