

1 December 2009

Reduce size of Oireachtas in line with reduction in legislative powers

On the occasion of the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, democracy campaigners, members of the People's Movement, who staged an event outside the Dáil today, have called on the Government and political establishment to reduce the size of the Oireachtas in line with the reduction of legislative powers from national parliaments, which have now been moved to Brussels.

Former MEP Patricia McKenna, chairperson of the People's Movement, organisers of today's event said: "The Lisbon Treaty together with previous treaties has resulted in the current indisputable fact that in 2008 over 78% of our laws come from Brussels. Surely with so much decision-making power now residing in Brussels it is unnecessary to burden the taxpayer with the current over-resourced houses of the Oireachtas?"

The People's Movement handed in mock P45s to the leaders of the political parties urging them to live up to their commitment to put the country and its people first.

This may be a historic day for the Brussels elite, but with the Lisbon Treaty voted on by a mere 1.8 million of the 500 million citizens across Europe it is a sad day for democracy and the rights of the 498 million people who were denied a vote on this monumental treaty.

"In these difficult times the reduction of the size of the houses of the Oireachtas and the alleviation of the burden on the taxpayer would be welcome and would signal that the government and main political parties which promoted the Lisbon Treaty in the name of economic stability and public interests have at last decided to put the interests of the taxpayer before their own" concluded McKenna.

[ENDS]

Note for editor:

Detailed information regarding the 78% of our laws coming from Brussels in 2008 may be found at: <http://eulaws.freetzi.com/>

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