

# Resistance

## WAS THE IRISH REFERENDUM RIGGED?



This issue was held over until after the Irish referendum and the Conservative Party conference.

We've just found a very interesting web article by Henry Curteis<sup>1</sup>.

This claims:

- ✚ The turnout figure wasn't 60%, as reported – it was nearer 40%.
- ✚ A poll was originally reported by the Irish Times with voting poised 52%:48% but later altered to match RTE (state TV broadcaster) news bulletins of a 60% 'Yes'.
- ✚ Votes were added during the count to the 'Yes' totals.
- ✚ There was a lack of security with the ballot boxes being left unattended, carried with open lids, etc.

### 'VOTE EARLY, VOTE OFTEN' – legendary Irish slogan?

- ✚ Perhaps most relevantly, under Irish law, ballot boxes should have been delivered by members of the Gardai [police] to polling stations at 7:00 am on the day.
- ✚ Instead, ballot boxes were delivered to the private homes of the polling/ Returning Officers, 48 hours before the vote.
- ✚ A number of honest Returning Officers formally objected, but were spun the line that the ballot boxes had no commercial value, so it would be in nobody's interest to steal them.
- ✚ Irish voters were given pencils to make their mark on the ballot, even though black pens are standard. Nor were voters authenticated at the polling stations.
- ✚ Votes weren't counted until the following day. At least one box in Cork was removed from the count centre by an unknown person (see website for video link).

All of this is reported as hearsay, as we have no direct means of confirming it. However it would be no surprise if it was later proved – and compare these reports with mainstream reporting.

It was well established that:

- ✚ Irish voters were being forced to vote on an unchanged Treaty (confirmed by former UK Europe Minister Caroline Flint and Enda Kenny, Fine Gael party leader).<sup>2</sup>
- ✚ The 'safeguards' on Irish decision making were illusory. Prof. Steve Peers of Essex University believed that they were valid, but on the strength of something that might be attached to a future Treaty.

In practice, the Irish would still be under the weight of existing European Court judgements, and could do nothing to 'opt out'. Expect any future agreements/Protocols to meekly say that *'this does not affect the Constitution of Ireland, or the Republic's position on deciding...'*<sup>3</sup>



- ✚ The media were largely biased to the 'Yes' camp, reporting claims not related to the substance of 'Lisbon' – such as a 'Yes' vote saving interest repayments of over £180m a year.<sup>4</sup>

There were also strange claims that Lisbon would 'improve the mobility of labour and selling across Europe'.

- ✚ The 'Yes' camp led on scare tactics such as calls to 'Vote Yes for Jobs' and for protecting investment by US companies such as Microsoft, Intel and Dell.<sup>4</sup> Those with any memory would recall that Dell recently moved its Irish PC assembly plant to Poland on cost grounds, and that Microsoft and Dell were fined by the EU (an appeal was pending with Intel).<sup>5</sup>

The Irish Referendum Commission later ruled that the 'Yes's were wrong to claim Lisbon will lead to jobs.<sup>6</sup>

- ✚ Ryanair's Michael O'Leary has confirmed that he poured money into the 'Yes' campaign to get the EU's favour for buying Aer Lingus – take-overs need Commission approval.<sup>6</sup>

✚ After the 2008 'No' vote, Irish PM (Taoiseach) Brian Cowen warned French President Sarkozy to stop interfering in Irish politics as it would swell the 'No' vote'. ....this didn't stop him letting the European Commission spend heavily on propaganda, with a paid insert in all Irish newspapers the Sunday before the vote.<sup>6</sup>



Over 12% in the Republic are jobless and the economy is forecast to shrink by 9.8% this year.<sup>4</sup>

✚ Even in the face of all the pressure a poll just before the vote put the 'Yes' camp at just over 50%, and the gap narrowing.

Confidence in the government was as low as 15% - voters widely despised PM Cowen who assured them that hard-won concessions had been squeezed from other EU member states by a determined Irish government.<sup>4</sup>

## CAN CZECHS BOUNCE TREATY?

With Germany and Poland ratifying the Treaty (Germany with some words of reservation, probably for domestic consumption before their General Election), focus shifted to Czech President Vaclav Klaus.

Opinions on whether he can block the Treaty are split.

✚ The Czech government have told the EU that they intend to ratify the Lisbon Treaty by the end of the year.

✚ However, Mary Ellen Synon is optimistic that the caretaker Czech government can continue until June, by when the UK General Election is over. Klaus has requested the Constitutional Court to check the Treaty's compatibility; rejection is unlikely, but, as in Germany, extra laws might need to be passed.<sup>8</sup>

That will take time, putting the ball in the court of whoever is UK PM.



Who will be put to the test first? And what will the rest of Europe tolerate?



## Successes and a call to arms

### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

We organised our first meeting for some years – in London, on 22 July.

The speaker was **Tony Bunyan** of **Statewatch** who has monitored the EU for years. Tony has been watching the EU 'Stockholm' discussions (on Justice & Home Affairs) and says to watch out for agreements struck by EU Committees in November – well before ministers meet (December).

More on [www.statewatch.org](http://www.statewatch.org).

✦ We have got comments on popular 'blogs' (online discussions) like Conservative Home, the press and again the Conservative website (where they survived editing in spite of spelling out why 'renegotiation' could not bring powers back). **Advertising works through repetition!!!**



Flying the flag? Conference merely maintained the fudge over Lisbon that 'we will not let matters rest'...

Interesting that the Labour Party also used the Union flag in the North-West in June's 'EuroParl' election campaign – not that it did them much good!

✦ David Cameron is right that the General Election is not 'in the bag' – the polls show disgust at Labour more than trust in Tory policies, many of which are still to be decided.

✦ The Tories must win at least 117 seats (7% average swing) to take power and candidates will be nervous. Many might break ranks over 'Europe' in the hope of being elected.

The fudge on Europe will continue as long as possible, but Cameron will be forced eventually to state if there's any conditions under which he'll back withdrawal and even guarantee any sort of referendum. If Lisbon is ratified, then there will be no hiding place.

✦ Cameron might have to explain why he endorsed the Principles of the 'Conservative Way Forward' group:<sup>9</sup>

### Nationhood

*Each nation must be free to determine its policies to the benefit of its citizens.*

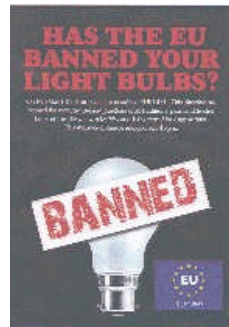
Inconsistency is likely to damage trust in integrity, with voters deciding some folk will say **anything** to get their votes



June's elections show that many voters are not afraid to vote for 'non-traditional' candidates or, in many cases, with their feet.



An 'X factor' might be the prospect of Tony Blair as EU President. A public not into the complexities of Treaties is already remembering that they were denied a referendum....



This leaflet - from retailer Ryness - does much to make people think how much the EU affects their everyday lives - and where power really lies.

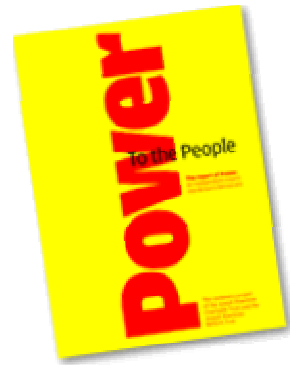
✦ Open Europe produce fine press digests and research papers. It is a shame to see them wasting energy advocating 'reform' of the corrupt EU a.k.a 'renegotiating membership'.<sup>10</sup>

✦ We cannot repeat it too often – the EU was **designed** to be 'reform-proof' with an 'ever closer union' ratchet.<sup>3</sup> No stitch-up can ever be 'respectable'.

In 1970 (Case 11/70), the European Court of Justice decided that the limitation of sovereignty was '**permanent**', and that member states **could not exercise power** in breach of 'Community obligations'.

As membership requires accepting the view of the European Court as **binding**, with **unlimited fines** possible for non-compliance, and a commitment to work to the **spirit** of Treaties – deepening **political and economic union**, it would be a non-starter for other members to even consider returning powers to us.

**Get this across to decision makers - and we win our country back!**



Baroness Kennedy (Labour, but with an independent mind) seeks voters' ideas on the reforms most wanted from the next Parliament.

They should be about improving the way our democracy works and decisions that affect our lives.

The most popular reforms will be to be put to the public vote, and the top five with the most support will become the POWER2010 Pledge - and part of a campaign to change Britain.

It's worth a try, writing in with: '**Parliament accountable to the British people, not to the EU**' with brief reasoning to:

POWER2010, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ [www.power2010.org/page/s/yourideas](http://www.power2010.org/page/s/yourideas) (or email: [office@power2010.org.uk](mailto:office@power2010.org.uk)) (Deadline – midnight, 5th November)

tell us your idea 

### References:

- <http://the-tap.blogspot.com/2009/10/lisbon-referendum-in-ireland-was-rigged.html>, 5.10.09; also 'daniel 1979 blog' and [www.coircampaign.org](http://www.coircampaign.org) – who raised the alarm before polling day.
- [www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/ireland/article6543879.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/ireland/article6543879.ece) Sunday Times, 21.06.09
- [www.newalliance.org.uk/eccourt.htm](http://www.newalliance.org.uk/eccourt.htm)
- [www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/6258132/Lisbon-Treaty-approval-could-save-Ireland-200m-a-year-in-debt-costs.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/6258132/Lisbon-Treaty-approval-could-save-Ireland-200m-a-year-in-debt-costs.html), 3.10.09
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- [www.conwayfor.org/our-nine-principles.aspx](http://www.conwayfor.org/our-nine-principles.aspx)
- Lorraine Mullally on Radio 5, reported by Open Europe, 8.10.09.

### PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD

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