

The Free Citizens Party's Preparatory Committee's Statement on the Lisbon Treaty

It is with anxiety for the future of democracy in Europe, Czech national sovereignty and civic freedom that we observe a growing insolence on the part of some representatives of European Union countries and connivance of some Czech politicians. We regard the pressure to ratify the Lisbon Treaty as a particularly menacing expression of anti-democratic trends in the EU and a gross breach of EU's primary law which stipulates that a treaty rejected by one State (see Irish referendum) may not be enforced. The Lisbon Treaty does not substantially differ from the earlier Constitutional Treaty which had been rejected by the Dutch and French referenda.

We therefore state:

- 1) We favour the continuation of the European Union and the treaties which had been accepted by Czech citizens in the referendum on EU accession in 2003 and whose terms and conditions the Lisbon Treaty would change. The existing treaties are not perfect but compared to the Lisbon Treaty, they still accord to member states and their citizens a degree of independence enabling them to reverse the growing trends leading towards the establishment of a bureaucratic super-state.
- 2) We favour the creation of a new treaty which would succinctly and comprehensibly guarantee the preservation of democracy in all EU member States.
- 3) By adopting the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union would become a new state with superimposed law and superimposed citizenship. Through the Lisbon Treaty, the EU would acquire the right to appropriate additional powers without member States' approval.
- 4) The current right of veto granted to every member State would be replaced by a simple majority vote in most decision-making procedures. No State would be able to refuse any EU proposals which it considers disadvantageous. Compared with the current voting system, the Czech vote would be reduced to half while, for instance, the German vote would double. This would enable the large member countries to enforce their will upon the smaller ones.
- 5) The Lisbon Treaty is particularly disadvantageous to the Czech Republic: it does not offer sufficient guarantees that Czech ownership restitution laws established by post-war Presidential Decrees will remain enforceable and the Lisbon Treaty will not lay grounds to large-scale property claims against the Czech Republic.

6) If the EU does not respect the rejection of the Lisbon Treaty by a member State, it will confirm its undemocratic nature and could jeopardise the continuation of the North Atlantic alliance.

The Lisbon Treaty constitutes a concealed transformation of Europe's political system in a way detrimental to democracy. We resolutely reject its ratification by the Czech Republic and appeal to Czech parliamentarians not to give ratification their consent. We vow to Czech citizens that our representatives shall never circumvent their voters' will and shall not give support to the Lisbon Treaty which imperils the Czech Republic, democracy in Europe and citizens' freedom.