

THE LISBON TREATY: MORE POWER FOR THE ELITES, NOT FOR THE PEOPLE

„When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty.“ (Charles de Montesquieu)

- **Violation of the division of power**

The EU „Parliament“ would be strengthened a little bit through the Lisbon Treaty, BUT: It would still not possess the right to initiate laws and also no exclusive right to pass resolutions, only “co-determination rights”.

At the same time the competencies of the EU Council and the EU Commission would be extended, two institutions that hold executive AND legislative powers. Thus, power would be simply transferred from the more democratic member states to the less democratic EU - instead of making the latter more democratic.

- **Serious democracy deficits, powerless citizens**

In many important areas (data protection, capital movements, agriculture, trade) the EU Council would replace the principle of majority rule with the principle of unanimity, which might lead to democracy deficits since single countries could be overruled easily.

In addition, there would be new EU competencies that ignore the will of the citizens, since in those cases not the national parliaments would be responsible, but the less democratic EU, e.g. in matters of asylum policies, energy, tourism, emergency management, administration cooperation, counter-terrorism.

- **Pseudo direct democracy**

Direct democracy would be only a farce with the Lisbon Treaty, because the EU popular petitions would be completely non-binding, likewise the national parliaments' rights to be heard.

- **A European Union for the multinational companies**

The Lisbon Treaty would establish (legally binding) neoliberal economic policies (deregulation, privatisation, freedom of capital movements), that would lead to a “race to the bottom” in terms of

tax and social policies, and to a continuous decline of the employees' share of the gross domestic product.

- **Erosion of basic rights**

The basic rights (e.g. freedom of speech) would lose their claim to absolute validity towards all other rights, since they would only have to be “respected”. Besides, the citizens would not be able to submit the EU laws to the European Court of Justice for a legal review.

- **Obligation to rearm and the possibility of the death penalty**

The Lisbon Treaty would oblige the EU member states to rearm, and would grant the EU the right to “peacekeeping missions” (meaning: wars!), which, together with a closer military cooperation, would enhance the pressure also on neutral countries like Ireland, to take part in those missions. Furthermore, in the case of riots, wars or an immediate threat of war, there would be no basic rights protection against the death penalty.

- **Promised EU declaration in the Treaty is just lip-service**

The promised EU declaration is legally non-binding, and does not change a single word in the Lisbon Treaty.

- **Threat of arbitrariness**

According to proposals by the EU Commission and with the approval of the EU “Parliament”, but not necessarily the approval of the national parliaments, the EU Council could grant the EU new competencies that would go beyond the competencies in the existing treaties and in the Lisbon Treaty itself.

- **The majority of the Europeans is against the Treaty**

If they were asked, the Germans, the French and the British would vote against the Treaty, as would the Polish, the Dutch and the Austrians. Thus, with a NO, the Irish wouldn't isolate themselves - it's the political elites that isolate themselves from the Europeans.

And how can Europe be strong if we Europeans are weak since our democracies are destroyed more and more?

So please: On behalf of all freedom- and democracy-loving Europeans: VOTE NO!!!