

**YES TO A
REFERENDUM?
A LABOUR VIEW**
BY BILL WEDDERBURN

Few will have read the many pages of text contained in declarations, protocols, annexes, commentary, official Foreign Office publications or House of Lords European Committee Reports relating to the Lisbon Reform Treaty. Still fewer will have had an opportunity to compare the Lisbon Reform Treaty texts with that of the draft "Constitution" rejected by the citizens of France and the Netherlands in 2005. One person who has – Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, an ex-President of the Institute and author of many legal books and articles – sets out in this timely short publication, his informed opinion of the Lisbon Treaty and its likely constitutional effect on the UK.

Focusing specifically on issues likely to impact on UK workers, Wedderburn places the debate in the context of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, rights to bargain and strike and the UK's "red lines". He looks at the future role of the European Court of Justice under the Reform Treaty, with particular reference to the direction of the Court as reflected in the recent cases of Viking and Laval.

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