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Fine Gael and workers' rights

Responding to Fine Gael's claim that they would introduce legislation in relation to collective bargaining rights if and when they get into government – provided Irish workers vote 'yes' to the Lisbon Treaty, Frank Keoghan, secretary of the People's Movement, condemned this cynical attempt to strike a bargain on workers' rights.

'Either workers have a right to collective bargaining as a basic democratic right or they don't and rights should not be used as a carrot in a crude attempt to buy a "yes" vote' he said.

'Workers should carefully note', he continued, 'that ECJ rulings that attack workers' rights will be binding on the Irish state, irrespective of whether we have collective bargaining legislation or not, and that the primacy of EU law is clearly outlined in the Treaty and in the 28th Amendment to the Constitution on which we will vote.'

'The only solution is a protocol which would limit the activities of the ECJ and give primacy to workers' rights over those of the market' he concluded.

[ENDS]

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