Opponents of 'Lisbon Monster' Take to the Streets

In a countdown towards the scheduled April 9 parliamentary ratification vote on the Lisbon Treaty, dubbed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche the "Lisbon Monster," the citizens' initiative group Rettet Österreich (Save Austria) mobilized 10,000 people in Vienna, on March 29, to turn out in favor of a popular referendum on the Treaty.

After the crowd had marched peacefully from the Staatsoper in the center of Vienna to St. Stephen's Cathedral, a number of university professors addressed the demonstration on the implications of the new European Union Treaty. Prof. Hans Peter Aubauer from the University of Vienna stated that the Treaty "will end democracy in Austria, the freedom of doing politics in the interests of Austrians. Decisions regarding our destiny and future will then be decided by politicians who have not been democratically legitimized, and who cannot be voted out. Because our politicians are afraid that we will not choose to get rid of democracy, they do not risk a referendum. They abolish our democracy without our approval."

Simultaneously, LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) organizers in France, Germany, and Italy, and a number of Citizen Initiatives from the left-to-right political spectrum held similar demonstrations. The rally in Milan drew support from two national politicians, Sen. Lidia Menapace (see the March 28 *EIR*) and Alfonso Gianni, Undersecretary for Economic Development in the outgoing Prodi government (see below).

The response from the citizens met on the streets has been very strong, with hundreds of signatures being gathered every day in support of a referendum. It is precisely for this reason that the Treaty's drafters determined to basically keep it secret, knowing that public disclosure of its destruction of national sovereignty would lead to rejection. LYM members have called their campaign "Operation Dracula," since, as in the case of Dracula, exposing the Treaty to the light will destroy it.

Parliaments Are Capitulating

The popular action is required in the face of the near-total capitulation of the parliaments throughout Europe, seven of which have already ratified the Treaty. Despite a flurry of opposition from the conservatives in the Polish Parliament, the lower house, the Sejm, ratified the Lisbon blueprint for a European dictatorship by a vote of 384 to 56 on April 1. The government achieved this victory by throwing a bone to the opposition, an amendment asserting that "ultimately" Poland's sovereignty will always supersede the Treaty.

Many Treaty opponents are pinning their hopes of defeating the supranational dictatorship on Ireland, which, by law, must have a referendum. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche pointed out in her interview with leading Danish Treaty opponent Jens-Peter Bonde (see the April 4 *EIR*), "Don't you think it's a little bit worrisome to leave the whole fate of all of Europe to Ireland?"

EIRNS/Elisabeth Neudecker

Thousands of protestors demonstrated in Vienna, Austria on March 29, calling for a popular referendum against the "Lisbon Monster." Here, members of the German BüSo (Civil Rights Solidarity party) organize in Heidelberg against the Treaty on the same day.

There are other isolated indications of resistance, including discussion in France of attempting to reopen the matter, which the government rammed through the Parliament with dubious legality. In Germany, the ÖDP (Ecological Democratic Party) filed a lawsuit in the Constitutional Court on March 27, challenging the Treaty as being incompatible with German Basic Law (Constitution), making it the second such lawsuit, after that of Christian Democratic parliamentarian, Prof. Peter Gauweiler.

Leadership of the anti-Lisbon drive, however, falls to the LaRouche political movement, which is concentrating on mobilizing forces in every European nation to take action to stop what would be a disastrous step toward world war, as well as dictatorship. Among the anti-Treaty activities underway, is the circulation of critiques by leading opponents internationally, of which we present another here below.