Appeal by 707 trade unionists and labour activists from 24 countries of Europe to their brothers and sisters in the Republic of Ireland

As labour activists and trade unionists from every country in Europe, we solemnly address this appeal to you, one month before 12 June, the date on which the people of Ireland will be called upon to give their view on the Lisbon Treaty through a referendum.

We have become aware of the reasons why the National Executive of the Technical Engineering and Electrical Union (TEEU) of Ireland is calling on its members to reject the Lisbon Treaty by voting "NO" in the referendum: "Recent key judgements by the European Court of Justice show that the pendulum has swung against workers' rights and in favour of big business. In the circumstances it would be foolish to provide the institutions of the European Union with more power. The judgements in the Laval and Viking disputes accepted workers had the right to organise in unions, only to negate its value by saying they could not undertake industrial action where it conflicted with the provision of goods and services, regardless of the social consequences. In the recent Ruffert case the Court found that a Polish subcontractor operating in Germany was entitled to pay his workers less than half the agreed minimum wage for the construction sector, because the right to provide unrestricted services took priority over collective wage agreements."

We adopt this statement as our own.

We totally share this point of view, just as we share the point of view of Michael Sommer, President of the DGB, when he said: "What the three recent judgements by the European Court of Justice have in common is that (...) they invite wage dumping through the use of foreign labour – also doing so in places where there is no minimum wage or even a binding collective agreement."

We agree with Derek Simpson, Joint General Secretary of Unite in Great Britain: "This decision effectively means that foreign companies working here in the UK, or in any other European country, can flout domestic laws and collective agreements with regard to pay."

Or as Swedish trade unionists put it recently: "Since Sweden joined the European Union in 1995, Swedish collective agreements have been regularly put into question. This threat does not only affect wages, it means that every trade union right is at stake."

Is this not the case in each country of Europe?

Yes indeed, now the three judgements by the European Court of Justice have together become yet another instrument in the panoply of instruments, from European directives to the Stability Pact, which are all aimed at driving down labour costs and reducing public spending.

Is it not in the name of these requirements, which were laid down in the Maastricht Treaty and restated in their entirety in the Lisbon Treaty, that pension schemes are being wound up, postal services and railways are being privatised, and public health services are being dismantled?

It is in order to fight against the disastrous consequences of this policy that throughout Europe – in France, Britain, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Greece, Belgium, Sweden and elsewhere – the workers together with their trade union organisations are standing up to defend their gains and wages, to fight against the privatisation programmes and in favour of renationalising what has been privatised in the name of the Maastricht Treaty, the European directives and the Stability Pact.

These are the reasons why we are addressing this appeal to you.

Following the "NO" to the Constitutional Treaty voted by the peoples of France and the Netherlands, the big coalition of governments has ruled out any democratic expression by denying each of the peoples of Europe the chance to give their verdict on the Lisbon Treaty through the referendum process.

Everywhere except in Ireland, where they have been unable to bypass the Constitution.

We know very well that you are coming under pressure from all of the European institutions and the forces that serve their interests.

This is why we solemnly say to you: You are not alone!

The eyes and hopes of all the workers, of all the trade unionists and labour activists in every country of Europe are turned towards Ireland.

The Irish referendum has become our common cause.

By voting "NO" to the Lisbon Treaty, you will be expressing the resistance of all the workers, trade unionists and labour activists of Europe.

NO to the Lisbon Treaty!

First endorsers (Titles and organisations for id. only)

BELGIUM

Mohamed Daouani, trade unionist SETCa AXA Belgium – Exec. Committeee SETCa BHV Yves Eeckman, trade unionist SETCa/FGTB Geert Haverbeke, trade unionist SETCa-BBTK Dexia Philippe Larsimont, Coordinator, Movement in Défence of Workers' Bénito Libert, trade unionist FGTB-SETCa FN (Metal workers) Herstal Pierre Marlhioux, Exec. Bureau SETCA/FGTB/ABVV Bruxelles-Hal-Vilvoorde (BHV) Serge Monsieur, CGSP Vivaqua Vicepresident Antoine Ruggieri, President Commission Pensioned Metal workers **FGTB** Liege Rik Steeland, trade unionist SETCa Kortriik Patrick Wiame, trade unionist FGTB-CGSP (Monnaie Royale de Belgique) Jean-Michel Hamaide Rudy Janssens, Federal secretary CGSP-ACOD ALR-LRB BRU Kristof Steeland, trade unionist ABVV Frederik Steeland, trade unionist ABVV L. Vandermeren, BBTK Secretary K. Dedeurwaerder, BBTK Roeselaere A. Vandewalle, ABVV – WVL Bart Maes, ABVV Federal Wim Follens, ABVV Federal Bart Scherpereel, ABVV - W VL Siska Missiaen, ABVV – W VL Abdel Massaouhi, ABVV - W VL

Rik Steeland, BBTK Kortrijk Fabienne Van Bael, trade unionist CGSP Police Tania Martin, CGSP CPAS President, Bruxelles Eric Verboomen, trade unionist CGSP. Berchem Nadine Trullemans, trade unionist CGSP. Berchem Marie-Luce, Eeckman, trade unionist CGSP, Watermael-Boitsfort Mpoyi Godefroy, trade unionist CGSP M. Vander Clooster, trade unionist CGSP, Schaerbeek René Kempeneers, trade unionist CGSP. Jette Daniel De Metser, trade unionist CGSP Ixelles, Khadija Mkass, trade unionist CGSP, Jette Rita De Vrieze, trade unionist CGSP, Molenbeek Patrick Delmarquette, trade unionist CGSP Michèle Dehaen, trade unionist CGSP Myriam De Cleen, trade unionist CGSP Vivagua Paul Hernalsteen, trade unionist CGSP Fouzy Himi, President, CGSP, Schaerbeek Geneviève Ceulemans, President CGSP Molenbeeki Eric Decoster, President, CGSP Evere JP. Boudart, trade unionist CGSP Evere Thierry Dumoulin, President CGSP-ALR Bruxelles Elah Tabbakh, vice-President CGSP-ALR Bruxelles

Jean-Louis Cornellie, trade unionist CGSP-ALR Ixelles Michel Lippens, trade unionist CGSP-ALR Uccles Hautrive Hoffman, trade unionist CGSP

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Kamen Taskov - Bulgarian communist party, member of Central committee Kamen Kamenov, Petar Petrov Nikolay Ignatov

CYPRUS

Charles Charalambus, translator

CZECH REPUBLIC

Petr Rohel, Levicovy Klub Ostrava (Ostrava Left Club - LKO), Jaroslav Sutorka, Levicovy Klub Ostrava (LKO), Petr Fojt, LKO, Hana Fojtová, LKO

FRANCE

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GERMANY

Winfried Lätsch (Food and Restaurant Workers Union) Eberhard Henze (SPD member, Ver.di trade unionist) Peter Beyer (Ver.di trade unionist, unemployed workers committee)

Klaus Schüller (SPD member, Thüringen DGB Secretary) Lothar Hesse (former ÖTV Secretary) Dr. Andreas Steiner (Ver.di trade unionist, GRÜNE LIGA Brandenburg) Veronique Lhommeau (teacher) Ernst Adolph (Ver.di trade unionist) Wolfgang Wendt (Ver.di trade unionist) Jürgen Müller (SPD, AGS) Monika Wernecke (Ver.di trade unionist, women commission) Herbert Wernecke (ver.di trade unionist) Rainer Döring (ver.di trade unionist, president of Berlin public transport workers) Irmtraud Schlosser (GEW trade unionist) Eva Willig Gotthard Krupp (SPD, Berlin AfA/SPD's Workers commission/ member, Ver.di regional executive committee member) Carla Boulboullé (Editorial board "Soziale Politik & Demokratie", GEW trade unionist) Volker Prasuhn (SPD, AfA Berlin, ver.di trade unionist) Axel Zutz (SPD, AfA Berlin, IG BAU trade unionist) Heinke Först (SPD, AfA Berlin, GEW trade unionist) Birgit Schöller (SPD member) Detlef Bahr (Ver.di trade unionist) Werner Uhde (International liaison committee, Ver.di trade unionist) Hans Weigt (Ver.di trade unionist) Harald Miehe (Ver.di trade unionist) Helmut Ludwig (SPD member) Klaus Hesse (Ver.di trade unionist Dortmund) Rainer Nehring (Ver.di Secretary of workers employees) Olaf Timmermann (SPD, ver.di trade unionist) Susanne Kiesel (Ver.di regional committee of workers employees Hamburg) Uwe Januschewski (SPD, Ver.di trade unionist, president of Ver.di civil servant union) Peter Witt (SPD, AfA, ver.di president Berlin) Gaby Hosenfelder-Fritz (SPD, AfA, ver.di president) Dr. Rolf Nowak (ver.di president, Senior committee in Frankfurt/Oder) Michael Altmann (ver.di president, member of AfA leadership) Heinrich Becker (regional committee GEW) Christof Beschorner (SPD, ver.di president) Marianne Friemelt (GEW president)

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Hans-Jürgen Mees (ver.di trade unionist) Peter Polke (Transnet trade unionist, S-Bahn) Kerstin Fürst (Transnet trade unionist, S-Bahn) Michael Wittkowski (ver.di trade unionist) Lieselotte Nowak Christiane Treffert (GEW trade unionist)

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Niall Irwin, OPATSI gen. secretary Maria O'Connor, Health worker

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NETHERLANDS

Bashir Farshad, Socialist Party, Member of Parliament

NORWAY

Thor Sannaess, Norway Workers' Union

PORTUGAL

Carmelinda Pereira, Former member of Parliament, leader of the Socialist unity workers' party (POUS) Aires Rodrigues, Former member of Parliament, leader of the POUS Rui Santos, Vice-President of the congress of UGT, Socialist Party activist: Ana Paula Amaral, SPGL (CGTP) Former member of Parliament, leader of the Socialist unity workers' party (POUS) Jorge M. C. Torres, Workers' commission of UNOR-Embalagens, SA: Carlos Melo, Sindicato dos Bancários do Sul e Ilhas (UGT) former Secretary, Maria Isabel F. M. Torres, Sindicato dos Professores da Zona Sul (CGTP); Simão Pedro F. Torres, SITIC (Sindicato Independente dos Trab. da Informação e Comunicações): João Pestana, Portuguese citizen who disagree with the Lisbon Treaty, Paula Montez, (Comissão de defesa da Escola Pública - CDEP); Adélia Gomes (CDEP); Conceição Rôlo (CDEP); Santana Henriques, Workers' commission of Círculo de Leitores and CESP (CGTP) trade unionist: Maria Cândida Barros, retired teacher, Maria da Luz Fernandes, POUS; Maria Margarida Aguiar de Sousa, employee Maria Stela Marques Nogueira Cavaco, socialist; Sílvia Maria Nogueira Cavaco, socialist;

Joaquim Pagarete, Comissão de Professores e Educadores de Infância Aposentados (CPEIA - SPGL/CGTP): Maria Margarida Mascarenhas, CPEIA - SPGL/CGTP trade unionist: Margarida Pagarete, former leader of Students' association of the FPCEL; Maria José Gomes, Health worker; Aníbal Machado, Health worker; Maria Angelina Paiva, Maria Regina S. B. Ramos, teacher trade unionist (SPGL); Maria Florinda F. Trabuco, teacher trade unionist (SPGL); Maria Elisabete M. Cartaxo, teacher trade unionist (SPGL); José Carlos Vinagre, teacher trade unionist (SPGL); Irene Sá, teacher trade unionist (SPGL); Manuela Pinto, teacher trade unionist (SPGL): Isabel Teresa, tecaher Luísa Mesquita, independent Member of Parliament : Maria do Carmo Vieira, teacher Bebiana Gonçalves, teacher (SPGL/CGTP); Manuela Leitão, teacher (SPGL/CGTP); Rui Pimenta Rodrigues, teacher Victor Amaral, civil servant, POUS member: Maria la Salette Arcas Silva, teacher; Ana Paula Barata, civil servant, Portugal Telecom; Emanuel Alte Rodrigues, teacher (SPRC/CGTP); Cláudia Geni Girelli, unemployed Pedro Rodrigues, journalist; Sara Homem Sousa, student; António Serra, former member of Workers' commission of Imprensa Nacional / Casa da Moeda; Ana Paula Vieira da Costa Serra, civil servant: J. Dias: Alexandrina Pinto, teacher: Rosa Pereira, teacher

MOLDOVA

Evghenii Nazarenko, Organisation "Rezisten Populara" (People's resistance) Maxim Cecan, Moldova Communist Party, Secretary

ROMANIA

Marian Tudor, Postal workers trade unionist, Association for workers' emancipation Florin Constantin, Editoral board "Tribuna Sociala" Marian Varuicu, teacher trade unionist

RUSSIA

Mark Vassilev, doctor Vasily Koltashov, Centre of the economic studies Institute for globalization and social movements (IGSO) Julia Ostrovskaya, Confederation of Free Workers Unions, Voronezh

SERBIA

Jaćim Milunović, PUT (Food and Tourism workers Union) trade unionist; Djura Velichkovic, EPS (Serbia's Electrical Company) trade unionist; Nebojsa Komanovic, RPS (Workers' political alliance) ; Pavlusko Imsirovic, RPS (Workers' political alliance) ; Jovan Andjelkovic, SPRS teacher trade unionist

SLOVAKIA

Molnár Ilona, teacher Szábo Mirosláv, ingeneer

SPAIN

Francisca Amírez, trade unionist CCOO Rafael Aguilera, trade unionist FSP-UGT, Barcelona José Almela, trade unionist UGT Enrique Armero Moriño - trade unionist CCOO - Sevilla Miguel Ángel Andrade Pérez, trade unionist Artes gráficas CCOO, Madrid Luís Arias de Reyna, trade unionist UGT administración autonómica Madrid Xabier Arrizabalo, university teacher Complutense, trade unionist CCOO, Madrid Víctor Ballesteros, trade unionist CCOO Sevilla Jesús Béjar, trade unionist CCOO Madrid Sur Benjamín Bastida Vilà, university teacher, Barcelona, trade unionist CCOO Carles Belmonte Fábrega, Vallés Occidental Exec. Committee FETE-UGT Jesús de Blas Ortega, economist, affiliated to UGT Telecomunicaciones, Madrid Julio Bolonio Luis, trade unionist CCOO del Ayuntamiento de Getafe

Josep Calzada Doladé, General secretary UGT Caja Madrid, Cataluña Ángel Campabadal Solé, trade unionist UGT Francisco Cepeda, trade unionist Artes Graficas CCOO Madrid Isabel Cerda, trade unionist UGT. Correos (Postal workers) Madrid Carmen Chacón Roldán – National executive commission of CCOO -Sevilla José Manuel Cima Fernández, trade unionist CCOO Thyssen, Asturias. Juan Clemente Sánchez - trade unionist Adm. Pública CCOO -- Sevilla Francisco Crespo Velasco, worker, SEAT, Barcelona Antonio Criado Barbero, trade unionist UGT – Sevilla Rocío Cruz Jimenez, Exec. Committee Unión Comarcal Madrid Sur CCOO Montserrat Cumellas, Teacher, Sant Boi. Barcelona Manuel Cuso, Editorial board Información Obrera, trade unionist UGT Daniel Cuadrado González, trade unionist CC.OO. Asturias. José Fransisco Dominguez, worker at Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, trade unionist FETE-UGT Yolanda Dominguez, worker at Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña Miguel Fanlo, trade unionist CCOO Metal workers, Barcelona Rafael Fernández Serra – General secretary Unión Provincial CCOO -Sevilla Pablo Garcia-Cano, trade unionist CCOO Metal workers. Madrid José A. Gómez, trade unionist sentenced for having participated to a strike Luís González, General secretary of Sevilla CCOO Public Health Union Miguel Gonzalez, trade unionist UGT Vizcaya, Información Obrera Pedro Andrés González García -Administración pública CCOO -Sevilla Miguel Gonzalez Mendoza, trade unionist FETE-UGT Cataluña Julio Hellín, Regional Madrid Council member of CCOO Joaquín Herrando, trade unionist UGT Carolina Herranz, trade unionist Transport Union CCOO, Málaga Antonio Herranz, Health worker, Málaga Enrique Herrero, Teacher in CCOO trade union Institute. Madrid ISI – Iniciativa Socialista – Sevilla Lidia Just Calpe, trade unionist UGT Administración, Barcelona

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Montandon Eric, communication trade unionist Hofer Daniel, PS Neufchâtel Meylan Georges, PS Genève Perruchoud Eric, PS Carrouge Leggiero Vincent, SEV TPG Railways workers trade unionist Fiastri Marzia, SSP trade unionist Donzé Jean-François, communication trade unionist Perrot Jean-Louis, SSP trade unionist Genève Stokoe Gerda, SSP trade unionist Richard Jacques-Eric, former Member of Parliament, PS Vernier Anor Alexandre, former Member of Parliament, PS Vernier Anor Catherine, PS Councillor Christinat Amelia, former national Councillor Muhlematter Daniel, PS Boudry Fabregas Sebastien, SSP trade unionist Montana Madeleine, SSP trade unionist Cochard Jean-Claude, SEV trade unionist Böhringer Stéphane, PS Bevaix

Muhlematter Aurélie, UNIA trade unionist Iseli Claude, PS Bevaix Iseli Pierrette, PS, Bevaix Giorgiatti Ivano, PS Bevaix Durel Bruno, PS, Bevaix Anor Albert, PS Genève Kraatz Jessica, Hennet Gaëlle, Anor Apolline, Mathieu Beguelin PS, Neufchâtel Yvan Gallo, PS Neufchâtel Bruno Ryf, SEV trade unionist

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Zeki Kilicaslan, IKP (Workers' brotherhood party), President Sadi Ozansu, IKP Vice-president Cetin Yelken, Textile Union retired Secretary

UKRAINE

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