Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

The Referendum in Ireland

National Conference to discuss EU's future following the vote in Ireland

The citizens of the Republic of Ireland are today voting on whether their country should ratify or not the Treaty of Lisbon. This is the second time that the Irish have been asked to express their opinion on the Treaty signed in Lisbon on the 13th December 2007. Although, apart from Ireland, two other Member States still require to complete the ratification procedures, should the Yes vote prevail, the last obstacle would practically have been overcome for the necessary reforms and changes to the EU's legal personality and institutional make up, contained in the Treaty, to come into force. Should the outcome be negative, the EU will have the face the challenges that such a result will present and improvise alternative strategies for its future.

In order to discuss the future of the European Union in the light of the result of the Irish vote, MEUSAC is organising a National Conference on Friday, 9th October 2009 between 9.00 am and 1.30 pm at the Westin Dragonara Hotel in St. Julian's.

The Conference, entitled "Europe - After Ireland: What Next" will be officially opened with an address by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Tonio Borg.

Professor Roderick Pace, Director of the European Documentation & Research Centre at the University of Malta will deliver an analysis of the vote in the Republic of Ireland.

He will be followed by the Ambassador of Sweden to Malta, Ms. Ulla Gudmundson. Sweden currently holds the presidency of the Council of the EU and Ambassador Gudmundson will be speaking about the views of the Government in Stockholm on the way forward.

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Mr. Richard Crowe, Legal Adviser at the European Court of Auditors and Senior Fellow at the Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI) of the University of Bonn will speak about the implications of the outcome of the referendum for the EU institutional framework.

Given that the Treaty of Lisbon, should it come into force, has important implications on the external relations' capacity of the EU, the new Ambassador of the United States to Malta, Prof. Douglas W. Kmiec, himself a jurist and expert in Constitutional Law, will be addressing the Conference about how the EU is perceived by Americans and on the role that the EU plays as a global actor.

The final part of the Conference will be a Panel Discussion on the future of the European Union after the vote in Ireland, particularly in terms of Enlargement of the EU, its External Relations as well as the enhanced role of the European and national Parliaments. The discussion, moderated by Fr. Joe Borg, will bring together the Heads of the 2 delegations to the European Parliament, Dr. Simon Busuttil and Mr. Louis Grech, members of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, Dr. Francis Agius, Dr. Luciano Busuttil, and Dr. George Vella, the European Commission's Head of Representation in Malta Dr. Joanna Drake, as well as well-known journalist Mr. Noel Grima.

The Conference will be concluded by an address to be delivered by the Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Lawrence Gonzi.

The Conference which will be held in Maltese and English (with facilities for simultaneous translation from Maltese into English) is open to the general public. However, registration is required. An email may be sent on *info.meusac@gov.mt* by not later than noon of 8 October 2009.

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STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

Ir-Referendum fl-Irlanda
Konferenza Nazzjonali dwar il-futur tal-Ewropa wara l-vot fl-Irlanda

Iċ-ċittadini tar-Repubblika Irlandiża llum qegħdin jivvutaw dwar jekk pajjiżhom għandux jirratifika t-Trattat ta' Lizbona. Din hija t-tieni darba li l-Irlandiżi ġew mitluba jesprimu l-opinjoni tagħhom dwar it-trattat iffirmat f'Lizbona nhar it-13 ta' Diċembru 2007. Għalkemm, barra mill-Irlanda, fadal żewġ Stati Membri oħra li għad iridu jagħlqu l-proċeduri tar-ratifika, jekk il-vot ikun pożittiv, prattikament l-aħħar ostaklu jkun ġie megħlub biex jidħlu fis-seħħ ir-riformi u t-tibdiliet meħtieġa fil-qafas ġuridiku u istituzzjonali tal-UE li huma mniżżla fit-Trattat. Jekk ir-riżultat ikun negattiv, l-UE jkollha tiffaċċja l-isfidi ta' dan ir-riżultat u toħroġ bi strateġiji ġodda għall-futur.

Il-MEUSAC qed jorganizza Konferenza Nazzjonali nhar il-Ġimgħa 9 ta' Ottubru 2009, bejn id-9.00am u s-1.30pm fil-Lukanda Westin Dragonara f'San Ġiljan biex jiġi diskuss il-futur tal-Unjoni Ewropea fid-dawl tar-riżultat tal-vot fl-Irlanda.

Il-Konferenza, bit-titlu "L-Ewropa ta' għada – wara l-vot fl-Irlanda" se tkun miftuħa uffiċjalment mill-Viċi Prim Ministru u Ministru tal-Affarijiet Barranin, Dott. Tonio Borg.

Il-Professur Roderick Pace, Direttur taċ-Ċentru Ewropew għad-Dokumentazzjoni u r-Riċerka fl-Università ta' Malta se jagħmel analiżi tal-vot fl-Irlanda.

L-Ambaxxatur tal-Isvezja għal Malta, is-Sinjorina Ulla Gudmundson se tagħti l-perspettiva tal-Gvern Svediż fuq il-futur tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Fil-preżent, l-Iżvezja għandha l-Presidenza tal-Kunsill tal-UE.

Is-Sur Richard Crowe, Konsulent Legali fil-Qorti Ewropea tal-Awdituri u *Senior Fellow* fiċ-Ċentru tal-Istudji għall-Integrazzjoni Ewropea (ZEI) tal-Universita' ta' Bonn, se jitkellem dwar l-implikazzjonijiet tar-riżultat tar-Referendum għall-istituzzjonijiet tal-UE.

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Peress li t-Trattat ta' Liżbona, jekk jidħol fis-seħħ, għandu implikazzjonijiet importanti fuq ir-relazzjonijiet esterni tal-UE, l-Ambaxxatur il-ġdid tal-Istati Uniti għal Malta, il-Prof. Douglas W. Kmiec, ġurista u espert fil-Liġi Kostituzzjonali, se jindirizza l-Konferenza u jitkellem dwar kif l-Amerikani jħarsu lejn l-UE u lejn ir-rwol li l-UE għandha fid-dinja globali.

L-aħħar parti tal-Konferenza tkun diskussjoni dwar il-futur tal-Unjoni Ewropea wara l-vot fl-Irlanda, partikolarment l-implikazzjonijiet għat-tkabbir tal-UE, ir-relazzjonijiet esterni u r-rwol imġedded tal-Parlamenti Ewropew u dawk nazzjonali. Id-diskussjoni, immexxija minn Fr Joe Borg, se ġġib flimkien il-kapijiet taż-żewġ delegazzjonijiet fil-Parlament Ewropew, Dott. Simon Busuttil u s-sur Louis Grech, membri tal-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej tal-Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti, Dott. Frans Agius, Dott. Luciano Busuttil u Dott. George Vella, il-Kap tar-Rappreżentanza tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea f'Malta Dott. Joanna Drake, kif ukoll is-sur Noel Grima, ġurnalista magħruf.

Il-Konferenza tingħalaq b'diskors tal-Prim Ministru ta' Malta, Dott. Lawrence Gonzi.

Din il-Konferenza, li se tkun bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż (b'faċilitajiet ta' traduzzjoni simultanja mill-Malti għall-Ingliż), hija miftuħa għall-pubbliku. Madankollu, hija meħtieġa reġistrazzjoni. Tista' tintbagħat *email* fuq info.meusac@gov.mt sa mhux iktar tard minn nofsinhar tat-8 ta' Ottubru 2009.

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