

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Treaty of Lisbon establishes liberal economic principles in many areas, weakens social welfare, promotes increased inequality of opportunity in education and reverses the defensive aspect of the military by making combat missions an integral part of European foreign policy (Art. 42 EUT). The neoliberal guiding principles of the European Union, such as free markets and free movement of capital, goods and services (Fundamental Freedoms, Art. 26 (2) TFEU) are cemented into the treaty. An EU citizen searches for a clause protecting social rights does so in vain. The Treaty of Lisbon essentially places the Fundamental Freedoms above employee rights, the right to strike and the right to collective bargaining. Last year's ECJ (European Court of Justice) decisions with respect to employee rights have demonstrated that the four Fundamental Freedoms work primarily to the advantage of business, leaving workers without protection against whatever conditions unbridled competition may impose, and giving the freedom of movement of services priority over national labor laws. European regulations massively undermine the rights workers have under national laws.

Therefore, please vote against the Treaty of Lisbon. As citizens of the only nation whose citizens have been given the right to a democratic vote on the treaty, your vote also represents the majority of EU citizens who have been denied that right. Let us work together across national borders for a truly social, just and peaceful Europe – a Europe that places the fundamental rights of EU citizens above business interests, and provides fair and honest security for workers, and protects them against poverty and social calamity.