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Red C poll shows strong demand for referendum on ESM Treaty

The results of a Red C opinion poll showing a massive 72% demand for a referendum on the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) Treaty were released by the People's Movement in Dublin today, casting doubt on the government's ability to avoid a referendum on this issue.

The poll, commissioned by the Brussels based EU Democrats, a pan-European alliance of Euro-realists, was carried out by Red C and focused on the ESM Treaty, which is not being put to a referendum in Ireland before its ratification as the government intends signing up to the treaty via a simple vote in the Dáil.*

Former MEP and chairperson of the People's Movement, Patricia McKenna, said: "The findings of this poll, showing strong public demand for a referendum on the ESM treaty, indicates that a simple Dáil vote will not suffice nor provide the democratic legitimacy necessary for such a far-reaching treaty. In light of these findings, Taoiseach Enda Kenny must seriously reconsider whether it is acceptable to fast-track this treaty through without reference to the people."

The Red C poll found that support for a referendum on the ESM Treaty was extremely high among Labour Party supporters with 73% of those polled believing a referendum on the treaty should take place. McKenna said: "These finding should prompt Labour Party leader and tánaiste, Eamon Gilmore, to think again about the wisdom of refusing to put this treaty to a vote of the people. Forging ahead regardless would indicate that Labour had abandoned any attempt to be democratic and would display the leadership's utter contempt for his own voters."

"The wishes of the Irish people should not be ignored, irrespective of whether or not people support this treaty they do want to have their say. This treaty has far reaching consequences, committing Ireland to provide billions of euro – the initial Irish commitment is in excess of €11.1 billion – which it cannot afford, to the so-called 'bail-out fund'. Nobody is asking where will the money come from, the issue is being deliberately suppressed by the government", concluded McKenna

* A legal challenge to this procedure is on its way to the High Court – see Pringle TD

[Ends.]

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This poll on Irish people's awareness of the European Stability Mechanism Treaty and whether there is popular demand for a referendum on the treaty was carried out by Red C for the EUDemocrats

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