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Elect EU-critical candidates in euro-elections, urges People's Movement

The People's Movement, one of the leading campaign groups urging a 'No' vote in the referendums on the Lisbon Treaty and Fiscal Treaty, has today urged voters across the country to make their vote count by giving their first preference vote to EU-critical candidates in the European Parliament elections.

The organization, although not endorsing any individual candidate or party, said in a statement today that Irish voters must elect EU-critical candidates to the European Parliament to ensure that the voices of those critical of the direction that Europe is heading in are heard in Brussels and Strasbourg. Patricia McKenna, a former MEP and chairperson of the People's Movement, said voters must not forget that, without exception, all four main political parties that have been in government, Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, Labour and the Green Party, wholeheartedly endorsed EU treaty changes which have taken more power away from Ireland and handed it over to a powerful, centralized and elite system in Brussels and Frankfurt. She said only those candidates and parties which had the courage to challenge the cozy political consensus and urge people to say 'No' should be considered in this election.

McKenna said it would not be in the interests of Ireland or of the Irish people if voters elect a homogenous group of Irish MEPs all singing from the same hymn-sheet, aligning themselves with the EU elite and afraid to challenge the ever-increasing EU power grab. 'Voices of opposition are essential at EU level to challenge the impact of EU decisions on Irish people. Irish people are already paying the cost, as they are forced to accept severe austerity measures imposed upon them by the EU and IMF, with the help of our own political parties, to ensure that the banks of the more powerful EU countries get their speculative investments back and that the euro is saved regardless of the cost to ordinary people' she said.

The real issues which should be at the top of any EU election are: the increasing EU-imposed austerity measures to save the euro and to protect German and other powerful EU banks, the further militarization of Europe, the handing down of EU laws which impact severely on ordinary people who have no effective say on the content of these laws, and the erosion of real democratic accountability.

The People's Movement urges voters realise that EU criticism is no longer unpopular or politically suspect and voters must make their vote count by electing those who will not accept the existing cozy EU consensus.

Ends.

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