

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Senator Ivana Bacik Backs Lisbon Treaty**

**5th June 2008**

Senator Ivana Bacik today declared her support for the Lisbon Treaty. Speaking in the Seanad, she criticised the Government for running a poor campaign in favour of the Treaty Referendum.

She said that it was unfortunate that the Government had not put forward more prominent women speakers in favour of the Treaty, pointing out the need to convince women voters of the arguments.

Senator Bacik also said:

‘I support the Treaty for two basic reasons. First, I believe strongly in the need for a Charter of Fundamental Rights. Many positive developments for women’s rights have already been brought about by EU membership. Adoption of the Charter would enable development of greater social protections for citizens generally – and would move us towards the left-wing vision of a ‘social Europe’.

Secondly, I strongly support the expansion of the EU to include the Balkan states, and former Soviet republics like Georgia and Ukraine. This will need us to make key structural changes so that more states may join in future. This would present extraordinary opportunities for greater peace, progress and prosperity for many deeply disadvantaged peoples.

That is why I am voting yes on 12th June.’

**ENDS**