

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : 15

**By: Mr Tunne Kelam
Mr Rein Lang
Mr Urmas Reinsalu
Mrs Liina Tõnisson**

Article 15 : The European Parliament

1. **The European Parliament shall directly represent the citizens of the European Union.**
~~The European Parliament~~ It shall, jointly with the Council, enact legislation, as well as exercise functions of political control and consultation as laid down in the Constitution. ~~It shall elect the President of the European Commission.~~¹
 2. The European Parliament shall be directly elected by universal suffrage of European citizens in free and secret ballot for a term of five years.
 3. ~~Its~~ **The members of the European Parliament** shall not exceed seven hundred **and thirty two** in number. Representation of European citizens shall be degressively proportional. **The number of seats per Member State is set out in Article X of Part Two. The European Council, acting unanimously, may decide to adjust the number of seats held by each Member State to provide for any future enlargement of the Union, subject to a minimum threshold of five** ~~four~~ members per Member State.
 4. The European Parliament shall elect its President and its officers from among its members, ~~for a term of five years.~~
 5. **Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, the European Parliament shall act by the majority of the votes cast.**
-

Explanation

The Article should be renumbered as Article 16 (see also amendment to current Article 16).

Arrangements for the election of the President of the Commission should be set out in Article 18b.

There is no reason to depart from the agreement reached in Nice which is degressively proportional. The number of seats held by each Member State should be set out in Part Two of the Treaty.

To provide sufficient flexibility it should be open to the European Council to decide to alter the number of seats per Member State subject to a minimum threshold of 5 seats per Member.

It should be for the European Parliament to decide the term of office of its President and other officers.

¹ See Article 18b.