

**Statement from Proinsias DE ROSSA TD MEP
European Parliament, Brussels**

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Contribution to the Third Plenary session of the Convention on the Future of Europe

The Missions of Europe.

"I introduce myself today as a member of the Irish Labour Party because I want to make it clear that my approach to the future of Europe is not value-free. National parliaments by definition represent a diversity of views on virtually all topics and therefore I don't just represent the Irish National parliament but a particular political view within that parliament. For instance the Irish government representative just spoke and he spoke very well. But I disagree with him. I believe the Irish government's view is too cautious. We need to be ambitious for Europe, ambitious for the way in which it can serve the peoples of Europe.

As regards competencies it is essential that Europe has the power to deal with the globalising pressures on our economies, on our social systems and on our cultures. Globalisation is not a natural phenomenon. It is a political and economic philosophy, aided by new technology. Neither is it inevitable. Indeed it would appear to be stumbling at present in the aftermath of the 11th Sept. Witness the conflict between the USA and the EU on steel as one example. Neither is it a new trend. It existed in the early part of the 20th century and I believe its failure then gave us two world wars. We can of course have a major debate about what kind of globalisation we should have, depending on our political social and economic perspectives.

But it is my view that Europe needs to have the competence to protect the peoples of Europe from the transnational corporations. We need to have at European level the competence to ensure that people everywhere in Europe receive the social and caring support that they need. And having put in place the single currency we now have to address seriously the questions of economic governance, and inevitably we must therefore seek to guarantee decent social security and social rights, right across Europe.

Finally I believe that Regions, whether legislative Regions or not, should not be enabled to leap over the National State, nor should Europe be enabled to reach over the heads of National States to the Regions. We must acknowledge that the proper relationship between the Regions and Europe should be through the National State."

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