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**GALWAY MEETING ADDRESSES ISSUE OF
REFERENDUM ON THE
RE-NAMED EU CONSTITUTION**

Speaking at a public meeting in Richardson's in Eyre Square, Galway tonight, the chairperson of Denmark's EU Critical Network of Social Liberals **Lave Broch, M. Pol. Sc.** criticised EU Governments for their refusal to allow people throughout the Member States of the EU to vote on the Lisbon Treaty.

Mr. Broch, who is also Vice-President of the Danish Peace Council said 'The French and Dutch peoples have already rejected this Treaty and the people of Denmark were promised a referendum in 2005. Now governments in Denmark and other EU countries – except Ireland – are afraid to ask their peoples opinions. He said, Ireland is therefore a light in a dark tunnel' and he hoped that that the Irish referendum would trigger referendums Denmark and in other EU Member States. 'The EU should not be build without the consent of the peoples' he said.

Mr. Broch went on to say, 'The Lisbon Treaty is a giant step towards a more centralised Union where civil servants would have a monopoly on proposing laws, while it would simultaneously lead to a more militarised Union. The Treaty does not demand a UN mandate for military operations, or ban weapons of mass destruction. This Treaty is not a step towards a more peaceful world', he concluded.

Mr. Broch went on to say that he was not telling the Irish people how to vote as that was a matter for Irish citizens. "All I can do is give you an outline of the Danish experience and to inform those who ask about the content of the treaty itself and its possible effects'.

Also speaking at the meeting tonight was the **former Green Party MEP, Patricia**

McKenna, on behalf of **‘The People’s Movement/ Gluaiseacht an Phobail** one of the groups involved in organizing the meeting. McKenna said that, The People’s Movement would be playing a major role in the forthcoming referendum and would be striving to ensure that Irish people are not bullied into submission by the powerful and well-resourced political establishments of Dublin and Brussels.

Ms. McKenna said, “Regardless of the fact that the voters of France and the Netherlands have rejected the EU Constitution, it has been repackaged and put back on the table as if nothing had happened.”

She said, “There is almost unanimous agreement among EU leaders, including Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, that the substance of the rejected Constitution hasn’t changed. *“The difference between the original Constitution and the present Lisbon Treaty is one of approach, rather than content ... The proposals in the original constitutional treaty are practically unchanged. They have simply been dispersed through the old treaties in the form of amendments.”* Says Giscard D’Estaing the former French President and Chairman of the Convention which drew up the original text.”

Ms. McKenna went on to say, “The blatant conspiracy by EU governments to deny their electorates the right to vote on this treaty has been extremely effective and resulted in even the Danish voters, who have voted on every EU Treaty since they joined the EU, being denied a say on this. The Danish Prime minister, Rasmussen Fogh unashamedly admitted, *“Risk is that a referendum could trigger indirect demands of referendums in other member states, which in turn could jeopardise the treaty”*. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has said *“There will be no treaty if we had a referendum in France, which would again be followed by a referendum in the UK”*. The conspiracy to push this through against the wishes of the majority of citizens of EU member states is undeniable, she said.

The former MEP said, “What we are going to vote on will have profound ramifications not just for Ireland but for the future of the EU as a whole.” The military aspects alone should be reason enough to reject it, she said.

McKenna pointed out that “The Renamed Constitution states unambiguously in Section 2, Article 27 (2) that: "The common security and defence policy" it proposes "shall include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy. This will lead to a common defence. Member States must "make civilian and military capabilities available to the Union for the implementation of the common security and defence policy ..." and "undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities."

This means there would be an EU constitutional obligation on Ireland to provide military resources to the EU for its security and defence policies and to increase military spending through the European Defence Agency in order to ensure compatibility. There is also a ‘solidarity clause’ that proposes a mutual defence pact – similar to that of NATO. This “solidarity clause” has even been extended by Lisbon to cover the supply of energy and other issue.”

[ENDS]

For further Information

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