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Peoples Movement campaigns against any measures that further develop the EU into a federal state and to defend and enhance popular sovereignty, democracy and social justice in Ireland.

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Press statement.

Peoples Movement calls for referendum on European Stability Mechanism.

If the Government and “Opposition” have their way the European Stability Mechanism will feature as a malign force in the lives of the people of this State post 2013.

There is thus an urgent need to issue a immediate wake up call and warning about what is about to be foisted on the country by those forces for whom concepts of defending sovereignty and national dignity mean no more than conniving for “policy space” and “Brussels approval” within EU processes over which the country has little to no say.

The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) is about much more than making permanent the temporary mechanism by which Ireland, Greece and Portugal are currently being “bailed out”

The ESM, together with the Euro Plus Pact represent a quantum leap in terms of EU control of national economic policies. This in effect is the EU economic government championed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

The ESM will from 2013 have responsibility for providing loans to Eurozone Member States in difficulties - strictly conditional on the implementation of a range of “adjustment measures” and if the granting of the assistance is considered indispensable to safeguard the “stability of the euro area as a whole”. Or to put it more accurately “assistance” conditional on turning a recipient country into a social and economic wasteland for the greater good of the Euro.

Although it now looks likely that Ireland will have to go to the ESM in the middle of 2013, this country’s contribution to the ESM is to be €9.87 billion according to Tanaiste, Mr Eamon Gilmore.

The EU authorities propose to amend one of the EU Treaties, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to give themselves a legal basis to establish the ESM using one of the self

amending provisions of the Lisbon Treaty. The Government propose to ratify this amendment without reference to the people by way of a referendum.

The People's Movement believes that this is both undemocratic and legally dubious.

Article 6 of the Constitution proclaims the right of the people "in final appeal to decide all questions of national policy, according to the requirements of the common good"

Government decisions of fundamental importance for the future of this country for generations to come such as the disastrous bank guarantee and more recently the EU/ECB/IMF "bail-out" were made without reference to the citizens of the country.

From a Constitutional law perspective, the Supreme Court laid down in the Crotty case that sovereignty in this State rests with the Irish people and that only they can surrender sovereignty to the EU by referendum or else refuse to surrender it as the case may be. The ESM represents a surrender in matters of control of national economic policy necessitating an amendment to an EU Treaty.

The purpose of a referendum would be to determine whether or not the Constitution should be changed so as to make EU law superior to Irish law in the area set out in the proposed amendment.

The refusal of the Government to publish the Opinion of the former Attorney General, Mr Paul Gallagher and any legal opinion that it has obtained since coming into office attests to the fear among the Fine Gael/Labour/Fianna Fail troika of an assertive public opinion demanding what is the democratic and constitutional right of the citizens of this country.

This pamphlet represents a modest contribution to awakening that public opinion.