

BRITAIN RATIFIES EU LISBON TREATY

19/06/2008. Britain has become the 19th European Union country to ratify the Lisbon Treaty without a referendum, after the EU Amendment Bill completed its passage through Parliament.

A last-ditch Conservative attempt to delay ratification until the autumn was voted down in the House of Lords by a margin of 93, and peers later gave the Bill its third reading without a vote.

Royal Assent is expected to follow within 24 hours.

Parliamentary ratification came on the eve of an EU summit in Brussels expected to be dominated by Ireland's rejection of the Treaty in last week's referendum.

Irish Taoiseach Brian Cowen is expected to ask for more time to consider his country's response to the No vote, which threatens to prevent next year's planned implementation of the Treaty's reforms, including a full-time EU president and foreign minister.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said that the Treaty cannot come into force unless it is ratified in all 27 EU states. – Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2153561/EU-Treaty-Britain-ratifies-EU-Treaty.html>