

United Left Alliance

The Austerity Treaty Means:

- Economic Depression:
An Extra €5.7 Billion in Cuts and Taxes at Least
- Less Democracy:
Rule by Unelected Bankers and EU Bureaucrats

Vote No

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Far from providing a solution to the economic crisis, government cutbacks have only made things worse. Now they want to introduce more cuts through the EU austerity Treaty.

What is the 'Fiscal Treaty'?

The Treaty is designed to stop governments borrowing to pay for public services or create jobs.

This means that even if Irish hospitals and schools are on the brink of collapse due to cuts and under-staffing, their spending would still have to be slashed. No sense of fairness will be allowed stand in the way – the Irish state will be squeezed dry until it conforms to the rules laid down by unelected bureaucrats in Brussels.

If Ireland were to adhere to the requirements of this new treaty it will mean €5.7 billion in extra cuts and taxes; that is on top of €7 billion the government are already committed to under the EU/IMF bailout deal.

What will happen if we Vote NO?

Both Fine Gael and Labour understand how deeply unpopular their austerity policies are. The only hope they have of convincing people is to frighten us by claiming that Ireland will be kicked out of Europe. This is simply not true; all it will mean is that Ireland will not be a signed up member of the Austerity club.

Rejecting the Treaty in Ireland will

be welcomed by the millions of Europeans suffering under the impact of austerity and will assist the development of a common struggle across Europe against austerity.

RIP Democracy

The Fiscal Treaty undermines democracy. It will mean that any future government will be legally forced to implement EU dictated cuts and taxes regardless of how many people oppose them. This will mean that one of the most basic requirements of a democracy – that people are free to vote for different economic policies – will be lost.

Is there an Alternative?

Yes, there is an alternative. We can reject this Treaty and cancel the debt. Instead of giving billions to banks and bondholders, we can protect our school and hospitals; we can invest in jobs and provide for social protection.

But, to do all of this we have to join with the millions of people across Europe who are fighting this crazy system. Together we can fight for a socialist society that puts the interests of ordinary people before those of bankers and bondholders.