

Make Europe work harder for you

The Lisbon Treaty will make sure that the EU develops in a way that suits Ireland and Irish business. The Treaty secures Ireland's veto on tax issues which safeguards current foreign direct investment in Ireland.

These investors are your suppliers and customers. A 'Yes' vote goes a long way to keeping these jobs and sustaining this level of investment in Ireland.

The text of the protocol guaranteed to the Irish Government is crystal-clear.

"Nothing in the Treaty of Lisbon makes any change of any kind, for any Member State, to the extent or operation of the competence of the European Union in relation to taxation".

The success of the Treaty will also fuel Europe's internal market, creating **more opportunities** for you and the Irish business community. IBEC encourages everybody who wants to see a **prosperous Ireland** succeeding at the very heart of Europe, to **vote 'Yes'** in the referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

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Yes for jobs

NewStart, NewDeal, NewOpportunities

Vote 'Yes' on October 2nd

Business says 'Yes' to Lisbon



IBEC is a member of Business for Europe: a group of more than fifty business and professional organisations who fully support a 'yes' vote for the Lisbon Treaty.

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Our future begins with a **Yes**
to Lisbon

A 'Yes' vote is a vote for Irish business. The objective of the Lisbon Treaty is to improve the EU so it can better serve the needs of business and citizens throughout the 27 Member States.

Europe under the Lisbon Treaty means an easier trading environment **for your business** and **harder working EU**

'Yes' to Lisbon on October 2nd

- ✓ More markets
- ✓ More jobs
- ✓ More opportunities
- ✓ More business

functions for all in Ireland.

Things have changed all over Europe. While the existing Treaty structures still work, they were designed

for a different Europe and for a different world. Without modernisation of its structures, the EU will not be able to fully meet the needs of its Member States and compete on the global stage.

Vote 'Yes' for jobs and the economy

A 'Yes' result in October would be a serious boost to **your business** and the economy overall. Importantly for Irish jobs and for the Irish economy, the Treaty ensures **your national interests are protected**. Our ability to set our own tax policy is guaranteed. We can set our own tax rates and continue to attract foreign companies to invest in Ireland and create new jobs.

In a difficult trading environment, **your vote is crucial**. A united response from Irish business will send Europe a signal that Ireland is still a great place to do business and that we are a committed member of the improved EU.

Irish employers have always supported the EU because of the enormous opportunity it provides for Irish businesses to grow and compete. Each previous Treaty has helped to create more jobs. **The Lisbon Treaty will do the same.**

Better Europe, better opportunities for you

The current trading environment is very difficult – of that there is no doubt. We need to get back on the road to recovery. A 'Yes' vote is a step you can take to put us on the right road.

Think about it. You'll benefit in three ways.

1 New start

- We need to be at the heart of Europe as a step on the road to recovery.
- As a small open economy we export over 80% of everything we produce. Access to overseas markets is absolutely essential.
- A vote on the 2nd October will send a positive message to our European and international partners that Ireland is open for business.

2 New deal

- Ireland secured agreement on a series of legal guarantees on (i) the right to life, education and the family (ii) taxation (iii) defence and neutrality.
- Ireland will retain a commissioner.
- Vote 'Yes' with the confidence that our concerns have been addressed.
- The Lisbon Treaty is a positive step forward for Ireland.

3 New opportunities

- Strengthens the EU to make it more efficient, more effective and more democratic.
- Streamlines decision-making, gives Europe a bigger voice on the world stage.
- Ensures that European citizens have a greater say.

Six more reasons for Irish business to vote 'Yes' to Lisbon

You operate in a world of facts and figures. Consider these specific provisions in the Treaty and how they will be of direct and practical benefit to business in Ireland. **Your 'Yes' vote** is a step on the road to making this happen.

- 1 Research and development:** Article 179 says that creating a European research area will be a priority for the EU. This is good news for companies and third-level institutions where high-tech research and innovation will create new jobs.
- 2 Tourism:** Article 195 makes enhancing the tourism sector, and improving competitiveness in this area, a priority for the EU.
- 3 Rural areas:** The Treaty reaffirms the EU's commitment to its regional policy, and closing the development gap between affluent and less well-off regions. In practice, this might mean investment for roads, broadband or childcare businesses, which have already been helped by EU funding.
- 4 Green energy:** Article 194 of the Treaty makes energy a top priority of the EU. This includes the development of renewable energy. Ireland has enormous potential to further develop wind and wave energy. This sector needs investment to really deliver its full potential.
- 5 Security of supply:** In addition, Ireland requires access to trans-national grids and a more secure energy supply. The Lisbon Treaty specifically commits Member States to work together to enhance energy security.
- 6 Transport, energy and communications:** The Treaty states that the EU will invest in trans-European transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructures. An example might be a Europe-wide electricity grid that would allow Ireland to sell clean energy to an EU-wide market of nearly 500 million people.

Vote 'Yes' to Lisbon and a brighter future for Ireland

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