

Poster by the Irish Democratic Left party calling for a 'yes' vote in the referendum on 22 May 1998

Caption: Poster by the Irish Democratic Left party encouraging voters to vote 'yes' in the referendum on the Amsterdam Treaty on 22 May 1998. Although the party was strongly opposed to the Maastricht Treaty, it emphasises the progress on social Europe made by the Amsterdam Treaty.

Source: Democratic Left, No to Maastricht... but Yes to Amsterdam, Irish Election Literature, 14.09.09, <http://irishelectionliterature.wordpress.com/2009/09/14/democratic-left-no-to-maastricht-but-yes-to-amsterdam-when-they-were-in-government/>.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/poster_by_the_irish_democratic_left_party_calling_for_a_yes_vote_in_the_referendum_on_22_may_1998-en-2919daae-1e82-4e2f-b4ef-112540adfa6e.html

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For a better Europe Vote Yes

Amsterdam is the first EU Treaty not preoccupied with economic issues. On Friday, May 22nd you are being asked to approve a treaty which envisages a more democratic European Union, with a focus on social solidarity. Cllr. Fiachra O'Ceilleachair and Democratic Left are seeking a 'yes' vote in this referendum.

The Amsterdam Treaty emphasises civil and human rights standards, promotes consumer rights, focuses on eradicating poverty, unemployment and social exclusion and seeks equality for women. Amsterdam establishes standards for health services, integrates and enhances the fight against crime, commits EU states to environmental protection and focuses on workers rights and labour law. Up to now it was those with money and big farmers who have benefited from Ireland being in the EU. Amsterdam places more focus on the welfare of the ordinary individual and their family.

In 1992 Maastricht committed us to a common foreign and security policy. It promoted a militarisation of the EU. At the time, concerns on neutrality were dismissed and we were told to think about the billions in structural funds. Proinsias De Rossa, as a Government minister, was involved in negotiating Amsterdam. Militarisation has been put off the agenda and respect has been assured in Amsterdam for our neutrality. Common foreign policy can be formed and implemented only with full agreement of all member states at all stages of it's adoption. The only 'security tasks' included in Amsterdam are those of rescue, peace and humanitarian missions. All decision making will rest with the member states and any request for WEU assistance must be made unanimously by all of the member states.

Cllr. Fiachra O'Ceilleachair will be urging people to familiarise themselves with the Amsterdam Treaty and to come out and vote. It's a fair deal, the right thing to do is to vote 'yes' for Amsterdam.

Cllr. Fiachra O'Ceilleachair

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