

AMENDMENT FORM

Title VI: The democratic life of the Union

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 34

By alternate Member: Ms Lone Dybkjaer

Article 34: *European democracy*

1. Every citizen is *encouraged to participate in the democratic life of the Union in order to achieve a balanced representation of women and men. Citizens are directly represented in the European Parliament. Member State governments are represented in the European Council and Council, and are themselves accountable to national parliaments.*
 2. The Union institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their opinions on all areas of Union action. *Decisions shall be taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizen.*
 3. *The Union shall respect and foster the autonomy of regional and local government. Regions and local authorities are consulted in the Committee of the Regions.*
 4. *The Union recognises and promotes the involvement of the social partners, management and labour, in economic and social governance. Representatives of civil and economic society are consulted in the Economic and Social Committee.*
 5. The Union institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations, *the social partners* and civil society.
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Explanation:

Equality, openness and involvement of all levels of society should be the core foundation of European democracy.