

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Article 15

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PRAESIDIUM	TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE MEP
<p><b>Article 15 : The European Parliament</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 members per Member State.</p> <p>3. The European Parliament shall elect its President and its officers from among its members, for a term of five years.</p>	<p><b>Article 15 : The European Parliament</b></p> <p>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 <u>simplifying Treaty</u>. It shall elect the President of the European Commission, <u>a decision which shall be confirmed by the European Council on a qualified majority basis. The European Parliament shall also have the right to initiate legislation.</u></p> <p>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 members per Member State.</p> <p>3. The European Parliament shall elect its President and its officers from among its members, for a term of five years.</p> <p><b>Explanation: The right of initiative should reside with the European Parliament and the Commission should become a non-political civil service. This change would go a long way to redressing the perceived democratic deficit in the Community, as a democratically elected</b></p>

**body would propose legislation, as is the case in most Member States. I envisage the legislative process working as follows:**

**1. National parliaments, national governments, civil society and members of the public – in fact, any EU citizen – could have the right to suggest new European proposals to their MEP. This would also expand the existing right of petition.**

**2. If a national delegation decided to support the proposal, or included the proposal in a larger package of measures, they would then need the support of at least 10% of MEPs representing a minimum of 5 Member States for the proposal to be considered in Committee. This would ensure that committees are not overloaded by unpopular proposals that do not have the necessary support to proceed with a real prospect of success.**

**3. If a majority of the Members of a Committee supported the proposal – which could be amended by the Committee – it would then be considered in a plenary session of the European Parliament.**

**4. If a majority of the total number of MEPs in a plenary vote supported the amended proposal, it would then be forwarded to the European Council.**

**5. In the Council a qualified majority would be required for it to be considered by the national parliaments. The proposal could not be amended by the Council.**

**This change would not imply abolishing the veto, because national parliaments would have an enhanced right to veto all new European proposals that are not exclusive competences of the Community and exclusive competences are already decided by qualified majority voting.**

**6. New proposals falling under the exclusive**

	<p><b>competence of the Community (i.e. matters relating to the customs union, Article 11), would require a qualified majority of the national parliaments to become a European Community law or an opinion.</b></p> <p><b>New proposals under the shared competence of the Community (Article 12) or areas for supporting action (Article 15) would require the unanimous support of the national parliaments for approval.</b></p> <p><b>7. If a national parliament rejected the new proposal, a Mediation Committee would be formed to include representatives of the national parliament, the national government, the European Parliament and the current Presidency.</b></p> <p><b>8. If a proposal was then approved, a joint committee of MPs and MEPs would be formed to oversee the implementation of this new European law.</b></p> <p><b>If mediation failed, or if the proposal failed at any other legislative stage, it would be rejected as a European law, but Member States would be free to adopt it on a bilateral or multilateral basis as they chose.</b></p>
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