

No Means No: The EU Constitution and the Irish Referendum

A letter to the Herald, June 2008

Sir,

Last week the people of Ireland did a great favour to us and people right across Europe.

The new Lisbon Treaty they rejected is essentially the same as the previously-planned EU Constitution: there is still to be an EU president, an EU foreign minister (renamed but with exactly the same powers) with his own diplomatic service, 50 vetoes given away, and a ratchet clause allowing more vetoes to be abolished without the need for a new Treaty.

The rest of us were denied a say on the latest planned give-away of powers to Brussels. The Irish have been massive financial beneficiaries from the EU. But when given a choice, they still rejected it.

Now is the time to end the old top-down Europe which the Irish have so decisively rejected. It is time to renew the European Union, based upon respect for its peoples' wishes.

If the so-called elites of Europe ignore people again, I doubt they will ever be forgiven. But in any case the situation calls for action here at home.

If this Treaty is not immediately declared dead and buried, the British people must now be allowed the referendum that all mainstream parties promised in their manifestoes. There is no justification for the British people being denied their say while the Irish people are allowed theirs.

Yours

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