

## **Irish Taxation Institute Says 'In Relation to Taxation, Ireland has Nothing to Fear from the Lisbon Treaty'**

**Issued 22 September 2009.** The Irish Taxation Institute today stated the Lisbon Treaty will not interfere with national tax policy. The Institute, with a membership of 4,000 Registered Tax Consultants, stated that the Lisbon Treaty that will be put before the Irish people in a referendum on 2<sup>nd</sup> October will not interfere in any way with Ireland's national taxation policies, including the key 12.5% corporation tax rate.

"The Treaty that will be put to a vote by the Irish people next week does not affect our ability to set our own tax policy" said Olivia Lynch, President of the Irish Taxation Institute. "The Treaty now comes with a specific guarantee on taxation. This new guarantee is crystal clear in stating that nothing in the Lisbon Treaty makes any change to the EU's competence with respect to taxation."

"The issue of Ireland's tax veto remains one of the contentious issues of the 'No to Lisbon' side, and the Irish Taxation Institute would like to reassure people that we carried out detailed analysis of the Treaty before the first Lisbon referendum in respect of its impact on taxation which determined that the veto was unaffected by the Treaty. The specific guarantees obtained by the Irish Government in advance of the second referendum confirm that position.

Concerns have been raised again that Ireland's voting rights could be diluted by the introduction of qualified majority voting (QMV) to areas such as taxation which currently require unanimity. This is not the case – any extension of QMV to new areas such as taxation requires the unanimous approval of all member states, including Ireland. Ireland maintains its veto on corporation tax matters and the Lisbon treaty does not alter this. We remain in control of our own destiny on direct tax matters and Ireland has nothing to fear from the Lisbon Treaty."

**ENDS**

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