

AMENDMENT FORM

Title VI: The democratic life of the Union

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 33

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mr Paul Helminger, Mr Karel De Gucht, Mr Peeter Kreitzberg, Mr Algirdas Gricius, Mr Puiu Hasotti, Mr Jelko Kacin, Mr Zekeriya Akçam and Mr Eugenijus Maldeikis; **and Alternate Members:** Ms Lone Dybkjaer, Mr Valdo Spini, Mrs Elena Paciotti, Mr Willem Van Eekelen, Lord MacLennan of Rogart, Mr Nesrin Uzun, Mr Marios Matsakis, Mrs Androula Vassiliou, Mr Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, Mr Péter Eckstein-Kovacs, Mr Patrick Dewael, Mr Ibrahim Ozal and Mr Gintautas Sivickas.

Status : **Members and alternate members.**

Article 33: The principle of democratic equality

Delete

Explanation:

The Charter of Fundamental Rights speaks, in Article 20, about equality before the law. Article 23 of the Charter speaks of equality between men and women. Article 41 says that every person has the right to impartial administration.

Draft Article 2 of the Constitution already speaks of our respect for democracy: it should also mention equality.

It is not self-evident that this draft Article adds anything of merit. In fact, the statement that each of us may fondly expect "equal attention from the Union's institutions" sounds rather alarming.

As a general remark, if this title is to bring something useful to the Constitution it must surely establish beyond peradventure that the Union is a parliamentary democracy, as well as offering substantive functions for civil society and the social partners.