

The Irish said “No”

by Miren Zarautzen



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The French and the Dutch rejected the European constitution in 2005. Three years later, the Irish have said no to the European Union's reform treaty, also known as the Lisbon Treaty.

The Lisbon treaty was supposed to replace the constitution and give the EU stronger leadership.

For this treaty to be ratified though, the approval of all 27 EU member states was needed. Ireland has been the only member to hold a referendum on the treaty, and the result was 53.4 percent no to 46.6 percent yes.

The treaty proponents claim that “the Treaty of Lisbon will reinforce democracy in the EU and its capacity to promote the interests of its citizens on a day-to-day basis”. However, the Irish objectors believe that generally, the treaty would give Brussels too much control over Irish affairs.

Now, EU leaders have to make a decision. They can draw up a new constitution or they can ask the Irish people to vote again.