

AMENDMENT FORM

Title IV

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 14

By Members: Mr Andrew Duff, Mr Lamberto Dini, Mrs Lone Dybkjaer, Lord MacLennan, Mr Adrian Severin.

Status :Members and alternate members.

Article 14 : The Union's Institutions

1. The Union shall be served by a single institutional framework which shall *advance its objectives, promote its values and serve its interests*. *The institutions shall* ensure the *coherence*, effectiveness and continuity of the Union's policies and actions.
 2. This institutional framework comprises :
 - The European Parliament,
 - The European Council,
 - The Council of Ministers,
 - The European Commission,
 - The Court of Justice of the European Union,
 - The European Central Bank,
 - The Court of Auditors.
 3. Each institution shall act within the limits of the powers conferred on it in the Constitution *and be responsible for their own working arrangements*, in conformity with the procedures and conditions *laid down*. The institutions *may conclude interinstitutional agreements*.
 4. *The seat of the institutions, bodies and agencies of the Union shall be determined by the Council, acting by qualified majority, with the assent of the European Parliament.*
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Explanation:

1. *We suggest a more felicitous formulation of the first sentence, without changing the meaning of the Praesidium's draft.*

However, the substitution of 'coherence' for 'consistency' is important: something that is both consistent and continuous may be changeless. The insertion of the need for coherence provides the right dynamic.

3. *A reference is appropriate here to the prerogative each institution needs to devise their own methods of work. This implies that they must agree Rules of Procedure.*

The Praesidium's formulation of 'full mutual cooperation' is curious. Sometimes the institutions will choose not to cooperate with each other while respecting constitutional constraints. However, the Constitution should provide here for interinstitutional agreements.

4. *At present, the treaties provide that the question of where institutions be located is to be decided by unanimity, leading often to paralysis after an ignoble row. The particularly controversial issue of the seat of the European Parliament has to be determined by common accord of the Member States (Article 289 TEC). The time has come to rationalise the decision making procedure and to bring it into line with democratic norms.*