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New EU president wants EU taxes

EU leaders' decision to choose Belgian prime minister Herman Van Rompuy to be the first president of the European Council should not be seen as a welcome development for Ireland simply because he comes from a smaller member state, warns People's Movement chairperson, Patricia McKenna.

McKenna, a former MEP, has criticized the decision and warns that those concerned about the possibility of EU taxes will need to be extremely vigilant now that this man has one of the most powerful positions in the EU. She said: "Mr. Van Rompuy has made his views quite clear on future EU financing and the need for EU taxes. Last week he is reported to have said in a speech at a dinner of the secretive Bilderberg group that 'new resources will be necessary for the financing of the welfare state. Green tax instruments are a possibility, but they are ambiguous: This type of tax will eventually be extinguished. But the possibilities of financial levies at European level must be seriously examined and for the first time the large countries in the union are open to that.'"

McKenna said: "One would have expected such views on EU taxes to have harmed his chances of taking the top job in Brussels due to the concerns of governments like our own who have said that EU taxes will never be introduced. It is scandalous that our own government failed to raise any objections before this appointment was made. There is no doubt that Mr Van Rompuy's appointment will be of great benefit to both France and Germany who have never hidden their desire for EU taxes. However, this appointment must raise serious concerns for Ireland and its people – especially in the current economic crisis the prospect of even more taxes would be catastrophic. For our political leaders to remain silent on the issue is unforgivable" she concluded.

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