

# EXTENSION OF POWERS

## Over 50 vetoes given up

The UK government says the national veto has been given up in 50 areas, while research bodies such as Open Europe argue this figure could be well over 60. These include vetoes over space policy, social security, customs cooperation and aspects of defence policy.

## Self-amending treaty

The new treaty will be self-amending. Currently, the treaties can only be changed with the consent of either elected national parliaments or the voters. Under the Lisbon Treaty, government ministers can vote to grant the EU more power without needing national parliaments or electors to ratify. To achieve further European integration, there will be no need for any more Treaties to be agreed.

## A single legal personality

The treaty would give the EU a single legal personality meaning it would be able to sign up to international agreements on foreign policy, crime and defence for all 27 nations.

## Fewer votes for national governments

A reweighting of votes under the so-called 'Qualified Majority' system would make it more difficult for most nations to block legislation. The UK's capacity to block laws would be reduced by around 30%. The European Parliament will be given powers over laws in a further 40 areas.

## Criminal powers

Eurojust's (European police force) scope will be extended from coordination to 'operational' capabilities similar to the USA's FBI. The EU will define what constitutes a crime and set maximum and minimum sentences. Eurojust (the public prosecutor) will be able to investigate British citizens and undertake prosecutions on an EU-wide basis. Vetoes would be abolished in nine areas of crime-fighting policy including over border controls and data-sharing.

# SYED KAMALL MEP FOR LONDON



**Syed Kamall has been a Conservative Member of the European Parliament for London since 2005**

Syed believes that Britain should be in Europe but that the EU should interfere less in our lives. He supports a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty because he does not believe politicians should be giving away powers without the people's consent. Syed would vote to reject the Treaty.

**Syed Kamall has published two other Pocket Guides:**

- **Pocket Guide to the European Union**
- **Pocket Guide to the EU and Local Government**

**You can download the guides at:**  
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# SYED KAMALL'S POCKET GUIDE TO

# THE LISBON TREATY



**Spanish Prime Minister Jose Zapatero:**  
'We have not let a single substantial point of the Constitutional Treaty go... It is, without a doubt, much more than a treaty. This is a project of foundational character, a treaty for a new Europe.'



**European constitution author, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing:**  
'All the earlier proposals will be in the new text, but will be hidden and disguised in some way.'



**German Chancellor, Angela Merkel:**  
'The substance of the Constitution is preserved. That is a fact.'



**Labour's 2005 election manifesto:**  
'We will put it (the EU Constitution) to the British people in a referendum.'



**Gordon Brown:**  
'The manifesto is what we put to the public. We've got to honour that manifesto. That is an issue of trust for me with the electorate.'



**Czech President Vaclav Klaus:**  
'The decision of the Irish voters... is a victory of freedom and reason over artificial elitist projects and European bureaucracy.'

# NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

## EU President

The permanent President will have around 3,500 civil servants and will lead negotiations between the national governments and the European Commission. It is thought this position will eventually be combined with that of the President of the European Commission.

## EU Foreign Minister

Officially renamed “High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy” in the Lisbon Treaty, the post holder will have the right to speak for the EU in the UN Security Council. The Foreign Minister will also have the power to appoint EU envoys.

## EU Diplomatic Service

Bringing together national officials, the civil servants in the Commission’s External Relations department and the staff in the Commission’s ‘delegations’ around the world, the European Parliament estimates the body could consist of between 5,000 - 7,000 diplomats. Changes in the treaty would also make European Union consulates and Embassies easier to set up.

## Charter of Fundamental Rights

The Charter will give extra power to European Courts to interfere with national laws that affect people’s rights including on issues like abortion, protection of personal data and the right to collective bargaining. It is often referred to as the “Trade Union charter”.

Labour claims to have secured an opt-out from the Charter but Article 6 of the Lisbon Treaty reaffirms that the Charter is legally binding. As the Swedish PM Fredrik Reinfeldt said in June 2007, **“the UK was given a clarification, not an opt-out.”**

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS

## The Irish Rejection of the Lisbon Treaty

In June 2008, the Irish people voted “No” to the Lisbon Treaty establishing the constitution in a referendum, by a margin of 53.4% to 46.6%.

Prior to the vote, politicians across Europe had warned of the dire consequences of a rejection of the treaty. Yet after the result, they proceeded to implement the provisions of the Treaty as if the Irish vote had never taken place. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, declared the Treaty “alive”.

## How the Treaty is Being Implemented

Despite the Lisbon Treaty not being ratified, the EU has already been implementing its provisions.

In October 2008, the European Parliament voted to:

- display the EU flag in all Parliament meeting rooms and at official parliamentary events
- play the anthem, based on Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', at the opening ceremony following each European election and at formal sittings
- reproduce the EU motto, 'United in diversity' on all Parliament's official documents
- celebrate Europe Day on 9 May and recognise this in Parliament's rules of procedure.

Some institutions that would have been created by the treaty have already been set up regardless of the Irish vote:

- The EU Diplomatic Service
- Eurojust (the pan-European magistracy)
- The Human Rights Agency
- The Defence Agency
- The External Borders Agency
- The European Space Programme
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights.

# TIMELINE

JULY 2003	The final first draft of the constitution is published.
APRIL 2004	The British Labour Government promises the people ‘the final say’ on the constitution.
JUNE 2004	An EU summit agrees the document’s final wording.
OCT 2004	Constitution signed in Rome.
FEB 2005	Spain approves the text in a referendum.
MAY 2005	French and Dutch voters say ‘no’ to the constitution.
JUNE 2007	Ministers negotiate a new treaty, which is virtually identical to the constitution.
JULY 2007	Gordon Brown rules out a referendum.
DEC 2007	EU leaders sign the Treaty of Lisbon.
JUNE 2008	Irish voters reject the Treaty of Lisbon.
JULY 2008	Labour government forces Lisbon Treaty through House of Commons breaking its promise to hold a referendum.
JUNE 2009	European Parliamentary Elections.
OCT 2009	Date of second Irish referendum.