

Fear Is 'Yes' Camp's Only Tactic on Treaty

In theory, all nations of the European Union must agree to the financial oligarchy's European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and the Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (Fiscal Compact) treaties for them to be imposed.

A referendum, currently scheduled for May 31 in Ireland, may put the kibosh on those fascist plans. While the government parties Labour and Fine Gael are waging a propaganda campaign for a "Yes" vote, some independents and the Sinn Féin are mobilizing for a "No" vote in the plebiscite.

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams launched his party's "No" vote drive on April 26 in Dublin.

"The choice is between austerity, and economic stimulus and growth," Adams said. "The choice is between us handing over powers to unelected officials and bureaucrats in the European Commission and in the European Court of Justice, and allowing them to run this state, and to police fiscal as well as monetary matters. Or we can vote 'No' to this, and assert the right of citizens to elect or sack our governments; and for citizens to have democratic authority over those who govern us."

In mid-April Dáil Member (TD) Thomas Pringle (Independent) announced that he had begun legal proceedings challenging the Government on fundamental aspects of the treaties.

EIR'S Nina Ogden interviewed Deputy Pringle April 27 on the progress of his legal challenge to the referendum on what has come to be known as the "Austerity Treaty."



Dáil Member Thomas Pringle has initiated a legal challenge to the Irish government's attempt to ram through the latest dictatorial EU treaty.

Government Using Illegal Procedures

EIR: What is the status of your legal challenge?

Pringle: The state has just notified us that they will defend the case. My legal team will discuss a timetable with them today. My legal team will emphasize a sense of urgency, given the fact that the referendum is scheduled for May 31. If they will not respond to this urgency, we would go to the High Court early next week.

EIR: Are you looking for something like what we in the U.S. would call a temporary restraining order on the referendum?

Pringle: We are saying that they cannot hold a referendum in which they are violating the normal procedures to amend EU [European Union] treaties. The normal procedure is that there is discussion among the Council of Ministers, and then the Council of State, and then you go to a national referendum. This is the normal case.

Then there is a procedure which was used in the previous Lisbon Treaty, called a simplified procedure. This is what the Government and EU are using now. We are saying that the simplified procedure is illegal in this case, and that the normal procedure should have been used.

We are making clear that the Government must undergo the normal procedure to ratify the European Stability Mechanism which amends Article 136 of the EU law.

We are also asking the court to look at the legality of the European Financial Stability Facility [EFSF].

One is dependent on the other. The EFSF and ESM are intertwined, dependent on each other, logically.

EIR: Logic doesn't seem to enter into either the EFSF or the ESM. The Government seems to be in a rush to push this through.

Pringle: My legal team will be talking to the state's legal team over the weekend. If there is no agreement, then I would expect we will go to the High Court Monday or Tuesday [April 30 or May 1].

EIR: I'm sure your case will be watched carefully

across all of Europe, since there has been so much resistance to the EFSF and ESM, especially since the French elections.

Pringle: This is very important. Among other countries, you know, there are constitutional challenges in Germany itself, as well as in the Estonian Constitutional Court. And, of course, there is the government of the Netherlands, that has just fallen over the issue of austerity. Since the election in France, this will probably happen even more.

The Government Is Lying

EIR: Is the “Yes” camp in the Referendum left with even a leg to stand on?

Pringle: The only tactics they have are fear tactics. They’ll scare people, telling them there will be no more cash in the cash machines. They won’t be able to pay the gardai [the police force—ed.]; Ireland could never get any money from the EU, etc. Fear is a very powerful weapon. The responsibility is on us who are urging a “No” vote to try and encourage people to think things through, and to vote with their heads rather than with the fear in their hearts.

EIR: It is as Franklin Delano Roosevelt said to the people of the U.S. when he took office during the Great Depression: “I wish to reassert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

Pringle: Exactly.

EIR: The Government is making the point that if Ireland needs a second bailout, Ireland will not get funds from the EU, if Ireland were to vote “No” in the Referendum.

Pringle: This is an example of simple fear-mongering. The reality is that the bailout was funded by the IMF. The EFSF accepts new applications for funds up to July 20, 2013. So, even if Ireland did have to have a second bailout, it is 100% guaranteed that if the Irish government applied for it by the July 20, 2013 date, Ireland would have to receive the funds, should we need a second bailout.

EIR: We’ll be watching carefully to see the results of your challenge over the coming days. The best of luck to you.

Pringle: Thank you.

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