



Friday 9 May 2008

Dear Ambassador,

We have gathered here in front of the Irish Embassy in Austria to congratulate the Irish people on the fact that the citizens of your country can vote on the Treaty of Lisbon. Our government however - in spite of a week-long battle for our rights - has refused to hold a referendum. Therefore we wish to express our respect for the democratic culture of your country here today.

On 26 April, Ballhausplatz in Vienna - the seat of power in Austria - was the scene of a demonstration with a special guest from Ireland: Prof. Anthony Coughlan showed us very clearly what the Lisbon Treaty means for each of us. Every person in the EU has the right to know the truth about this treaty and to vote on it in a national referendum.

As the people of France and the Netherlands had already rejected the almost identical constitution in 2005, the heads of government decided to take away the European people's right to have any sort of say on the Lisbon Treaty. It is now up to the people of Ireland to put a stop to the excesses of the EU.

We want a Europe in which the sovereignty of nations is accepted, in which Austria's (and Ireland's) neutrality remain intact, a Europe which serves peace and not the military, and in which the people and not big business are in charge. We therefore ask the Irish people to vote No to the 'Reform Treaty'. They have the opportunity to open the way to a new, better treaty. We wish the Irish people all the very best.

Yours sincerely

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