



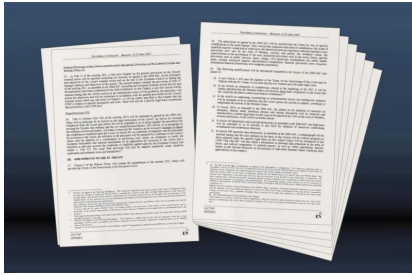
People's Movement  
Gluaiseacht an Phobail

# **People's News**

## **The Newsletter of the People's Movement**

### **Newsletter No. 8**

#### **The Lisbon Treaty – Ratification Update**



As of going to print, 22 Member States have ratified the Lisbon Treaty and in doing so have deposited their ratification documents with the Italian Government, which is the final step needed in order for the Treaty to come into force.

Three other member states have also ratified the Treaty but not deposited their documents as of yet and these are Germany, Poland and Sweden.

The Czech Republic has so far delayed its ratification process as it awaits to see what Ireland's position will be in the coming months. That leaves Ireland as the only country to date that has rejected the Treaty outright (See additional article, p. 6).

#### **Post Lisbon Treaty Referendum Research Findings Report**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, the Department of Foreign Affairs published the results of research commissioned by the Department and conducted by Millward Brown IMS following the result of the Lisbon Treaty Referendum.

### **November/December 2008**

Some of the key findings of the research were as follows:

- The turnout for the referendum was 53%.
- That there was an increase in No voters as a proportion of the total electorate (from 18% in Nice II to 28% in the June 12th referendum) rather than Yes voters staying at home.
- The main reason for abstaining and voting No in the Referendum was the lack of knowledge/understanding/information.

To access a copy of the report, please log on to <http://www.dfa.ie>

#### **The Government begins to up the pace for Lisbon Mark II**

Following the result of the Lisbon Treaty Referendum, the Government has established two Oireachtas Committees to look at specific aspects of the outcomes and to report back within a limited timeframe as it prepares a way forward.

The first of these is the Sub-Committee on Ireland's Future in the European Union which was established on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008 with a brief 'to analyse the challenges facing Ireland following the Lisbon Treaty Referendum result and consider Ireland's future in the EU'. The Sub-Committee intention was to produce a report within eight weeks following its deliberations.

The membership of the Sub-Committee is as follows:

- Senator Paschal Donohoe, FG, (Chairman)
- Thomas Byrne, T.D, (FF)
- Joe Costello, T.D, (Lab)
- Lucinda Creighton, T.D, (FG)
- Timmy Dooley, T.D, (FF)

Beverly Flynn, T.D, (FF)  
Michael McGrath, T.D, (FF)  
Billy Timmins, T.D, (FG)  
Senator Deirdre De Burca, (GP)  
Senator Pearse Doherty, (SF)  
Senator Ronan Mullen, (Ind)  
Senator Phil Prendergast, (Lab)

Representatives from the political, civic and non-governmental organisations were allowed to appear before this Sub-Committee and to make position statements. The People's Movement was one such group that made both a submission and verbal presentation.

As of going to print, this Sub-Committee had concluded its deliberations and the eventual report was made public on 27/11/2008. Its main conclusion is that 'no legal obstacle appears to exist to having a referendum either on precisely the same issue as that dealt with on June 12<sup>th</sup> or some variation thereof'. Further information about the workings of this Sub-Committee and their findings can be obtained by logging on to <http://www.euaffairs.ie/sub-committee>

The other Committee established by the Government is the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Constitution with the brief 'to complete a full review of the Constitution in order to provide focus to the place and relevance of the Constitution and to establish those areas where Constitutional change may be desirable or necessary'.

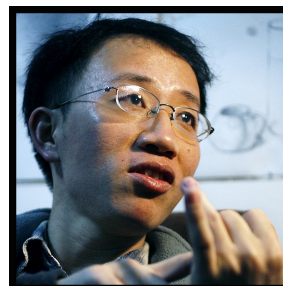
The membership of this Committee is as follows:

Seán Ardagh, T.D, (FF), (Chairman)  
Jim O'Keefe, T.D, (FG), (Vice-Chairman)  
Thomas Byrne, T.D, (FF)  
Michael D'Arcy, T.D, (FG)  
Tom Hayes (FG)  
Brendan Howlin, T.D, (Lab) (Leas-Cheann Comhairle)  
Michael Kennedy, T.D, (FF)  
Denis Naughten, T.D, (FG)  
Ned O'Keefe, T.D, (FF)  
Mary O'Rourke, T.D, (FF)  
Michael Woods, T.D, (FF)  
Senator Dan Boyle (GP)  
Senator Denis O'Donovan (FF)  
Senator Eugene Regan (FG)  
Senator Alex White (Lab)

The Committee is currently seeking the views of the public broadcast media & independent media, experts from academia, the legal profession, individuals and groups. Further details can be obtained by logging on to <http://www.oireachtas.ie>

### **Guest Feature**

On the 23/10/2008, the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Hans-Gert Pöttering awarded the Parliament's top human rights prize to jailed Chinese dissident Hu Jia. The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is named after the Soviet scientist and dissident and has been awarded annually since 1988 when Nelson Mandela was the inaugural recipient.



To be expected the Chinese Government was extremely irritated by this year's award. For reasons that have little to do with China, I was also irritated by the award.

As a matter of policy it might be a good thing to keep China under steady pressure to improve its human rights situation and now that the Beijing Olympics has been consigned to history there is considerably less opportunity to do so. There is likely to be even less in the coming years as governments across the globe look to China for help in dealing with the aftermath of the current financial crisis. So in a way it's good that a powerful European player is prepared to challenge a more powerful world player.

But surely if the EU was sincere in its efforts to promote freedom of thought it would have awarded the Sakharov Prize to the brave Members of the European Parliament who last April voted to release a secret report into the abuses of the European Parliament's generous allowance system. Their efforts to secure even the most modest level of disclosure failed

because they were outvoted by 442 MEPs who were keen to ensure that the public did not have any insight into workings of the EU gravy train.

The report, which was based on an audit by the Parliamentary Committee on Budgetary Control, discussed a catalogue of abuses but mentioned no MEP by name. Despite this anonymity the report was kept under lock and key and could only be seen by MEPs who signed a confidentiality agreement. However details did leak, prompting pressure for some action. That action was an EU parliamentary vote in which the very parliamentarians implicated by the report got to decide whether or not the report should be made public. Not surprisingly the overwhelming majority voted no.

Think Travelgate, magnify the money involved 1000-fold and then consider how lucky we are in South Africa that we had the opportunity for so much open discussion on the subject. Not so for the hapless citizens of Europe, the vast majority of whom still has no inkling about the gravy train they are funding.

Or indeed if not to the brave MEPs who voted in a bid to promote open and accountable government, perhaps Pöttering could have awarded the Sakharov Prize to the motley crew of Irish campaigners who had been corralled behind barbed wire a week earlier in Brussels. These brave and tireless campaigners were in Brussels to protest against demands that Ireland votes again on the Lisbon Treaty...and again...and again presumably, until it gets the answer right, which as far as the EU elite is concerned is 'yes'.

The Irish protesters, who had to get permission in advance to protest, were hugely outnumbered by a large contingent of heavily armed police who made sure that they remained well out of the way and unable to bother the bureaucrats and politicians who are increasingly unwilling to brook any interference from the citizens of Europe.

The reality is that while China is making steady but slow progress towards a more open and democratic society, the EU is moving slowly but steadily in the opposite direction.

Perhaps, in a tit-for-tat gesture, China could award the EU parliament with something like the “‘Gang of Four’ Prize for promoting opacity in large centralized governments”?

by Ann Crotty, daughter of the late Raymond Crotty and a Journalist with Business Report, South Africa

## **EU Ambassador to the US calls for a second vote**

The EU Ambassador to the United States and former Taoiseach John Bruton called for a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty in address to the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on Ireland's Future in the European Union on 30/10/2008. His main reasoning for the call was that the Ireland's influence in Europe has been very much weakened since the rejection of the Treaty.

Mr. Bruton also pointed out the reaction that he was getting in the US to Ireland's decision “*Americans I met were just baffled by the decision. They could not understand it. They had been led to believe that Ireland's was the EU's biggest success story - a poor country transformed into a rich one by a combination of EU membership, American investment, and good long-term educational and fiscal thinking by successive Irish governments*”. These comments obviously need to be taken with a pinch of salt, given the recent economic downturn. Such economic cycles will happen and EU and Irish fiscal experts seem powerless to prevent them. Therefore, fundamental institutional changes which are extremely difficult to reverse should not be based on economics. Mr. Bruton's full speech to the Sub-Committee can be viewed at [http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/press\\_office/speeches-press\\_releases/bruton-speech\\_oireachtas\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/press_office/speeches-press_releases/bruton-speech_oireachtas_en.htm)

## **‘Clog Award’ Recognition**

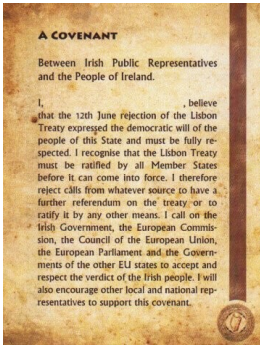
Irish flags were waved in the small town of Roslev, Denmark, during the Annual General Assembly of the Danish People's Movement when a ‘Clog Award’ was presented to one of our patron's, Artist Robert Ballagh.

This is the third time that Ireland won the award. It was previously won by Patricia McKenna in 2000 after the Supreme Court Judgement in the McKenna Case, and by The National Platform, in 2001 after the Irish 'No' in the first referendum on the Nice Treaty.

In his acceptance speech, Robert Ballagh said: “*We have a great challenge in front of us. We must defend democracy – not only in Ireland, but in the whole of Europe*”, a reference to the fact that the people have not been allowed to vote on the Lisbon Treaty in any other country in the EU.

# Campaign Update

## Covenant launched



On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008, the People's Movement launched a *Covenant between Irish Public Representatives and the People of Ireland.*

The text declares that the signatories believe the referendum on the

Lisbon Treaty 'expressed the democratic will of the people of this State and must be fully respected'.

In addition to existing public representatives, candidates in next June's local and European elections will be invited to sign the document.

## Brussels Protest



Eleven members of the People's Movement flew out to Brussels on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 to stage a presence outside the Offices of the European Commission in a demonstration of anger and concern at the continuing failure of the EU élite to accept the rejection of the Lisbon Treaty by the Irish people in last June's Referendum.

This event was held simultaneously with the European Council Summit.

## Letter of Protest handed into Swedish Embassy

On 19/11/2008, members of the People's Movement staged a protest outside the Swedish Embassy in Dublin. The demonstration was arranged to coincide with the Swedish Parliament's ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. A letter of protest was handed in to Embassy officials and which emphasised that the Irish Government should have told other EU countries that ratification is pointless as the Treaty has been vetoed by Irish voters.

## New; from around the Country

### Kildare

A North Kildare Branch of the People's Movement was established at a meeting held in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth on 8th October 2008.



From left to right, Eoghan O'Neill, Dr. Florence Craven, Damien McKenna and Michael Quinn

### Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford & South Wicklow

A South East Committee of the People's Movement was established at a meeting held in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Co. Carlow, on 4th November 2008, attended by activists from Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford and South Wicklow.



Patricia McKenna, Chairperson, with members of the new Committee

### Midlands

Members of the People's Movement in the midlands established a regional committee at a meeting held in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on Tuesday, 5th August 2008.



From left to right, Joe Reynolds (Treasurer), Mags Glennon (Chairperson) and June Kelly (Secretary)

### Campaign Action - What You Can Do

- Assist us in getting interested individuals to join the People's Movement today and to get involved with campaigning at a local level (Membership application forms can be downloaded from the website, [www.people.ie](http://www.people.ie))
- Keep up to date with the issues by checking out [www.people.ie](http://www.people.ie) on a regular basis.
- Help to distribute information leaflets and raise funds.

- Encourage supporters to purchase the Mise Éire Print.
- Talk with your family, friends and colleagues about the issues.
- Contact your local public representatives (Councillors, TDs and Senators) and tell them to respect the democratic decision of the Irish People to reject the Lisbon Treaty. Any attempt to run a second referendum or fast-track elements of the Treaty through the Houses of the Oireachtas is wrong, undemocratic and will lose them your vote.

Write to newspapers and contact radio programmes expressing your concern about any attempt by the Government to ratify the Lisbon Treaty.

### Forthcoming Events

#### \*Important dates for your diary

People's Movement information stalls Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at the GPO, O'Connell Street, Dublin from 11.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008 from 11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. - Strategy planning meeting: Planning for Lisbon Mark II. Members and supporters are welcome to attend. It is important that you are able to attend. Two guest speakers have been invited to brief us on possible issues involved. E-mail [afkeoghan@eircom.net](mailto:afkeoghan@eircom.net) for further information.

Protest in Brussels on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to coincide with EU Summit. E-mail [afkeoghan@eircom.net](mailto:afkeoghan@eircom.net) for further information.



# EU NEWS Update

## A second referendum to be or not to be

An internal EU briefing paper, entitled *The Solution to the Irish Problem* has been written by an influential group of French officials, called *Le Amis du Traite de Lisbonne* or Friends of the Lisbon Treaty. According to this briefing paper, a second Irish vote will follow a guarantee that Ireland will not lose its European Commissioner and "declarations" on neutrality, abortion and taxation - all issues that dominated the Irish campaign.

The President of the European Parliament Mr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, is still pushing for a second vote before euro-elections next year amid fears that the Europe-wide poll will become a referendum on the unpopular EU Treaty.

## New from the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic's Constitutional Court has unanimously ruled that the disputed parts of the Lisbon Treaty are in line with the Czech Constitution but, the judges have admitted that they did not analyse the Treaty as a whole, sparking speculation that the issue could be raised again by its critics in the country.

Essentially the way is now clear for the Lisbon Treaty to be ratified by both Czech Republic parliamentary chambers but there are still some supporters of President Klaus who argue that ratification should only go ahead if the treaty is approved in Ireland.

26/11/08 [www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)

According to the latest poll carried out by STEM, Prague, about 55% of the population in the Czech Republic are against Lisbon Treaty with 25% understanding its consequences for EU. 45% admit they are unlikely to know even the very core of the Treaty.

## New from Poland

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk has expressed the hope that the President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski will not continue to delay the signing of the Treaty of Lisbon, saying his missing signature holds up the Polish government's work at an EU level.

President Kaczynski who is a known Euro-sceptic, announced that he would delay signing the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty Bill, which passed through both houses of the Polish parliament earlier this year, following the outcome of the Irish Referendum.

President Kaczynski has publicly stated that *"I will not block the treaty if the Irish come to another decision, but not under pressure, in the same way as they came to the first one"*.

<http://www.polskieradio.pl>



## The Lisbon Treaty and the US Funds?

British Conservative MEP and the Chairman of the European Parliament's US delegation, Jonathan Evans is quoted as saying that *"MEPs will in December (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December) ask US members of Congress whether the Irish No campaign on the Lisbon Treaty received US funds"*. The question will be put in such a way as to avoid embarrassment from the US authorities.

This reaction is a response to the US connections of Irish businessman Mr. Declan Ganley and Libertas and highlights the fears that exist within the European Parliament. Mr. Daniel Cohn-Bendit, The Leader of the Green Group in the Parliament, is quoted as saying that there *"possibly exists a link between the*

financiers of the No campaign in Ireland and the Pentagon, as well as the CIA"... "there are forces in the US willing to pay people to destabilise a strong and autonomous Europe".

12/11/2008 [www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)

## **No to EU Rail Privatisation**

Thousands of rail workers from around Europe demonstrated in Paris on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008 against EU plans to liberalise rail networks.



More than 20,000 workers took part and carried banners in English, French and German reading 'Stop liberalisation' and opposing the Lisbon Treaty.

## **Barroso and Sarkozy plead for permanent EU presidency**

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and French President Nicolas Sarkozy - currently chairing the EU - have stressed the need for a permanent EU presidency to replace the rotating system.

Mr. Barroso stated that *"We need a president of the Council that does not change every six months, .... To lead member states, we need a very strong presidency"*.

Relations between Mr. Barroso and Mr. Sarkozy have warmed in the last few months, with the French President referring to Mr. Barroso by his first name, José Manuel, with the Commission President even suggesting that the French leader could fill the post.

Mr. Sarkozy stressed that the current situation of the EU presidency rotating from country to



country every six months *"must change"*, so that *"tough dossiers"* do not keep being passed around.

17/10/2008 [www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)

## **Former German president slams EU court**

Former German President Roman Herzog and Mr. Lüder Gerken, the director of the Centre for European Policy have expressed concerns about the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and the perceived role of undermining national jurisdiction.

From their perspective, judicial decision-making in Europe is in deep trouble. The reason is to be found in the ECJ, whose justifications for depriving member states of their very own fundamental competences and interfering heavily in their legal systems are becoming increasingly astonishing. In so doing, it has squandered a great deal of the trust it used to enjoy.

Mr. Herzog through various analyses has warned that the European Court of Justice *"systematically ignores fundamental principles of the Western interpretation of law"*, that it *"ignores the will of the legislator, or even turns it into its opposite"* and *"invents legal principles serving as grounds for later judgements"*.

The ECJ was created with the aim of providing an arbitrator to mediate in the interests of the EU and those of the member states. In assigning the ECJ with comprehensive rights of decision-making, the assumption was that they could be trusted to take on this responsibility in an unbiased way and in compliance with the rules of the judiciary. If the ECJ abuses this confidence, it need not be surprised when it breaks down.

10/09/2008 [www.euobserver.com](http://www.euobserver.com)

# End Page

## Useful Website Resources

<http://www.euobserver.com>

## Book Reviews

Another Europe? After the Third No.  
By Gwyn Prins and Johanna Möhring.  
Published by LSE Mackinder Programme/The Lilliput Press.  
ISBN No. 978 184351 150 2.  
Price: €10.99.

According to the Book's promotional material, it "comes as a timely stimulus to debate about the future of the EU". Another Europe? aims to bridge "academic and popular discourse" and is "essential for anyone who wishes to engage in Ireland's - and Europe's - great debate".

While Another Europe? follows a classical layout it is constructed from the ideas and words of over seventy distinguished thinkers and political actors across the EU. For further information about the book, you can log on to <http://www.anothereurope.eu/>

Professor Gwyn Prins is the director of the Mackinder Programme, London School of Economics. Johanna Möhring is a researcher in the Mackinder Programme.

## Contact Details

**Address:** People's Movement, 25 Shanowen Crescent, Santry, Dublin 9.

**Tel:** 087-2308330

**Email:** [post@people.ie](mailto:post@people.ie)

**Website:** [www.people.ie](http://www.people.ie)

The People's Movement campaigns against any measures that further develop the EU into a federal super-state and works to defend and enhance popular sovereignty, democracy and social justice in Ireland.

## Membership Form

I hereby apply for membership of the People's Movement. I undertake to abide by the organisation's Constitution.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

E-mail and telephone number:

.....

Signed.....

**Annual membership is €40 per annum; €20 for students, unwaged and senior citizens; €50 for families. Please make cheques/postal orders out to 'People's Movement' and return to 25 Shanowen Crescent, Santry, Dublin 9.**

### REQUEST FOR STANDING ORDER PAYMENT

To (Name and address of your bank)

.....

.....

.....

Account Name.....

Account Number & Sort Code

.....

Address.....

.....

.....

I/We authorize you to transfer the sum of € ..... on the ..... day of each week/fortnight/month/quarter/half year until further notice from my/our account to the account of the People's Movement at Ulster Bank, 33 College Green, Dublin 2, Sort Code 98 50 10, Account No. 06330039, beginning on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Signature.....

### **Editor's note to the wider membership**

You are most welcome to contribute an article for the next edition of our newsletter. Feedback on the content is always welcome. E-mail us at [post@people.ie](mailto:post@people.ie).