

Sinn Féin must be wearing blinkers, says Generation YES

Wednesday, 16 September 2009:

In response to Sinn Féin's claim that they are the only organisation to back up their arguments with references to the Lisbon Treaty, **Generation YES** Campaign Manager, Bart Storan, says:

“Sinn Féin must be wearing blinkers if they have not seen that **Generation YES** has backed up every statement in our literature and on our website with references to the Lisbon Treaty.”

“This is another example of Sinn Féin ignoring facts that do not suit their anti-EU agenda.”

-ENDS-

Further information

Sharon Waters 085 133 2502

Notes

Generation YES's lie-buster reveals that the articles quoted by Sinn Féin are deliberately misrepresented:

Poster: "Germany 17%, UK 12%, Ireland 0.8%. Lisbon = Less Power in Europe"

This is a deliberate misrepresentation of the Council of Ministers voting procedure under Lisbon. This low figure corresponds to our small population size in the EU, which is only taken into account after a first stage of voting in which 55% of the number of member states must approve a measure (Article 9C, renumbered Article 16.4 TEU). This stage works on a principle of "one state, one vote", and Ireland has the same voting power as Germany and the UK. Thus no proposal can be forced through by a small number of large states if they don't have wider support. Ireland still retains a veto over sensitive areas.

Poster: "Lisbon = lower wages"

Lisbon makes no changes to national wage arrangements, including the minimum wage. The EU has not currently, nor will it under Lisbon, any power over the minimum wages of member states. Ireland's minimum wage was set down in Irish law under the National Minimum Wage Act 2000, and the EU can do nothing to change this. In fact Lisbon provides for even greater social protection than is currently guaranteed in EU law (Article 3.3 TEU, Charter of Fundamental Rights, Chapter IV).

Poster: "Lisbon = more military spending"

Lisbon contains no obligation whatsoever to increase military spending. It contains a requirement to “undertake progressively to improve [member states'] military capabilities” (Article 42.3 TEU).

However, this is categorically not an obligation to spend more. It is aimed at more effective use of the money we currently spend, e.g. interoperability of equipment, prevention of duplication and joint tenders for equipment to save money for the taxpayer.

Poster: "Lisbon = crushing family farms"

The Lisbon Treaty makes very few changes in the area of agriculture and fisheries. The only significant difference is that the European Parliament will now vote on the budget for the Common Agricultural Policy which means farmers will have a greater chance to influence decisions by lobbying their elected MEPs. (Article 43.2 TFEU)