



PRESS RELEASE AUGUST 2009

RONAN O’GARA KICKS OFF CORK FOR EUROPE CAMPAIGN

Ireland and Munster rugby star Ronan O’Gara was on hand to kick off the campaign for CORK FOR EUROPE with committee members and supporters from Cork city and surrounding areas and representatives from county groups in Fermoy, Midleton, Mallow, Bandon and Bantry, as well as Generation Yes members from the Cork area.

Ireland for Europe, an independent, non-political group of men and woman committed to promoting a ‘Yes’ vote in the forthcoming Lisbon Treaty referendum (October 2 next) launches a countrywide campaign this week. Cork For Europe, supported by local committees in the city and county opened an office at 67 South Mall and there were strong endorsements for ratification of the Treaty from Chairman Conor Doyle and other members on the occasion.

Ireland for Europe Campaign Director Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament who was present said “Ireland for Europe is inviting the people of Ireland to think carefully before they vote, to think of their own and their family’s long term interests, to think of our country’s interests and standing, to reflect on the common good and to separate their anger about politics and policy at home from the choice in hand. I am delighted to be here in Cork for this event. This referendum is so important for Ireland’s future that it is great to see the commitment here.”

Promising a vigorous campaign **Cork for Europe** Chairman, businessman Conor Doyle said that this was a crucial time for the Cork region and, indeed for Ireland as a whole. “We need to vote Yes to secure jobs and our economic recovery”, he said. “Every ‘Yes’ vote to Europe has been good for Ireland. Now more than ever, we need to build on the best partnership this country has ever had; our membership of the EU.”

Ireland for Europe believes the campaign for a Yes vote should be led by people in their own areas and has acted as a facilitator for the establishment of local campaign groups all over the country.

Clare Nash, of Nash 19 in Cork, a member of committee, said she was delighted that our EU partners had made it possible for us to take another look at Lisbon. “The other EU countries have addressed Ireland’s concerns and there is a hard-fought new deal on offer to voters on October 2nd.”

“ If we vote ‘Yes’ we will retain our European Commissioner. We always have an Irish voice at the top table. We have also been given legally-binding guarantees that our neutrality is safe and that our tax rates and decisions on sensitive ethical decisions, like abortion, stay in Irish hands.”

She was particularly glad that EU leaders had also, since the last vote, made a solemn commitment to protect workers’ rights and public services. “I was already convinced Lisbon was good for workers because of the protections in the Treaty’s Charter of Fundamental Rights. This just confirms it for me”, she added.