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Ireland

“Irish people bullied into voting Yes”

- News from around the world -

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This press statement on the outcome of the Irish referendum on the European fiscal treaty was issued by the Campaign Against the Austerity Treaty on the 1st of June 2012.

Referendum result is not a mandate for home and water taxes

Labour's way IS Frankfurt's way

The government and the EU have succeeded in bullying the people of Ireland into voting for a Treaty they do not want. This vote was based upon fear and the Yes majority is a hollow victory. Even amongst supporters of the Treaty there was an admission that the only grounds for supporting it were the threats of exclusion from future bailout funds. This was the only substantive argument presented by the government and the Yes campaign.

The referendum result today should not be regarded as a mandate to impose the household tax, the water tax and other austerity measures. Those who are being most effected by the austerity measures – cuts and tax hikes – have rejected this treaty in large numbers.

Labour's way is now exposed as Frankfurt's way: the protection of failing banks at the expense of ordinary working people. The Labour Party should take no comfort in this result. They will find themselves supporting cuts and taxes that impose the burden of the banking and economic crisis on ordinary people. The Austerity Treaty, and the austerity policies being currently implemented, will bring neither stability, recovery nor growth. Labour supporters will soon realise this.

Over the coming months the activists of the Campaign Against the Austerity Treaty will work with those who oppose the implementation of the austerity measures that are embodied in this anti-social treaty. We will continue to link up with like-minded movements across Europe in support of an alternative that prioritises full employment, social protection, peace and environmental sustainability.