

Voting No to the Lisbon Treaty is not voting Ireland out of the European Union. If we vote No we will still be full members, and the European Union will continue to function.

Why should we say Yes to the Lisbon Treaty and give more power to the European Union to make more laws governing our lives without first making it more democratic and accountable?

The Lisbon Treaty would further erode our ability to influence and change decisions we disagree with. It would give more powers to the Commission – an unelected bureaucracy – and make it virtually impossible to change policies both at home and at the EU level. This treaty would carve in stone the economic, military and social policies of the European Union for decades to come.

More than 70 per cent of our laws, affecting our everyday lives, are now made in Brussels. Many national controversies have stemmed from EU decisions, such as

- ★ water charges-affecting schools and farmers in particular
- ★ increasing costs of mortgage repayments, as our interest rates are decided by the European Central Bank
- ★ the loss of employment in coastal fishing communities
- ★ Ireland's involvement in EU battle groups and the European Defence Agency.

Raising its own taxes The European Union would be able to establish new categories of taxes. Ireland now has a veto on taxes, but the Lisbon Treaty would allow the Council of Ministers to finance the attainment of its very wide objectives as long as it was unanimously agreed and, in Ireland's case, approved by a Dáil majority.

Undermining the rights of workers Recent rulings by the European Court of Justice have fast-tracked the "race to the bottom." The situation now, following the Laval and Rüffert cases, is that a company from another EU state employing nationals of that state and undertaking work in this country can legally pay their workers below the level of industry agreements. In this situation it would be illegal to take industrial action against these companies. These rulings will encourage social dumping and threaten workers' rights and working conditions.

The re-branded Constitution The Lisbon Treaty is a revamped version of the EU Constitution, rejected by French and Dutch voters in 2005. EU leaders openly admit that it's the same thing but just not called a Constitution. "The good thing about not calling it a Constitution is that no-one can ask for a referendum on it," said Giuliano Amato, former Italian prime minister and vice-chairperson of the convention that drew up the Constitution.

A self-amending treaty The Lisbon Treaty contains revolutionary new procedures that allow for changes in the treaty without the guaranteed right to a referendum. It's unlikely that the Irish courts would force a referendum if a future Government decided not to hold one.

The constitutional form of a state The Lisbon Treaty would give the European Union a legal personality of its own, allowing it to act like a single state at the international level. The new European Union would be able to negotiate international treaties and speak on behalf of all member-states, including Ireland.

Loss of a permanent Irish commissioner Ireland would lose its right to a permanent member of the EU Commission, with no Irish voice on the Commission for five out of every fifteen years. Representation on the Commission is vital, as this is the body responsible for proposing all EU laws. Dr Garret FitzGerald has said that having a fellow-national on the Commission is especially important for smaller member-states. We would lose the right to decide who our Commissioner would be: we could only make "suggestions."

Loss of voting power A new double-majority voting system would be introduced in the Council of Ministers. Population size would become the criterion, reducing Ireland's voting strength by more than half. Germany would more than double its voting strength, while Britain, France and Italy would increase their strength by 50 per cent.

Losing the power to block laws Ireland's power to veto legislation not in our interest would be removed in more than thirty new areas, including justice and policing, immigration, public services, energy, sport, culture, public health, the EU budget, and some areas of foreign policy.

The military dimension Ireland's neutrality would be completely compromised, as for the first time a "mutual defence clause" is included in an EU treaty, and it would be binding on Ireland.

The Lisbon Treaty ● obliges Ireland, through its "mutual solidarity" and "mutual defence" clauses, to come to the assistance of any member-state subjected to armed aggression or terrorist threat or attack; ● commits Ireland to increasing its military spending; ● incorporates the European Defence Agency, whose purpose is to promote the arms industry; ● expands the military missions that the European Union could pursue to include possible pre-emptive military actions against perceived threats; ● allows mini military alliances, called "structured co-operation," to be set up within the European Union to carry out "more demanding" missions.

A pro-nuclear treaty The Lisbon Treaty contains a legally binding protocol that commits Ireland to supporting Euratom, which would commit the European Union to financing and building more nuclear power stations in the member-states.

The "Charter of Fundamental Rights" The rights set out in this charter are not fundamental at all but can be limited if they do not meet "objectives of general interest recognised by the Union." This endangers our existing rights, which could be withheld if they conflicted with the demands of "the EU internal market." The European Court of Justice, which is notorious for putting the interests of big business before people, would have the power to decide our rights.

The spin by the Yes side
The Lisbon Treaty

- will allow one million citizens to petition the European Union – but there is no legal obligation for it to meet the petitioners' request
- will allow national parliaments to object (with the support of one-third of the other states) to draft EU legislation – but the EU Commission does not have to abandon its plans
- adds a few new words to emphasise climate change – but this does not significantly affect the EU's ability to take action on climate change, and adds no new legal powers to the existing article on the environment.

In voting No you will be demanding that the elites of Europe listen to the peoples of Europe. The advocates of a Yes vote tell us that this treaty will mean more democracy and control over decisions affecting our lives. This is not the case!

Deir siad siúd a mholann vóta "Tá" linn go leanfaidh níos mó daonlathais é agus smacht ar chinntí a bhfuil tionchar acu ar ár saol. Ní fíor dóibh. Bhainfeadh sé an bonn dár gcumas dul i bhfeidhm ar aon chinneadh nach n-aontaímis leis agus dár gcumas é a athrú; thabharfadh sé tuilleadh cumhachta don Choimisiún, maorlathas neamhthofa; agus is ar éigean a d'fhéadfaí beartais a athrú, anseo in Éirinn nó ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh. Mar chríoch, dhaingneodh an Conradh seo beartais eacnamaíocha, mhíleata agus shóisialta an Aontais Eorpaigh ar feadh na mblianta.

Trí vótáil "Níl" beidh tú ag éileamh ar uasaicme na hEorpa éisteacht le pobal na hEorpa.



People's Movement
Gluaiseacht an Phobail



People's Movement
Gluaiseacht an Phobail

The People's 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.

Patrons: Robert Ballagh, Alderman Declan Bree, Cllr. Neil Clarke, Cllr. Betty Doran, Raymond Dean, Tony Gregory TD, Prof. John Maguire, Cllr. Bronwen Maher, Terence P McCaughey, Finian McGrath TD, Patrica McKenna, Dervla Murphy, Joe Noonan, Cllr. Chris O'Leary.

www.people.ie

I would like to support the People's Movement Gluaiseacht an Phobail campaign

Direct donation or standing order to the bank listed below.

I enclose the following contribution payable to People's Movement

Name

Address

Phone

e-mail

Please return this form to:
People's Movement, 3 Talbot Street, Dublin 1

Contributions can also be made by credit transfer to:
People's Movement Account number 06330039
Sort Code 98-50-10 Ulster Bank, 33 College Green, Dublin 2

For more information, e-mail info@people.ie
<mailto:info@people.ie> or phone 087 230 8330

Lisbon Treaty Time for a rethink



Vote No. Vótáil Níl.