



Press Statement

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Patricia McKenna (former Green Party MEP and chairperson of the People's Movement) said today in response to huge pressure applied to the IFA leadership:

Lisbon: Farmers won't be conned by empty "promises"

Family farms are the heart beat of rural Ireland and central to both the Irish economy and social Ireland. In recent days the IFA and ICMSA leaderships have been put under huge pressure for seeking to protect family farms.

It would be nice but foolish to believe that the Irish government would use its veto to protect Irish family farming at the expense of a WTO agreement for the entire EU.

Farmers know this, their leadership knows this, the government's "promise" extracted under pressure, was given in a futile attempt to save the Lisbon treaty, this promise is as empty as those given to growers of the now abandoned sugar beat industry.

The CAP was established to protect family farming across Europe not just in Ireland, however the EU agriculture policy and the WTO negotiations are now being driven in the interests of big business not family farmers.

Teagasc have identified five different excellent scenarios for the rejuvenation of Irish farming, none of these include Peter Mandelson's scenario for its destruction. Irish farmers won't be conned by empty "promises" or bullied when they vote to protect the heart beat of rural Ireland by voting NO on June 12th.

END

For comment or verification call Patricia McKenna 087 2427049