

Will EU overlords let us off the leash? (Ireland)

2011-06-16 17:42:25 by webmaster

16 JUN 2011

By Lise Hand | Irish Independent

WHAT a sorry bunch we are now. Was it only three years ago this week that Ireland cheerfully proffered the middle digit at the Boys in Brussels and gave the Lisbon Treaty the bum's rush?

Sure we were all still happily labouring under the delusion that we were cock-of-the-EU-walk, and that we didn't need any pinstriped pencil-pushers from Europe telling us what to do, no sirree.

And as far as most of the citizenry were concerned, Jean-Claude was that preposterously musclebound Belgian bloke who was good at kung fu.

Oh, how times have changed.

The economy fell over the cliff with the graceless speed of a drunken man hurtling off a bar stool and a chastened populace voted for Lisbon in a second referendum while promising to be diligent Europhiles forever more.

But it was too late. We were convicted of first-degree fecklessness and manslaughter of a Tiger and duly sentenced to spend a long Siberian spell on the EU naughty step.

And to put a tin hat on it, last November in marched the IMF/EU/ECB Troika and it was game over for our economic sovereignty.

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