

Europeans Rally Against Lisbon Treaty Fascism

Opposition to the Lisbon Treaty is on the rise, as citizens in 23 European cities—in Italy, France, Germany, and Denmark—came out April 23 to protest against the Treaty and its threat of a new form of fascism. Activists came from different movements and associations with the aim of triggering a mass European-wide movement, similar to the 1989 Monday demonstrations in Leipzig that succeeded in bringing down the Comecon system.

The number of rallies or demonstrations in Germany as well as in France, doubled within a week at the initiative of private citizens responding to the call of Etienne Chouard—the well-known activist in 2005, who was instrumental in the mobilization against the European Union Constitution.

Citizens around Europe realize that this is the end-game: If the Lisbon Treaty is implemented in January 2009, national sovereignty would be a thing of the past. This is why, regardless of political affiliations or differing views on smaller issues, a movement is coalescing with the mission of defeating the Treaty by demanding a popular referendum in each country.

The rally banners sharply reflect the fight: “No to an EU Dictatorship!” In Nantes, France, a banner read: “No to the Lisbon Treaty. Our Countries Are Not Colonies.” But the most important message came from a citizen in Essen, Germany, who grabbed the loudspeaker and addressed the passers-by, telling them: “Fighting against the Lisbon Treaty is the same as what Sophie Scholl and the White Rose [anti-Nazi resistance movement] fought against.”