

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article: 18, Part I – Title IV

By Mr: Henning Christophersen, Poul Schlüter, Henrik Dam Kristensen and Niels Helveg Petersen.

Status: Members and alternate members.

Article 18: The European Commission

(...)

3. ~~The Commission shall consist of a President and up to fourteen other members. It may call on the help of Associate Commissioners.~~ The Commission shall include one national of each of the Member States. The number of Members of the Commission may be altered by the Council, acting unanimously

3bis. When the Union consists of 27 Member States, the number of Members of the Commission shall be less than the number of Member States. The Members of the Commission shall be chosen according to a rotation system based on the principle of equality, the implementing arrangements for which shall be adopted by the Council, acting unanimously.

The number of Members of the Commission shall be set by the Council, acting unanimously.

The Council, acting unanimously after signing the treaty of accession of the twenty-seventh Member State of the Union, shall adopt:

- the number of Members of the Commission;

- the implementing arrangements for a rotation system based on the principle of equality containing all the criteria and rules necessary for determining the composition of successive colleges automatically on the basis of the following principles:

(a) Member States shall be treated on a strictly equal footing as regards determination of the sequence of, and the time spent by, their nationals as Members of the Commission; consequently, the difference between the total number of terms of office held by nationals of any given pair of Member States may never be more than one;

(b) subject to point (a), each successive college shall be so composed as to reflect satisfactorily the demographic and geographical range of all the Member States of the Union.

Any State which accedes to the Union shall be entitled, at the time of its accession, to have one of its nationals as a Member of the Commission until paragraph 3bis applies.

Explanation:

A compromise on the size of the Commission has only just been reached after difficult negotiations in Nice. We see no need to reopen this compromise. Furthermore, the draft proposal does not deal with the important issue of equality between the Member States.