



26th December 2009

## **Entry into force of treaty is historic moment – Simon Busuttil MEP**

MEP Busuttil called on EU leaders to acknowledge the historic importance of next week's entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and to take up the challenges that Europe faces.

Addressing the Strasbourg plenary which was debating the preparations for next week European Council meeting, Busuttil reflected on the implications of this "historic milestone".

He said that the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty will close the EU's constitutional and institutional navel-gazing once and for all and will finally free up the European Union to focus on the real challenges facing Europe, namely the economic situation, employment, climate change and immigration

*"These are the real challenges that the people want us to deal with".* Busuttil said.

Busuttil also stressed the significance of the increased powers of the European Parliament which will, from next week, share with Council the right to decide on virtually all EU laws. He hailed co-decision and said that it will lead to *"laws of better quality which better reflect the citizens' interests"*.

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