



Resolution

The Second Irish Referendum on the Lisbon Treaty

Noting:

- The broad cross-party commitment to Irish ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in order to ensure Ireland's continued participation at the heart of European.
- The usefulness of the guarantees agreed by the European Council in June 2009 in clarifying the exact content of provisions of the Lisbon Treaty in areas of family law, the right to life, education, taxation and national security prerogatives. In addition the agreement reached on the future composition of the European Commission and the solemn declaration on workers' rights and public services address certain concerns expressed during the first Lisbon referendum campaign.
- While the said guarantees assuage any concerns among the Irish population on these matters, the guarantees in no way affect the substantive content of the Lisbon Treaty as previously agreed by EU Member States during the Portuguese Presidency.
- The research findings of the European Commission's Eurobarometer poll produced in the wake of the Lisbon Treaty which spotlighted lack of information about the Treaty as the principal cause of rejection. More recently the European Commission has highlighted the below average knowledge among Irish citizens of the workings of the European Union.
- Irish citizens awareness of the previous progressive benefits which EU membership has brought to Ireland; economically, socially and politically.

Recalling:

- The strong endorsement given by Presidents of YEPP Member Organizations to the Lisbon Treaty at the Chairman's Conference held in Porto, Portugal in May 2008.
- The joint communique issued by the President of YFG and the President of YEPP in the wake of the June 2008 rejection of the Lisbon Treaty which emphasised the need for greater understanding of European affairs among Irish youth in particular.
- The YEPP Seminar hosted by Young Fine Gael in Cork in March 2008 on the topic of a 'Europe Fit for Future Generations', which focused on the needs for European institutional and policy reform in the context of the Lisbon Treaty.

Acknowledging:

- The difficulties in ratifying complex international law treaties through the process of referenda.
- The importance of a citizenry which is well informed on European polity, politics and policy in order to bring Europe closer to the citizens.
- That due to the *sui generis* nature of the European Union, Member States each ratify the

European treaties in accordance with their own constitutional arrangements in pursuit of a common European consensus.

- While the guarantees on military neutrality have been secured by the Irish government for political reasons to ensure a successful outcome to referendum, Young Fine Gael policy is adamant that Ireland should be involved to a greater degree in the future expansion and development of CFSP.

YEPP Calls on:

- Governments across the European Union to support pro-European parties in Ireland in their bid to successfully pass the second referendum on Treaty of Lisbon being held on 2 October.
- The European's People's Party to actively contest the false and misleading information being circulated by opponents of the Lisbon Treaty in Ireland.

Adopted by the YEPP Council in The Hague, 5 September 2009