

Press release

CYM call for a No vote

The Connolly Youth Movement calls on the youth of Ireland to exercise their democratic right next Thursday and vote no to the Lisbon Treaty. The Connolly Youth Movement believes it is imperative that the onward march to an EU superstate is halted before it becomes too late.

The CYM is opposed to this treaty because it increases the power and control of unelected EU elites and takes more power away from elected national governments. It will reduce our influence within the EU's structures. The treaty gives primacy to EU laws and directives over our laws and gives more power to the European Court of Justice over national courts. As this treaty will be amendable without the need for any further referendums, we would be handing a blank cheque to the unelected bureaucrats.

The CYM believes that this treaty is also a blueprint for a privatised Europe. It will legally enforce the opening up of health, education and transport services and our national resources to privatisation and for sale to transnational corporations. It will also have hugely negative effects on workers' rights. This is clear from a recent ruling by the European Court of Justice that a Latvian company operating in Sweden could pay the Latvian workers whatever they like. This undermines the terms and conditions won by workers in host countries, which will allow the employers to push wages down in a race to the bottom. The treaty will increase the powers of the European Union to attack workers' rights.

Finally, the CYM opposes this treaty because it continues the militarisation of the EU. Member-states would be committed to a common defence and foreign policy. It would have an army capable of carrying out "peacemaking missions" far from European borders. Irish neutrality barely exists now, but this doesn't mean that we should condemn young Irish soldiers to die for the interests of big corporations.

The CYM calls for a No vote in the Lisbon Treaty referendum to protect Irish neutrality, public services, workers' rights, and democracy.

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