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## Government should hold EU Treaty referendum

The Labour Government should fulfil its manifesto pledge to hold a referendum on the EU Reform Treaty, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley has argued.

The final draft of the document is due to be discussed by EU Leaders at a summit in Portugal this weekend.

However, Kris Hopkins said he believed it was vital that Gordon Brown kept his party's word to the British people by giving them the final say on whether the Treaty should become part of UK law.

He commented:

"The EU Reform Treaty, if accepted, will transfer very significant additional powers from the UK to Brussels and reduce the rights of citizens in Bradford and across the nation.

"The leaders of almost all our EU partners have conceded that it is essentially the same document that was rejected by France and the Netherlands in earlier referenda.

"In recent days, the Labour-dominated House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, in a report, have also described the new Treaty as 'substantially equivalent' to the EU Constitution and they are right.

"And more and more former Labour Ministers, clearly embarrassed by a Government and Prime Minister acting in such a dishonest manner, are preparing themselves to break ranks with the official policy line.

"The Labour Party, in its 2005 General Election manifesto, committed itself to putting the EU Treaty to the British people in a referendum.

"The Prime Minister, who campaigned very vigorously on that manifesto, should now be as good as his word and commit his Government to a referendum at the earliest possible opportunity."

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