

IRELAND DESERVES BETTER

TÁ FEABHAS TUILLTE AGAINN

VOTE **NO!**
to Lisbon Treaty



IRELAND'S PLACE IS IN EUROPE

Ireland's place is in Europe. Co-operation with our European partners is valuable and must continue. The challenge for us is to build a modern, democratic Europe for a modern, democratic Ireland. The Lisbon Treaty, like many of the treaties that went before it, does not deliver reform, efficiency or democracy. Ireland deserves better.

The Lisbon Treaty involves a massive transfer of power to the EU. It significantly accelerates the militarisation of the EU, and contains proposals which will be bad for our economy, public services and workers rights. The simple fact is that the Lisbon Treaty gives the EU too much power.

You only have to look at events over the last few years to see what giving more powers to the EU means in practice:-

- Water charges with disastrous consequences for schools;
- Irish Ferries workers are sacked;
- The government was unable to prevent the shutting down of the Irish sugar beet.;
- Eircom and Aer Lingus are privatised – stalling the roll out of broadband and

causing the withdrawal of the Shannon service. The ESB and An Post face the same fate;

- Irish troops are involved in EU battle groups;
- The Irish Government has no control over rising interest rates;
- Workers' rights to equal terms and conditions in the member state in which they work are no longer secure as a consequence of European Court of Justice rulings;
- the records of all emails sent and received and the times you log on and off the internet will be held for three years.

What has become clear over the last few years is that the Irish Government has less and less power to reject laws that are not in our interests. If the Lisbon Treaty is allowed to go ahead the situation will become worse.

It is crucial to remember that if the Lisbon Treaty is passed it will put at risk our automatic right to a referendum and our future ability to get a good deal for Ireland.

10 REASONS WHY THE LISBON TREATY IS BAD FOR IRELAND

- 1: It puts at risk our automatic right to a referendum on future changes to existing treaties.
- 2: It gives the EU too much power and reduces our ability to stop decisions that are not in Ireland's interests.
- 3: It gives 105 additional powers to the EU on issues such as international relations, security, trade and economic policy. And in more than 60 of these areas we will lose our right to stop laws not in our national interest.
- 4: It creates an EU Foreign Minister and common defence and foreign policies, and allows the EU to act on the international stage in the same way as a state and to speak on our behalf.
- 5: It erodes neutrality by drawing us into a common defence and obliging us to increase military spending.
- 6: It cuts our voting strength on the Council of Ministers by more than half.
- 7: It ends our automatic right to a Commissioner.
- 8: It seriously undermines workers rights and public services.
- 9: It mandates the EU to promote nuclear energy.
- 10: It undermines the EU's commitment to tackling global poverty and inequality.

"Aistriú cumhachta ollmhór don AE"

Sinn Féin

www.sinnfein.ie



Sinn Féin

“Beidh cailliúnt mór cumhachta do Éire mar úroraí ar Ghriannaí Liospóin, chomh maith le lagú na neodrachta agus cearta na noibrithe”

DEMOCRACY DAONLATHAS

The Lisbon Treaty is bad for democracy. It would result in a major loss of power for Ireland. It will:

- gives 105 additional powers to the EU and removes the Irish governments right to stop legislation which is not in our interest in more than 60 of these areas;
- end our automatic right to a Commissioner;
- cut our voting strength on the European Council by more than half;

It also gives the EU a ‘single legal personality’ for the first time. This means that the EU can:

- act in the international arena in the same way as a state;
- form a diplomatic corps;
- negotiate treaties and trade agreements directly with other states;
- seek a seat at the United Nations;
- speak on the international stage on behalf of all 27 member states.

Taken together these changes reduce our ability to say no to decisions that are not in our interest.

MILITARISATION & NEUTRALITY MÍLEATÚ & AN NEDRACHT

We have seen the incremental development of an EU army in all but name and the use of Shannon airport by US troops on their way to wage war in Iraq.

The Irish Government did not even try to secure a specific article explicitly recognising neutrality. Sinn Féin supports neutrality and our role in UN peace keeping. We do not support the militarisation of the EU.

The Lisbon Treaty advances the militarisation of the EU and further undermines neutrality. It contains:

- a commitment to a single EU foreign, security and defence policy;
- a requirement on all member states to progressively ‘improve military capabilities’ which will lead to an increase in military expenditure;
- a requirement of compatibility with NATO.

PUBLIC SERVICES SEIRBHSÍ POIBLÍ

Like present EU economic policy the Lisbon Treaty promotes privatisation and undermines workers rights and protections. It will do this by:

- forcing health and education services to open to competitive markets;
- forcing international trade in all public goods, including public services;
- pressuring member states to reduce public spending;
- forcing a race to the bottom in workers rights, environmental protections and other forms of government regulation.

Tá fíis forásach eile don EU agus do shuíomh na hÉireann ann ag Sinn Féin. Chun a fháil amach faoi téigh go dtí: www.no2lisbon.ie

GET INVOLVED

Join Sinn Féin Join No2Lisbon Campaign

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Return to 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1
or email: sfadmin@eircom.net

