

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 15: The European Parliament

By : Mr Dick Roche, Member ; Mr Pat Carey and Mr Bobby McDonagh, Alternates

Article 15 : The European Parliament

1. The European Parliament shall, jointly with the Council, enact legislation **and establish the Union's budget**, as well as exercising functions of political control and consultation as laid down in the Constitution. ~~It shall elect the President of the European Commission.~~
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. **Representation of European citizens shall be degressively proportional. Its membership 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 for 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.~~

Explanation (if any) :

Arrangements for the election of the President of the Commission should be set out in Article 18. While the European Parliament should have a key role, national Parliaments should also be involved

There is no reason to depart from the agreement reached at Nice which is degressively proportional. The number of seats held by each Member State should be set out in Part Two of the Treaty and should be based on Nice (with appropriate adjustments as set out in the Accession Treaty).

To provide sufficient flexibility it should be open to the European Council to decide to adjust 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.