



Press Statement

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NO CAMPAIGNERS CALL ON BERTIE AHERN TO ABANDON BULLY-BOY APPROACH TO REFERENDUM

Patricia McKenna, Chairperson of the People's Movement, a group campaigning for a No Vote in the forthcoming referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, has criticised Taoiseach Bertie Ahern for referring to those on the No side as 'insane and alarmist and accusing them of distorting facts and using misleading and incorrect arguments'. Ms McKenna who took part a press conference in the Earl of Kildare Hotel in Dublin today to announce the launch of CAEUC, the Campaign Against the EU Constitution (an umbrella campaign of No groups formed in 2005 prior to the French and Dutch referenda on the EU Constitution) said Mr. Ahern's remarks are deplorable and not worthy of the leader of this country. She said, 'This level of debate is unacceptable and in insult to the intelligence of the Irish people, who will be the ultimate decision makers on whether or not Ireland ratifies this treaty'.

Mc McKenna, who is one of the three conveners of CAEUC, said, Mr. Ahern would be better served, as would the people of this country, if he were to deal with the real issue at hand and explain in an open, balanced and coherent fashion how Ireland will actually benefit from the massive changes to the future functioning of the EU, proposed in the Lisbon Treaty.

‘I would urge the Taoiseach to stop engaging in boot-boy politics and instead acknowledge that those on the no side have legitimate concerns in relation to how the EU currently functions and what the changes proposed by Lisbon will mean for Ireland as one of the smaller member states of the EU. This treaty is a clear shift of power from the smaller to the bigger states of the EU and provides the EU all the powers a European Superstate needs for the foreseeable future.’

‘Many of us on the No side have been struggling for years to achieve a more democratic and accountable EU that puts the interest of people first. Tragically our greatest opponents have been those elected to serve the people of this country and defend our interests. The time for an honest debate on the direction of the EU is long overdue and this campaign provides prime opportunity to do so. We cannot allow our politicians and political establishment to squander it for short-term political and personal gain’ concluded McKenna.

[ENDS]

For further Information

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