

AMENDMENT FORM

Suggestion for amendment of Article : Article 18

Suggestion for protocol :

By Ms / Mr : David Heathcoat-Amory

Status : X - Member - Alternate

Article 18 : The European Commission

1. The European Commission [*Delete : shall safeguard the general European interest. It*] shall ensure the application of the [*Constitution*] **Treaty**, and steps taken by the **administrative** institutions under the Constitution. It shall also exercise [*coordinating, executive and*] management functions as laid down in the [*Constitution*] **Treaty, and as monitored by national parliaments and by the European Parliament.**
 2. Except where the Constitution provides otherwise, Union acts can be adopted only on the basis of a [*Commission*] **Council** proposal.
 3. The Commission shall consist of a President and [*up to fourteen other members. It may call on the help of Associate Commissioners.*] **other Commissioners, the sum number to be not less than the total number of Member States, which shall all be represented by a national.**
 4. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission shall be completely independent. In the discharge of their duties members of the Commission shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government or other body.
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Explanation (if any) : The original draft appears to confer a monitoring power on the Commission for the whole of the institutional framework (including, for instance, the EP). Its role should rather be akin to a civil service.

The original draft also removes the possibility that many states will have one of their citizens as a full member of the Commission. While Commissioners should be independent (in reality some are not), even an independent Commissioner may understand national particularities better than his colleagues when a particular issue of national concern is under discussion.