

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article 15

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Article 15 : The European Parliament

1. The European Parliament 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.~~
 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. ~~Its members shall not exceed seven hundred in number.~~ Representation of European citizens shall be degressively proportional, with a minimum threshold of ~~four~~ six members per Member State.
 3. The European Parliament shall elect its President and its officers from among its members, for a term of five years.
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Explanation (if any) :

The election of the President of the Commission by an electoral college is preferable, to minimise the possibility of unduly politicising the election process.

Secondly, while the composition of the European Parliament should necessarily continue to be based on a system of degressive proportionality, it is also the Maltese Government's firm belief that a minimum threshold in the allocation of seats must be established, irrespective of a Member State's size, and in full cognisance of each nation state's identity and sovereignty. Taking the Nice arrangement as a point of reference, the lower limit would be fixed at six seats. This threshold is moreover essential to guarantee an adequate participation in the European Parliament's Committees and in view of the urgent need to strengthen the links between European parliamentarians and their national counterparts aimed at bridging the gap between European citizens and the institutions. For the above reasons, the number of MEPs cannot and should not be lower than a pre-established threshold of six seats.