

Hook, Line and Sinker- The Lisbon agenda

By Philip Kirwan

Hook....

So far the basic idea we're being presented of the treaty is that through its ratification the EU will become more democratic, more representative and more efficient in its legislation process. This may be partially true BUT in making the process quicker and more efficient we will submit more power to the central court in Luxembourg, commissioners and parliament.

How? Well the new power's of double majority voting will allow a weighted vote based on the population of each country. Therefore Germany, France, UK and Italy will share 29 votes each due to their large populations. To put things in perspective Ireland will have 7 weighted votes. So in the parliament we will have six countries sharing over 180 weighted votes and you need 255 out of 345 to pass any form of legislature, Basically any "law" can now be passed with the consent of 55% of the votes. I Don't think you need to think hard about this to realise that it is a lopsided system where power to pass bills will rest on the shoulders of six countries along with the remaining smaller majority votes.

According to the Robert Schuman foundation interpretation of the Lisbon treaty "The European Commission maintains a central role. It has the **entire** monopoly over the initiative to legislate which provides it with major political importance"

Now keep this vital quote in mind when considering the following. If the treaty is passed Ireland will keep its commissioner until 2014, this was part of the legal guarantees to Ireland **but** past 2014 we will be looking at a different system where two thirds of the commissioners will have the final say on issues of "major political importance". Now Ireland may be part of this body of commissioners in 2014 or it could end up on the sidelines for FIVE YEARS. Exactly one presidential term. Even if we don't then sit that term out we will at some stage. This "legal guarantee" therefore is automatically out the window when bearing in mind that not one word of the treaty has been changed.. According to Liberal MEP Afraid to say this but we're being lied to... again.

Line.....

Okay so the conclusion from the above paragraphs is that the power system will be out of balance in the EU. Now let's take a look at what they can do with this new power. Firstly there is the mention of "modifications" to the previous treaties (for example the Rome Treaty and the Maastricht Treaty). One can only guess how deep this interpretation of "modifications" can go. But.. Here's an idea, see what you think.....

The Maastricht Treaty (1992): Modifications affect the institutions, enhanced cooperation, foreign and security policy, defence policy
Rome Treaty (1957): it details the competences and areas of intervention on the part of the European Union, it becomes the "Treaty on the functioning of the EU" (TFEU).

Now does that sound like a rabbit hole or what? They will gain the power (as long as a majority vote is ensured) To change virtually anything that has been previously enacted! ""The "European Constitution" suggested the repeal of all of the present treaties to replace them by one text only, the constitutional vocation of which was established." we will live in a very different europe in twenty years. A europe with centralized power, control of the monetary system, control of law reform and a central european court that will be able to override the power of our nationalised courts (this is already possible). Now maybe it is possible to understand why the elite political class, our own government included, has been so keen to get this passed by the irish public. It has been shown recently in the last few months that our own government has misinformed the public with so called guarentees. Lets get the facts straight right here. They are not legally sound and can be interpreted by the central court in luxembourg and overruled.

Sinker....

As a european citezen myself, I would never try to "go against the grain". Out of the spirit of cooperation I want to see a prosperous europe where we can be a beacon of light to the world and become the staple model of democracy. Afterall it would be quite selfish to say that we haven't been helped by the EU in the past. Heres the thing though, the argument for the treaty is saying that we are obliged to vote for the treaty purely out of the fact that Ireland has been helped before by this union. We need to distinguish the difference between being pro-european and being pro-treaty (a treaty which few understand). Perhaps we can reverse things and question if our own government is "going against the grain" of the irish public opinion? We do not need to vote for something we do not understand Mr. Cowen because thankfully we are not sheep. Luckily we have all been blessed with the gift of critical thinking were we can challenge what is being preseentsed to us. A second referendum is around the corner. Well what can we do about it? One simple answer.. inform ourselves. Don't take the word of fianna fail, fianna gael, the socialist party or sinn fein as gospel. We the irish public need to bite the hand that feeds and exercise the freedoms that previous generations have died for. Get informed. Are we going to let this treaty float on a sea of false promises and misinformation or are we going sink this mother?